Succeed in the workplace

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills listed here for ideas. Exploring your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services workshop.

What can I learn studying DRAMA?

- Technical production and design skills
- Oral and written communication
- Resource and time management to manage multiple long-term projects
- Real world problem solving to focus on effective processes
- Critical thinking for comprehensive analysis of issues and ideas before coming to conclusions
- Creative thinking to connect, synthesize, and transform material to generate new forms and solutions
- Intercultural knowledge and competence to adapt empathetically to unfamiliar ways of being
- Civic engagement to use theatre to make a positive difference in local communities
- Integrative learning to combine practical and theoretical knowledge and experiences

Why study in Kingston?

For over 175 years, the Kingston community has been a collection of bright minds. We are proud that our city was named one of the top Intelligent Communities across the globe, an accolade largely due to the thousands of students who study here every single year. In fact, the BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world, which might be why Instagram named the city ‘the happiest place on the planet.’ Just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York, Kingston is a safe and liveable city. Not only are we known as the freshwater sailing capital of the world, Kingston is arguably the birthplace of hockey. Wondering what to do while you’re attending school? Queen’s has more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and Kingston has more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America; your time here is guaranteed to be ‘fresh made daily.’

Get to know DRAMA

The Dan School of Drama and Music emphasizes a balanced approach in which theory informs practice and practice informs theory. In Drama you can study all aspects of theatre, from acting and directing to theatre history and dramatic literature, and there are many different opportunities to become involved with productions. Productions have been described as “intriguing work that meets a high level of accomplishment.”

Drama is taught at Queen’s within the Dan School of Drama and Music, which affords close collaboration between Drama and Music in most activities. A new example is the involvement of both disciplines in Queen’s Musical Theatre.

Popular course offerings include Music Theatre, Acting, Technical Production and summer courses in Medieval Theatre at Herstmonceux Castle in England. Internship opportunities with professional theatre companies are also available. Drama graduates are broadly resourceful thinkers and practitioners able to work comfortably and confidently in a wide range of professions.

Studying Drama at Queen’s can take place in three main locations – Theological Hall, one of Queen’s oldest buildings; the Herstmonceux Castle in England or at the new, world-class Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts (lbsabel.ca).

An artistic environment that fosters excellence in performance, scholarship, and creative activity.

A Year to CHOOSE

We often say that our students are like explorers. In Arts and Science, your first year is all about making choices and exploring new paths. Whether you are in Arts, Science or Computing, you will choose your courses from a wide variety of subjects as you settle into university life and become familiar with new styles of learning. By the end of your first year, you will have discovered your areas of interest, passion and success, and will then declare your major. Your first year, whether you consider it to be undeclared, undecided or simply a time for exploration, is bound to be a year full of adventure.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

There is a vast array of courses for those interested in all of selected areas of theatre such as Theatre for Young Audiences, Acting for Stage and Screen, Scene Study at the Shaw Festival and all things behind the stage such as Theatre Design, Playwriting and Dramaturgy, Directing and Music Theatre Practicum.

That is a degree from Queen’s.

For more information, visit studentaffairs.queensu.ca.
2ND YEAR

Take core courses in Theatre History (DRAM 200), Dramaturgy (DRAM 220) and Technical Production (DRAM 240). Plus choose up to 9 units in options including acting, playwriting, design, and musical theatre.

Please see the Academic Calendar to determine what other courses you should be taking.

3RD YEAR

Complete 3rd year core requirements: take DRAM 300.

Choose from advanced options in acting, playwriting, design and technical production as outlined in the Academic Calendar. Experience yourself in great plays by participating in our Shaw Festival summer program (DRAM 371 and DRAM 373).

Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

Join with the graduating class to tie your learning together with the capstone experience of DRAM 400.

Take the opportunity to pursue your interests with independent projects at an advanced level.

By fourth year you should be working on your remaining core, option, and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

WHERE COULD I GO after graduation?

Acting
Arts administration
Arts advocacy
Choreographer
Communications and media relations
Corporate trainer
Costume / set / lighting / sound design
Development director
Directing
Drama therapy
Early childhood education
Educational outreach
Event planning
Human resources
Journalism
Law
Marketing director
Musician
Playwriting / screenwriting
Producer
Public relations
Publishing
Research
Social media coordinator
Stage management
Talent representation
Teaching
Theatre production
Tourism
TV / Radio broadcasting
Vocal coach

Some careers may require additional training.

Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services. Observe a professional play development workshop when the department hosts the winners of the biennial Voaden Playwriting Competition.

CAREER SERVICES helps you develop your career plan! Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

Be a designer, crew head, stage manager or production manager. Take a leadership role in the Departmental Major Productions.

Consider applying to do a 12 -16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Drama or the Drama department alumni Facebook group.

Apply to a leadership role in the Departmental Student Council (DSC).

Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC). Attend the Departmental Major Productions and the Student Studio Series. Go on a field trip to Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque.

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIP's Interultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

Speak to a QUIP advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services. Make an appointment in February or March to meet with our Program Coordinator. Use lab peers, DRAM100 teaching assistants, and course instructors to help navigate the university experience.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Study Medieval Drama and Performance in a medieval castle. Enrol in DRAM271 and DRAM 273 at the BISC in Herstmonceux, UK.

Is your currency in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3 year exchange through the International Programs Office.

Join the graduating class to tie your learning together with the capstone experience of DRAM 400.

Take the opportunity to pursue your interests with independent projects at an advanced level.

By fourth year you should be working on your remaining core, option, and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

Explore the role of theatre in contemporary culture by taking DRAM100. This course includes a weekly lab focused on devised theatre exercises. Interested in exploring both Drama and Film and Media? Look into the interdisciplinary Stage and Screen specialization. If interested, take FILM 110.

Build your transferable skills in time management, problem solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Audition for the fall and winter Departmental Major Productions. Get involved with the Student Studio Series as an actor, technical crew member, assistant designer, or assistant stage manager. No experience necessary.

See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

GET THE COLLEGIATE EXPERIENCE

Build and paint sets, hang lights, help run the show. Get credit for work on productions (DRAM 246 and DRAM 247). Submit your original play script for production in the Student Studio Series.

Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work Study.

Find a quiet place to study or connect socially with other Drama students in the Green Room.

Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the Department Student Council. Participate in Student Affairs’ Orientation Week show Eston. Sign up for the Andrina McCulloch Public Speaking Competition.

Share your skills in the community. Participate with Kingston performance groups such as Hart Studio and Blue Canoe. Attend plays produced by Theatre Kingston or touring shows at the Grand Theatre.

Take a Stage and Screen course as an elective and meet students in Film and Media.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).

Attend the Departmental Major Productions and the Student Studio Series. Go on a field trip to Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque.

Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Great Jobs for Theater Majors. For more information check out CareerCruising.com or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn. Get questions answered by a wide array of theatre professionals who regularly visit.

Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services. Observe a professional play development workshop when the department hosts the winners of the biennial Voaden Playwriting Competition.

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