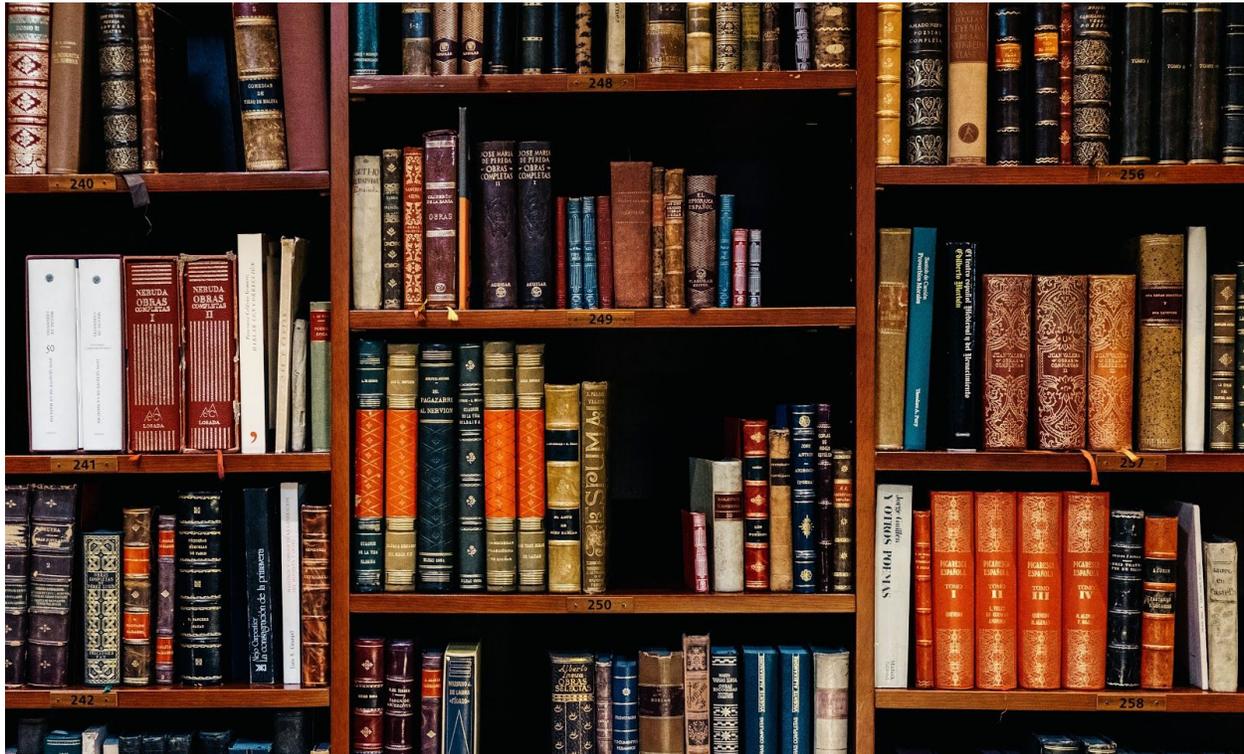


# Master of Arts in Drama Handbook

Revised August 2019



**Program Coordinator:** Dr. Stefano Muneroni  
**Graduate Program Advisor:** Liz Ludwig

## Our Program

This program offers a strong foundation of historical and contemporary critical and theoretical approaches to theatre and performance. This unique performance studies approach relates performance to the broader field of cultural studies and encourages students to complement their research with an understanding of the complex dynamics of the creative process.

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# Welcome to the Department of Drama!

## Address from the Chair

Hello and welcome to the Department of Drama! We are so excited to have you join us in your study of theatre. We've created this handbook to answer many of the questions you will encounter during your time with us. If you do not find what you need here, be sure to visit Helen Baggaley, Connie Golden, or Liz Ludwig in the main office. You are also warmly welcome to come to my office and talk about anything that may be on your mind. My job is to make sure your needs are met while you are here, and I would be delighted to get to know you! Have a great time during your studies here.

May you make many friends and create lifelong memories,

Melanie Dreyer-Lude  
Chair, Department of Drama

## Program Overview

### The Context

The Department of Drama offers two MA Drama programs: thesis-based and course-based.

All MA students have one course (Drama 601) in common with their colleagues in the Ph.D. program and MFA Directing, Theatre Practice, and Voice Pedagogy programs, but they will also share other courses with graduate students enrolled in these programs. Many of our faculty and students have combined interest and expertise in both scholarly research and performance. While MA students are not required to participate in department productions, your involvement with performance is encouraged within the limits of your academic and research commitments. You are also strongly encouraged to take full advantage of the lively

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and varied theatrical environment made available by Edmonton's theatre community. More details and links in the General Department Handbook.

