

DIPLOMA IN DRAMA



FACULTY OF
ARTS &
DESIGN

DEPARTMENT OF
DRAMA &
PRODUCTION
STUDIES

01 JAN - 31 DEC 2026

Diploma in Drama

QF Level: 6

SAQA ID: 100799

Qualification Code: DIDRM2 (Diploma in Drama)

Location: Ritson Campus (Block N)

Description of the Programme

The Drama Programme in the Department of Drama and Production Studies centres on the development of the individual actor/director. It is a multifunctional programme designed to train actors for a varied career in professional theatre, television, radio and film.

It seeks additionally to provide specialist training in a chosen field through an elective studied at a second- and third-year level. The Diploma in Drama is an intensive, full-time three-year programme involving the study of theatre and the related arts. This three-year conservatory programme focuses on the holistic development of the unique creative artist. A further year training for the industry is offered though a rigorous Advanced Diploma in Drama, involving touring and long hours of dedication. This additional year invites entrepreneurial artistic engagement as a performance and directing artist with an additional area of specialization for those wanting a career in the professional industry.

Drama and Performance Studies graduates have, in the past, continued their studies by reading for a Higher Diploma in Education, (H.D.E.), a B. Tech Degree or a B.A. (Hons.). This fourth-year qualification is an option for students with excellent grades accumulated in the three-year tertiary diploma and may prove beneficial to anyone wishing to teach within the education system or open their own studio. 2021 offers the exciting prospect of further training for the professional industry. Training as a professional through the Advanced Diploma in Drama is a further qualification involving one additional year of study for those intending to pursue a career in performance.

Instructional Programme

The programme for the Diploma in Drama spans three years of full-time study offered in Durban only. Practical involvement is considerable, and students may not refuse to participate in any such experience as may be arranged for them by the Department, even though the work is in an unpaid capacity. Students are encouraged to seek experience in the professional theatre, if such experience does not interfere with class work, production work or attendance. The one-year Advanced Diploma in Drama, offered as a new programme in 2021 in Durban only, offers selected candidates the opportunity to continue training for an additional year with the added benefit of an entrepreneurial focus.

The main thrust of the Diploma in Drama is aimed at developing performance skills, as:

Departmental productions are mounted by professional directors. Students are also trained to work in other mediums of communication, particularly television and screen acting.

1. An Actor

Preparation for a career as an actor extends from class work in distinctive acting styles, to productions, both in front of student audiences and the public in the Departmental productions mounted by professional directors. Students are also trained to work in other mediums of communication, particularly television and screen acting.

2. A Director

Throughout the three years of study, the student is exposed to the diverse skills needed in order to become a director. A study

is made of various directors and directing techniques and in third year each student is required to direct a short production. Workshop also forms an integral part of the directing programme.

The central foci of the Advanced Diploma in Drama is aimed at advanced performance, entrepreneurial, and specialization training and skills development, as:

Departmental productions are mounted and are further required to travel locally, nationally and on occasions internationally. Students are encouraged to work in other mediums of communication, particularly television and on screen. Although the actor/director remains a primary point of departure, research features more prominently as does entrepreneurial development.

Time Devoted

The Department takes a maximum of 40 undergraduate and 15 graduate students per annum. Practical involvement is considerable, and students must be prepared for rigorous and intensive training schedules. Students may not contract to be involved in an outside production, without the consent of the Head of Department, who may advise against such participation if it is likely to interfere with class attendance or performance criteria.

Apart from normal class time, Diploma and Advanced Diploma students must be prepared to make themselves available to rehearse and perform at night, during holidays and over weekends where necessary. Anyone not available on Friday evenings, Saturdays, or Sundays for religious or other reasons, must make this clear when applying for admission to the programme.

Courses, Dance and Acting students will be required to purchase specific clothing and footwear or other specialist computer programs. Further, prescribed academic texts, plays, or books, poetry or prose anthologies, novels, may be requested by various programmes. Advanced Diploma students will additionally be expected to have laptops, iPads and smart phones.

