



Make today matter



This programme facilitates and fosters students' knowledge of, and interest and skills in the performing arts. It provides them with opportunities to explore academic, artistic, creative and practical aspects of the discipline.

Students are provided with opportunities to practise their craft by conceiving, directing and participating in a range of media, including theatre performances and performances for TV, film and radio.

The programme focuses on the main disciplines of performance studies, including physical theatre, directing, performance, digital and new media studies and performing arts management, and developmental and educational theatre and drama.

Besides offering skills training and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset, drama develops the capacity to think strategically, systemically, analytically, critically and creatively; communicate effectively; work as part of a collective; make appropriate decisions; plan, organise and prioritise work; solve problems creatively; obtain and process information; influence others; work effectively with a variety of people; be adaptable; lead projects; develop a strong work ethic; and manage time.



Who are the ideal candidates?

The ideal candidates are students who are self-driven, hard-working, enthusiastic and aware, and seek concrete ways to use the performing arts to challenge and even change themselves and society.



What makes this programme unique?

The Bachelor of Drama programme focuses on embodied teaching and learning and a range of performance and creative activities which transfer skills across these domains.



Structure of programme

The programme has the following major focal points:

- Live and Digital Performance Studies (SBT) includes text analysis and performance, how elements of scenography engage with the body in theatrical performance, foundational principles of various voice and body movement pedagogies, digital media studies (including radio techniques and TV presentation) and writing for stage and film.
- Theatre Studies (TNT and TNP) provides students with the opportunity to integrate their creative, conceptual and performance skills by conceiving, staging and performing theatre, film and TV work. TNP introduces students to, for example, the basic techniques of acting, improvisation, various approaches to acting, movement and voice, and praxis components in digital media, physical theatre, writing for stage and film, TV and radio presenting, stage and camera acting, directing and theatre-making.
- Drama and Film Studies (DFK) introduces the languages of drama and film analysis to read, interpret and give meaning to various discourses in film and drama narratives.



Career opportunities

Actors (theatre, film, television and radio), physical theatre artists, theatre critics, radio and television presenters, directors, educational theatre practitioners and educators, community theatre artists and educators, light and sound operators, voice artists, stage and production managers, programme facilitators and managers, performing arts administrators, documentary film-makers, digital and new media practitioners, playwrights, scriptwriters, play devisors, film and theatre researchers.

Graduates create their own work and often practice their skills across several employment possibilities, including acting, writing, teaching, presenting (television and radio) and social justice imperatives.



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'I was a drama student at school, and drama has always been my passion. I enjoy learning about it immensely, and having the opportunity to perform and be on stage only enhances the experience. When I looked into studying for the Bachelor of Drama qualification, I realised that there are many more avenues of drama that I had not yet encountered. It greatly excited me to learn about all the aspects relating to drama, and the stipulated structure of the programme assured me that this would be possible. During the application process, I attended the Bachelor of Drama audition on the university campus, and the extraordinary experience gave me a taste of what could be. It was then that I knew that Bachelor of Drama was the right choice for me.'

The degree is a fantastic exploration that assists students in harnessing both their physical and mental capabilities. This is due to the precise balance of practical and theory modules. The theoretical modules provide the foundation for the practical work and are instrumental in supporting it for the programme duration. In the final year of undergraduate studies, there is an opportunity to select modules that align with your future career and potential study trajectory. The content covered in class spans a diverse range of topics and challenges students to broaden their worldview. Students are presented with an array of avenues and careers that they may not have previously considered throughout the programme. The programme is geared towards training industry professionals while supporting student success.

The positive energy, atmosphere and excitement that I feel when I arrive combined with the learning environment creates a space for self-expression and allows me to exercise my creativity both on stage and in classes. The facilities, particularly the three theatres that we have access to and learn in, are a privilege in the programme experience. There are exciting opportunities to work on productions and collaborate with other creatives, giving me hands-on practical experience. The structures in place at the department provide me with a sense of security in my studies because of the support and encouragement that I have received from my lecturers. Due to their dedication to individual attention, I have been able to grow in a personal capacity.'