## Introduction

Since its approval in 1967, the Master of Arts program has provided a strong introduction to theatre research within the lively performance context of the Department's other professional programs. Its graduates have gone on to make substantial contributions to the academic and professional theatre environment and to the community at large by doing doctoral work and/or becoming teachers, directors, actors, dramaturges, critics, arts administrators, communications and publicity directors, etc.

## Objectives

The overall purpose of the MA program is to familiarize you with the research methodology and critical discourse of theatre and performance, lead you to focus on a chosen area of study, and guide you in conducting independent research in that area for the thesis (for thesis-based program) or the extended paper (for course-based program). At the core of the program are a series of seminars in which students present and discuss the results of their own research. The program is flexible enough to allow special projects courses to serve the needs of individual students. Throughout the entire course of study, you will be expected to approach theatre and drama as a dynamic performance-oriented art form and to complement your research with an understanding of the creative process.

The MA program looks at theatre and performance from a critical perspective. For this purpose, we combine research in theatre history, dramaturgy, and dramatic criticism and theory, and we expect our students to approach the discipline integrating all three. MA Thesis proposals may prioritize one of them.

Dramaturgy will provide you with the critical tools dramaturges use to enrich the culture of professional theatre or to continue for a Ph.D in Dramaturgy. You will learn the methods of dramaturgical analysis as applied to new plays as well as classical dramas, and may acquire experience in working with a playwright in the development of a new script or with a director on a specific production.

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In addition, all MA students are encouraged to begin developing broad backgrounds in languages, the other Fine Arts, the Social Sciences (History, Anthropology, Sociology), Literature and Philosophy. The department offers training in both New Play Development Dramaturgy, as well as Production Dramaturgy.

Theatre History will give you the critical foundation you need to continue with Ph.D research and to prepare you for future careers in the arts and higher education. You will focus on the history of theatrical production: the styles of acting, theatre architecture, the audience response to and involvement in production, the evolution of set, costume and lighting design, directorial practices, etc.

In your study of Dramatic Theory and Criticism you will learn how to become a discriminating critic and reviewer, and will receive the necessary background to undertake doctoral research in Theatre and Performance. You will learn the methods of dramaturgical analysis; study theatre aesthetics, the history and philosophy of theatre as a form from the classical period to the present period; and become conversant in current developments in critical theory. You will be encouraged to pursue comparatively traditional research such as the editing of plays for performance and contemporary critical approaches in areas such as audience reception, adaptation, feminist/gender criticism, semiotics, post-structural theory, and cultural studies.

## The Program Requirements

In addition to general graduate requirements, you must demonstrate a reading knowledge of at least one approved language other than English. (See “The Language Requirement”).

Although the thesis-based program normally involves three academic terms of course work, applicants with degrees in disciplines other than Drama or Theatre, and/or without sufficient preparation in Theatre History and Criticism may be asked to take a qualifying year to improve their background before applying for admission to the MA program, or may be required to complete an additional term of course work.

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## Thesis-Based MA

Because MA enrolment is kept relatively low, our courses are small enough to allow students to get to know each other well and to receive good guidance and supervision from faculty.

- All students must complete 8 courses or 24 units of course weight (CW) ,
- These include Historical (DR 608) and Contemporary (DR 609) Theory courses.
- All MA students must complete the Research Methods course (DR 601 worth 3 units of course weight) which prepares you for critical research and writing, including the thesis proposal.

Through its Special Projects option (DR 605) the Department also allows you to pursue independent study in areas outside of its usual course offerings. The availability of special projects courses, however, is dependent on the willingness of qualified faculty who must agree to teach these courses as an overload. DR 605 is normally only taken in your second year and you must develop your proposal in conjunction with a supervisor before registering in order to complete your registration as a full-time student.

DR 605 may be used to attain greater knowledge or expertise in an area related to your thesis. Students are normally allowed to take only ONE 605 class during the course of this program.

## Typical Course Load

Year One		
Term One		Term Two
DR 601	(3CW)	<b>Three</b> 600-level DR courses (3CW each)
<b>One</b> of DR 608 DR 609 <b>AND</b> Other 600-level course	(3CW)	

Year Two		
Term One		Term Two
One 600-level DR Course	(3CW)	<b>Thesis</b>
<b>One</b> of DR 608 DR 609 or Other 600-level course	(3CW)	

Finally, because theatre by its very nature is both international and interdisciplinary, you may consider taking a course in another department or program such as History, Music, Art and Design, Classics, English, Romance or Germanic Languages, Film Studies, Women’s Studies, Canadian Studies or Slavic and East European Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, or Comparative Literature. Only graduate-level courses may count towards the MA degree, but undergraduate courses may be completed on an audit or non-credit basis. For special arrangements, see the MA Coordinator.