Career Opportunities

A student completing the Diploma in Drama pursues careers predominantly in the theatre, television, film, and radio industries. The Advanced Diploma programme also equips students to create their own work, by starting small companies offering educational, professional as well as community theatre. A Diploma in Drama provides a thorough foundation for any career requiring the basics in communications and life skills, i.e., sales, public speaking, business, presentations, entertainment officer, while the Advanced Diploma in Drama additionally offers the groundwork to become a solid communicator in corporate workshops, liaisons as a publicist, tourism assistant operator, theatre reviewer, instructor etc.

Explanation of Points scale:

SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)		
SYMBOL	HIGHER GRADE	STANDARD GRADE
A	8	6
B	7	5
C	6	4
D	5	3
E	4	2
F	3	1
NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC)		
%	LEVEL	POINTS
90-100	7	8
80-89%	7	7
70-79%	6	6
60-69%	5	5
50-59%	4	4
40-49%	3	3
30-39%	2	2
20-29%	1	1

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A person will only be considered for registration for an instructional programme approved by the Institution's Senate if the person complies with:

- The minimum admission requirements stated in DUT general handbook (refer to DUT website for general handbook).
- Institutional faculty, departmental and/or instructional programme specific rules; and

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK (HEQSF)

G7 rule: For Diploma:

"a National Senior Certificate (NSC) as certified by the Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi), with a

minimum of achievement rating of 3 for English and a minimum achievement rating of 3 in four recognised NSC 20-credit subjects.”

Entry Requirements (Diploma in Drama)

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) (01 January 2009) Applicants with 24 points or more		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) (PRE 2009)			NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (VOCATIONAL) (NCV)	
NSC DIPLOMA ENTRY Applicants with 22 points or more		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)			(NCV)	
Compulsory Subjects	NSC Rating Code	Compulsory Subjects	HG	SG	Compulsory Subjects	Mark
English	4	English	D	C	English	50%
Second Language subject	3	And one other language	E	C	And another recognized language	40%
In addition: THREE recognized NSC 20 credit subjects as per G7 rule as stated above	3					

Candidates must have achieved a minimum of 22 points to enter the programme. Points are calculated as follows:

1. Four subjects with a minimum rating of 4 (50%-59%).
2. Two subjects with a minimum rating of 3 (40%- 49%).
3. One subject with a minimum rating of 2 (30% - 39%).

Additional Entry Requirements:

All prospective students are required to pass a series of auditions. At the first audition, the student must present a monologue, a poem, as well as a dance, song, mime, etc. of his/her own choice. Applicants who successfully pass this audition will have to participate in a second audition in November/December. He/she must pass the call back audition by proving his/her aptitude in improvisation, sight-reading, movement or singing. Applicants are required to demonstrate good communication skills in a reading study and an interview. The applicant must further present set monologues and a poem, plus prepare another dance, song, or mime of his/her own choice

OR

Admission Requirement based upon Work Experience, Age and Maturity

For admission to entry level DIPLOMA and certificate studies:

A person may, subject to such requirements as the Senate may determine, be admitted to the Institution even if such a person is not in a possession of a National Senior Certificate, Senior Certificate, or an equivalent certificate, provided that:

- (a) The person shall have reached the age of 23 in the first year of registration and shall have at least:
 - three years' appropriate work experience; and/or
 - capacity for the proposed instructional programme, which shall be assessed at the discretion of the respective Head of Department by a Senate approved admission assessment comprising of a DUT Standardised Assessment Test for Access and Placement (SATAP), Academic Literacies (AI) & English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and/or an appropriate subject or programme specific written assessment designed and marked by the relevant Department; and
- (b) The relevant Faculty Board shall be satisfied that the person's standard of communication skills, ability to study successfully and/or work experience are such that the person, in the opinion of the relevant Faculty Board, should be able to complete the proposed instructional programme successfully. If required, the communication skills and study skills should be tested; and
- (c) The person's application for admission in terms of work experience, age and maturity is approved prior to registration. Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year inclusive of the date of scheduling writing a requisite eligibility assessment.

Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year.

Tuition Fees

To assist you with your planning, the **2025** fees have been indicated. An increase for next year to accommodate the inflation rate can be expected.