Teana Chiba – Bachelor of Drama

Minimum admission requirements

Programmes	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2026	
	Achievement level	APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	
Bachelor of Drama [3 years]	5	30

Applicants must complete and pass an audition process. To retain admission, you must obtain an APS of at least 30 in the NSC. Admissions for the Bachelor of Drama degree will take place in August, Ad-hoc.

Careers: Actors (theatre, film, television and radio), physical theatre artists, theatre critics, radio and television presenters, theatre directors, educational theatre practitioners and educators, community theatre artists and educators, light and sound operators, voice artists, stage and production managers, programme facilitators and managers, performing arts administrators, documentary film-makers, digital and new media creators, playwrights, scriptwriters, play devisors, film and theatre researchers

Bachelor of Drama [4 years]	4	26
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This is a four-year programme, the first year offers foundation modules. Applicants must complete and pass an audition process. To retain admission, you must obtain an APS of at least 26 in the NSC. Admission for the Bachelor of Drama in the 4-year programme will take place in August and Ad-hoc.

Careers: Actors (theatre, film, television and radio), physical theatre artists, theatre critics, radio and television presenters, theatre directors, educational theatre practitioners and educators, community theatre artists and educators, light and sound operators, voice artists, stage and production managers, programme facilitators and managers, performing arts administrators, documentary film-makers, digital and new media creators, playwrights, scriptwriters, play devisors, film and theatre researchers

Contact information

Dr Kristina Johnstone | Tel +27 (0)12 420 2643 | Email kristina.johnstone@up.ac.za
Ms Janine White | Tel +27 (0)12 420 2206 | Email janine.white@up.ac.za



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Refer to the International undergraduate prospectus at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission Information or [click here](#) for more information.

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 30 June.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES Programmes	Minimum requirements for 2026									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	GCSE #		HIGCSE NSSC HL	AS Level	A Level	IB		KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE
		The qualifications in the two columns below will be considered only for conditional admission. If final AS and/or A levels have been completed, these two columns will not apply. It can also not be used for final admission and/ or registration.			GCE CIE NSSC AS	GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZGCE	IB SL	IB HL		
CIE	UK									
		IGCSE LGCSE BGCSE EGCSE	England Wales Northern Ireland Pearson Edexcel GCSE							
		O Level NSSC OL CGCE UCE NECO WAEC WASSCE ZGCE								
Bachelor of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology	English	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Arts in Audiology	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Arts specialising in Philosophy, Politics and Economics	English Mathematics	C C	4 4	3 3	C C	E E	4 4	3 3	60-69% 60-69%	B B
Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts [4-year programme]	English	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Arts in Information Design										
Bachelor of Drama [3-year programme]										
Bachelor of Arts specialising in Law										
Bachelor of Social Work										
Bachelor of Arts										
Bachelor of Arts specialising in Languages										
Bachelor of Political Science specialising in International Studies										
Bachelor of Political Science specialising in Political Studies										
Bachelor of Arts specialising in Visual Studies										
Bachelor of Social Science specialising in Industrial Sociology and Labour Studies										
Bachelor of Social Science in Heritage and Cultural Sciences***										
Bachelor of Music [4-year programme]	English Music*	C D	4 3	3 3	C D	E E	4 2	3 2	60-69% 50-59%	B C+
Bachelor of Music [5-year programme]	English Music**	D D	3 3	3 3	D D	E E	2 2	2 2	50-59% 50-59%	C+ C+
Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts [5-year programme]	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Drama [4-year programme]	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+

Only English with at least a C symbol on this level can be used for final admission.

* or Grade VII Practical and Grade V Theory (Unisa/Royal Schools/Trinity) or a comparable standard and a practical audition and theoretical test passed with 60%.

** or Grade V Practical and Grade III Theory (Unisa/Royal Schools/Trinity) or a comparable standard and a practical audition and theoretical test passed with 50%.

*** Possible name change to: Bachelor of Social Science specialising in Heritage and Cultural Tourism