### Course-Based MA

Course-based MA students take an additional course and their study program is capped with a public presentation of an aspect of this research during a colloquium. Students take 27 credits of graduate-level courses, including:

- DR 601 (3CW)
- One of DR 608 (3CW) and/or DR 609 (3CW)
- And additional 12 credits of graduate-level (600-level) seminars offered by the Department of Drama
- And additional 9 credits of graduate-level seminars offered by the Department of Drama , or another Department within the Faculty of Arts or Faculty of Education.
- The extended paper for the course based MA should be 25-30 pages in length. The student’s supervisor and another faculty member will read and evaluate the paper. During their final term, students register for DR 695 (this course carries ‘zero’ credits). The final presentation of the student’s research must be given to an audience of peers and faculty and should be 20-30 minutes in length.

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**NOTE:** The course-based MA does not require full-time residency. Course-based students shall normally not take DR 605.

## The Language Requirement

All MA students must have reading proficiency in a language other than English. You will choose a language which is relevant for your thesis research. (For example, if you want to write on Polish theatre, we would want you to be able to read Polish. For Canadian theatre research, we normally expect you to learn French.) Depending on their thesis topic, students who are native speakers in a language other than English may have this requirement waived by the MA or Graduate Coordinator.

This requirement may be met in one of the following ways:

- A student may have taken and obtained a grade of C+ or better in any 212 Intermediate level language or the equivalent, other than English. The course(s) must not have been taken more than three years prior to admission as a provisional PhD or MA candidate.
- Students may take the appropriate undergraduate course(s) but with a graduate course number and must receive a minimum grade of C+. Please contact MLCS' Undergraduate Advisor, to request an upgrade to a graduate course number. The student will continue to attend the undergraduate course section and complete all course requirements. The grade received will show as CR or NC.
- If students have a reading knowledge of the language, they may take a Language Proficiency Examination given by MLCS.

If you choose the latter option, you may wish to complete the 500-level courses (it may be a different number) as a refresher until you feel ready to take the exam, which is usually given at set times twice each term. Information about the language proficiency exam and dates are posted on this website:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/graduate-program-information/graduate-language-proficiency-exam>

The Proficiency Examinations are held twice a year during the month of March and October. Please email [mlcs@ualberta.ca](mailto:mlcs@ualberta.ca) to make an appointment to write the exam. You must register at least one week in advance.

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- For the exam, you must bring two works that have been approved by the MA or Grad Coordinator (a Form is available in language department offices) and by the Language Examiner, and from which you will be asked to translate one or more passages with the aid of a dictionary.

## The MA Thesis

**(it applies only to MA Thesis students)**

During the first term of the program you should think about research topics which you might wish to pursue within the scope of your MA thesis. DR 601 will help you with the preparation of your thesis proposal. After discussion with the MA Coordinator, other students and faculty, you should draw up a brief description of the thesis idea which can then be discussed with potential thesis supervisors. Once a full-time continuing faculty member has agreed to be your supervisor you must briefly outline:

- the thesis topic,
- its importance and scope,
- its relationship to previous research,
- the research procedure(s),
- major primary and secondary materials to be consulted and their availability,
- the anticipated organization of the thesis, and
- the tentative timetable for completion.

By the end of your first year, the proposal should be submitted to the Graduate Committee with the signatures of both you and your supervisor. (See Graduate Handbook for Deadlines).

A bibliography is customarily appended to the proposal for reference purposes. As soon as you have the proposal approved by the Graduate Committee, you should begin work on your thesis. If your topic requires, you may wish to take advantage of travel money available through the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research (\$600 maximum).

The Thesis Committee, which typically consists of a non-examining Chair, your supervisor, a full time Drama faculty member, and a non-Drama Arts faculty member, is chosen by your supervisor in dialogue with you.

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An MA thesis should not exceed 75 pages. When the members of the Graduate Committee feel that your thesis is ready to go forward to the oral defense, your supervisor will schedule it, in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator. Following a successful defense, you will submit your thesis in electronic form to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. The thesis must be prepared according to the required format to be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/academic-requirements/thesis-requirement-and-preparation>

The Drama Department requires that you submit one bound copy to the Guberman Reading Room, In addition, it is customary for you to offer a copy of your thesis to your supervisor.

