



NATIONAL ACADEMY  
OF DRAMATIC ART



Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

# PROSPECTUS 2022–2023

[www.thelir.ie](http://www.thelir.ie)



# THE LIR ACADEMY

The Lir National Academy of Dramatic Art at Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's only drama academy offering conservatoire training at degree and post degree levels. A centre of excellence for training in acting, stage management, technical theatre, design, directing and playwriting.

We offer three undergraduate courses, three postgraduate degrees and a range of short courses in acting, voice, movement, playwriting and technical theatre. Our practical training will prepare you for a career in theatre, film, TV and related industries.

You will learn from industry professionals, our teaching staff have extensive professional experience and our training is supplemented by professional placements, guest lectures and workshops with leading international figures of stage and screen.

Our students come from diverse backgrounds and are accepted on the basis of exceptional natural talent. A series of auditions or interviews form the basis of our admission process and none of the undergraduate courses are part of the CAO/UCAS or other points based application systems.

Undergraduate and postgraduate courses at The Lir Academy lead to degrees and diplomas awarded by Trinity College Dublin. Our students are full-time students of Trinity and have access to the full range of services that the University provides.

Our custom-designed building, on Pearse Street at Grand Canal Quay in Dublin, is a 15 minute walk from the main Trinity campus. It is equipped with two black box theatres, a movement studio, five rehearsal rooms, design and wardrobe studios, and set construction, scenic and lighting workshops.

You can find out more about our courses in the following pages, and we hope to welcome you to The Lir Academy very soon.

*A creative hub nurturing the next generation of theatre makers in Ireland.*

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# FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN ACTING AND THEATRE

Duration	One year, two semesters
Qualification	Foundation Diploma from Trinity College Dublin

The foundation course is aimed primarily at school leavers who are interested in preparing themselves for three-year actor training at conservatoire level either at The Lir Academy or a similar academy.

An additional focus on expanding students' reading and understanding of plays and theatre history prepares students for broader drama degrees and related areas of study and work. The course is taught by a committed team of teachers, including many of The Lir Academy's core acting tutors and teachers from the Master of Fine Art programmes. The personal development of the Foundation Course students is enhanced by regular individual tutorials with the Foundation Course Director, a dedicated member of staff who supervises all aspects of the programme.

The course also encourages students to develop their own individual creativity with a focus on collaboration, improvisation and lateral thinking.

This course is an NFQ Level 7 Diploma (60 credits).

As this is only a one year course, it does not qualify for government funding. All students offered places on the foundation course are required to fund both the annual fee and all living costs privately.

As this course is on the National Framework, it is open to EU and Non-EU students. Non-EU students will be eligible to get a student visa to undertake this course in Ireland.

EU/UK fees	€9,332 plus additional student levies and charges of €191.75 (2021/2022)
Non-EU fees	€20,609 (2021/2022)

*Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell. Director: Holly Griffith, Set Designer: Irene Enguita, Costume Designer: Laura Fajardo, Lighting Designer: Kevin Murphy, Sound Designer: Fiona Shiel

# BACHELOR IN ACTING

Duration	Three years, full time
Qualification	Honours Degree from Trinity College Dublin

This intensive honours degree will provide students with the training necessary to become a professional actor through a series of skill-based classes including the core subjects of acting, movement and voice. Dramaturgy, text analysis, singing, dance and combat classes will complement this learning.

Given the practical nature of the course and the principal objective of training the actor's body as an instrument as well as the creative imagination, the training is intense. Students can expect to be in class for approximately 42 hours per week, 36 weeks per year.

## Application Process

- Online application forms are accepted between October and the beginning of February each year
- Application forms are available from [thelir.ie](http://thelir.ie)
- Applicants will also be able to book their preferred audition date and time online
- Application fee €50 before Christmas, €75 after Christmas
- Students are required to meet the matriculation set out by Trinity College Dublin

## Application Process

Applicants will have the option of doing their first round audition in person or online. They will take place online and in The Lir Academy between November and March. Applicants will perform both a contemporary and a classical monologue of their choosing as well as a reserve monologue (either of the above). Each monologue should last between two and three minutes only.