Please Note: DUT cannot be held liable for the fees in this brochure, as the **2026** fees are not yet final.

First Year Curriculum (Diploma in Drama)

Name of the Module	Module Code	HEQSF Level	SAQA Credits	2025 Fees
Semester One				
Cornerstone	CSTN101	5	12	R3910.00
English for Arts	EGLA101	5	12	R3610.00
Acting Techniques IA	ACTA101	5	8	R5380.00
Arts Administration I	ARAA101	5	8	R4440.00
Communication Techniques IA	CTQA101	5	8	R3790.00

Performance Techniques IA	PTCA101	5	8	R4430.00
Text Study IA	TXSA101	5	8	R2710.00
Theatre Study IA	THSA101	5	8	R1720.00
TOTAL				R29990.00
Semester Two				
Acting Techniques IB	ACTB101	5	8	R5380.00
Communication Techniques IB	CTQB101	5	8	R3790.00
Performance Techniques IB	PTCB101	5	8	R4430.00
Text Study IB	TXSB101	5	8	R2710.00
Theatre Study IB	THSB101	5	8	R1720.00
Select TWO Modules from the List Below:				
Information Communication Technology Literacy & Skills	ICTL101			R2430.00
Introduction Entrepreneurship	ITCH101	5	8	R2270.00
Basics of Geopolitics	BGEP101			R2450.00
Values in the Workplace	VWKP101			R2600.00
TOTAL				R27780.00
Total Credits for Semester One & Two			128	
Second Year Curriculum				
Semester One				
Acting Techniques IIA	ACTA201	6	8	R5380.00
Communication Techniques IIA	CTQA201	6	8	R3790.00
Performance Techniques IIA	PTCA201	6	8	R4430.00
Theatre Study IIA	THSA201	6	8	R1730.00
Text Study IIA	TXSA201	6	8	R2710.00
Select TWO Modules from the List Below:				
Educational Theatre IA	EDTA101	6	8	R2130.00
Scriptwriting IA	SCRA101			R2140.00
Singing IA	SNGA101			R2140.00
Theatre Dance IA	TDNA101			R2140.00
Select ONE Module from the List Below:				
Law for Life	LWLF101	5	8	R2430.00
Literacies Through Literature	LTLT101			R2480.00
Constitutional Law & Human Rights	CLHR101			R2430.00
TOTAL				R33930.00
Semester Two				
Acting Techniques IIB	ACTB201	6	8	R5380.00
Communication Techniques IIB	CTQA201	6	8	R3790.00
Performance Techniques IIB	PTCB201	6	8	R4430.00
Text Study IIB	TXSB201	6	8	R2710.00
Theatre Study IIB	THSB201	6	8	R1730.00
Select ONE Module from the list below:				
Educational Theatre IB	EDTB101	6	8	R2130.00
Scriptwriting IB	SCRB101			R2140.00
Singing IB	SNGB101			R2140.00
Theatre Dance IB	TDNB101			R2140.00
TOTAL				R26590.00
Total Credits for Semester One & Two			112	

Application

Applicants who wish to enrol for the programme must apply through the CAO system by no later than 30 September of the previous year.

CAO Online Application visit: <http://www.cao.ac.za>

CAO Contact Details

Private Bag X06

Dalbridge

4014

Tel: (031) 268 4444

Fax: (031) 268 4422

CAO Code: Drama - DU-D-DR3

Closing date for applications: 30 September 2025

For Further Information

Contact the Department of Drama and Production Studies

Durban University of Technology

Ritson Campus

P.O. Box 1334

DURBAN

4000

Tel: (031) 373 2194

Fax: (031) 373 2820

Financial Aid:

For Financial Aid application for a DUT programme please apply online at www.nsfas.org.za or call the NSFAS call centre on 0860 067 327.

For an explanation on how to fill out the application form, please go to www.nsfas.org.za or contact the call centre on the number above.

Please note that completing a form does not guarantee Financial Aid. For further assistance, please consult the Department of Financial Aid and Scholarships on (031)3732931/2557/2054.

This leaflet is for information purposes only and is not binding on the Durban University of Technology.