# Timeline and Checklist

<b>Year One</b>													
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial meeting with MA Coordinator ( <b>before beginning of term</b> )													
<input type="checkbox"/> Courses Year One Term One <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> DR 601</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One of DR 608 or 609</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 600-level DR</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Courses Year One Term Two <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 600-level DR</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 600-level DR</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 600-level DR</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____</li> </ul>												
<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis Supervisor chosen ( <b>end of November</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Decision to switch to Course-based MA declared/approved ( <b>Mid-January</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis or extended paper proposal submitted to Supervisor ( <b>End of January</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis or extended paper proposal submitted to Graduate Committee ( <b>Mid-February</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Reading List for thesis or extended paper research submitted to supervisor ( <b>May</b> )													
<b>Strongly Recommended:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SSHRC application (<b>CHECK DEADLINES IN EARLY FALL</b>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participation in performance projects. Please list:           <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> </tr> </table> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participation in conferences, seminars, colloquia. Please list:           <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> </tr> </table> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participation in Graduate Teaching and Learning Workshops. Please list:           <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></td> </tr> </table> </li> </ul>													
<b>Signatures:</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"><b>MA Candidate:</b></td> <td><b>Date:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>MA Coordinator:</b></td> <td><b>Date:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Thesis/Ext.Paper Supervisor:</b></td> <td><b>Date:</b></td> </tr> </table>		<b>MA Candidate:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>MA Coordinator:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thesis/Ext.Paper Supervisor:</b>	<b>Date:</b>						
<b>MA Candidate:</b>	<b>Date:</b>												
<b>MA Coordinator:</b>	<b>Date:</b>												
<b>Thesis/Ext.Paper Supervisor:</b>	<b>Date:</b>												

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## Year Two

- Courses
  - Year One Term One
    - One of DR 608 or 609
    - 600-level DR
    - Course-based MA additional 3CW course: \_\_\_\_\_

- Courses
  - Year One Term Two
    - Thesis or Extended Paper

- Course work completed (**end of third term**)
- Language requirement complete (**end of third term**)
- Draft of thesis or extended paper completed and approved by Supervisor (**end of February**)
- Final draft of thesis or extended paper completed and submitted to Graduate Committee or to second reader) (**March 15**)
- Oral thesis defense or Course-based final presentation (**April 15**)

### Strongly Recommended:

- Participation in performance projects. Please list:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Participation in conferences, seminars, colloquia. Please list:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Participation in Graduate Teaching and Learning Workshops. Please list:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Signatures:

**MA Candidate:**

**Date:**

**MA Coordinator:**

**Date:**

**Thesis/Ext.Paper Supervisor:**

**Date:**

**Thesis/Ext.Paper Supervisor:**

**Date:**

**Department Chair:**

**Date:**

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## Performance Opportunities

The MA program normally provides opportunities for practical engagement with performance through dramaturgy. With the exception of the dramaturgy courses, the program does not require practical training in aspects of performance. However, it is self-evident that in order to study the culture of performance, inside knowledge of its practice can often be a bonus. We therefore support students that pursue practical opportunities, be it as actors, directors, dramaturges, designers, producers or in technical support. See the General Department Handbook for detailed opportunities.

We do caution, however, not to let these engagements stand in the way of timely conclusion of thesis research and writing.

## Funding

Unlike many other MA (Drama) programs, we try to fund our students as best as we can, though priority is given to thesis-based (full-time) students. A unique feature of the program is that thesis-based students may be given the opportunity to teach during the course of their two-year residency, though we caution that teaching can occupy a good chunk of your available time for study, research and writing. Funding sources include Assistantships (GRA) and Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA), Tuition differentials, national, provincial and institutional scholarships.

Course-based MA students will not normally be awarded GRAs and GTAs, but fully qualify for all other graduate funding. We encourage applicants and students to fervently pursue their own funding opportunities.

More details on funding opportunities are found in the Graduate Handbook.

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## Related Documents

The following documents are referred to in this Handbook, and should be obtained, read in detail and referred to throughout the program:

### **From Helen**

General Handbook - should be emailed out to you. Check your inbox! Ask if you don't receive it. This has an abundance of department information as well as two useful appendices: "Library Resources" and "Edmonton: Beyond the UofA"

### **From Theatre Administrator, David Prestley**

Found here <https://www.ualberta.ca/drama/resources/policies>

"Administrative Info for Drama Department Productions"

*Note: Please also follow up with the Theatre Administrator for questions or clarifications.*

### **From MA Coordinator**

Graduate Handbook