For the second round auditions (half-day workshop) in April, applicants based on the island of Ireland must attend in person. International applicants can choose to audition in person or online.

Final round auditions (full-day workshop) will take place in May. They will be in person for all attendees at The Lir Academy. See more details on our website [thelir.ie](http://thelir.ie).

## Fees

Undergraduate tuition fees are currently paid by the Irish Exchequer. EU students who qualify for "free fees" therefore only pay a student contribution fee (€3,000) and additional student levies and charges (€191.75). If a student is awarded a local authority grant the student contribution fee will be paid by the local authority. The additional charges must be paid by ALL students.

Fees for students not qualifying for the "free fees" initiative:

EU/UK fees	€9,550
Non-EU fees	€23,112

*Summer and Smoke* by Tennessee Williams. Director: Joe Dowling, Set & Costume Design: Jack Reardon, Lighting Designer: Cillian McNamara, Sound Designer: Jack Cawley, Hair & Make-Up: Val Sherlock, Fight Director: Ciaran O'Grady.

# BACHELOR IN STAGE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL THEATRE

<b>Duration</b>	Three years, full time
<b>Qualification</b>	Honours Degree from Trinity College Dublin

This degree course offers practice based training to students who are interested in a career in professional theatre, TV and film.

## Year one - Introduction

Year one is designed to introduce students to practice based training in all technical departments including lighting, sound, prop making, scenic art, costume, set construction and stage management. Theatre skills, theatre technologies and theatre studies will be the core skills-based classes which will be complemented with practice-based learning on in-house productions.

## Year two - Application

Year two will see students apply the skills learned from their first year to a series of theatre and film productions, directed and designed by professional practitioners. Each student will have the opportunity to become a head of department and work alongside their peers to deliver a full production.

## Year three - Advanced

In year three, students will undertake work placements with prominent national theatres, theatre companies, festivals and industry related companies in order to further develop their chosen area of specialism. Research projects will be

assigned according to the preferred career choice of each individual student.

The practical training during the degree course will be complemented with a range of classes including theatre history, principles of stage management and principles of theatre technology. Led by dedicated and experienced theatre technicians and stage managers these classes will reflect best practices in professional theatre.

## Application Process

- Online application forms are accepted between October and the beginning of February each year
- Application forms are available from [thelir.ie](http://thelir.ie)
- Applicants will also be able to book their preferred interview date and time online
- Application fee €50 before Christmas, €75 after Christmas
- Students are required to meet the matriculation set out by Trinity College Dublin

## Interviews

Selection is by interview. Although experience is recommended, it is not essential.

## Fees

Undergraduate tuition fees are currently paid by the Irish Exchequer. EU students who qualify for "free fees" therefore only pay a student contribution fee (€3,000) and additional student levies and charges (€191.75). If a student is awarded a local authority grant the student contribution fee will be paid by the local authority. The additional charges must be paid by ALL students.

Fees for students not qualifying for the "free fees" initiative:

<b>EU/UK fees</b>	€9,550
<b>Non-EU fees</b>	€23,112

## Annual Review of tuition fees and other charges by Trinity College Dublin

Please note, tuition fees and other charges are subject to annual review by Trinity College Dublin which may result in a fee increase each year. All students on courses/programmes of study of more than one year should be aware that tuition fees and other charges (commencement/graduation fee, Sports Centre charge, USI levy,) may be subject to increase annually. The annual revision is approved by Trinity's Committee and College Board and typically increase by approximately 3% per annum or more in any given year.

*Midwinter by Zinnie Harris. Director: Eftychia Spyridaki, Set & Costume Designer: Florentina Burcea, Lighting Designer: Michael Rathburn, Sound Designer: Chris Merton, Prop Maker: Shauna O'Neill, Hair & Make-Up: Sarah O'Rourke*



*The Unreturning* by Anna Jordan. Director: Jack Reardon, Set & Costume Designer: Jack Reardon, Lighting Designer: Eoin Lennon, Sound Designer: Michael Stapleton, Hair & Make-Up: Sarah McCann.

# MFA PLAYWRITING

Duration	One year full time or two years part time
Qualification	Master in Fine Art from Trinity College Dublin

This masters degree is designed to encourage, nurture and promote the individual voice of the student writer.

Through a series of skills-based writing workshops and tutorials with professional playwrights, directors and dramaturges, the student will become equipped with professional practices and creative approaches to writing for performance.

**Modules include:** Contemporary theatre practice, dramaturgy, writing workshop and individual supervision for the writing of a full-length play.

## Entry requirements

**In addition to the information required on the online form, students are also required to submit the following:**

- A letter that outlines your theatre education and writing experience to date
- A statement of purpose that refers to your ambitions in terms of writing style, form and medium
- A CV (résumé)
- A sample of writing in the form of a play (minimum 45 minutes reading time)
- Two references/testimonials from those familiar with your writing

# MFA THEATRE DIRECTING

Duration	One year full time or two years part time
Qualification	Master in Fine Art from Trinity College Dublin

The Master in Fine Art in Theatre Directing is the first entirely practice-based Masters programme of its kind in Ireland.

It was introduced following extensive consultation with the Irish theatre community and is a direct response to the stated needs of the industry and of talented emerging artists. The MFA programme aims to equip students of exceptional talent with the skills necessary to pursue a career in the professional theatre and related industries through the development of skills, professional practices and creative approaches to theatre directing.

**Modules include:** Contemporary theatre practice, directing workshop, theatre production, dramaturgy for theatre directing.

## Entry requirements

**In addition to the information required on the online form, students are also required to submit the following:**

- A letter that outlines your theatre education and highlights your theatre directing experience to date
- A statement of purpose that refers to your ambitions in terms of theatre directing
- A CV (résumé)
- A portfolio of your work including a critical assessment of recently directed work
- Two references/testimonials from those familiar with your work



*Eclipsed by Patricia Burke Brogan. Director: Caroline Byrne, Assistant Director: Katie Halloran. Set Designer: Aedin Cosgrove. Lighting Designer: Stephen Dodd, Assistant Lighting Designer: Israel De Barco, Sound Designer: Sinead Diskin, Costume Designer: Sarah Foley, Hair & Make-Up: Sarah McCann.*

# MFA STAGE DESIGN, INCLUDING LIGHTING, COSTUME AND SET

<b>Duration</b>	One year full time or two years part time
<b>Qualification</b>	Master in Fine Art from Trinity College Dublin

This masters degree is purposely designed to allow students to either specialise in one area of stage design (set, costume or lighting design) or to combine two disciplines as desired (set AND costume design for example, or set AND lighting design).

In addition to the core classes and workshops, individual and group tuition from The Lir Academy's resident designers will be a key feature of the training. Master classes by visiting practitioners will supplement the student experience. Professional placements are a key feature of the programme and all students will showcase their work in public productions at the culmination of the course.

Modules include: Contemporary theatre practice, production design, set design, costume design, lighting design and dramaturgy for stage design.

## Entry requirements

**In addition to the information required on the online form, students are also required to submit the following:**

- A letter that outlines your theatre education highlighting your stage design experience to date
- A statement of purpose that refers to your ambitions in terms of stage design
- A CV (résumé)
- A portfolio of recent work
- Two references/testimonials from those familiar with your work

## MFA STAGE DESIGN, INCLUDING LIGHTING, COSTUME AND SET

- Applicants should apply online at [thelir.ie](http://thelir.ie) (courses, postgraduate)
- Shortlisted applicants should anticipate an admission interview either in person or by video conference call

### Fees for MFA Degrees 2021/2022

<b>Full-time fees (EU/UK)</b>	€11,972
<b>Full-time fees (Non-EU)</b>	€21,789
<b>Part-time fees (EU/UK)</b>	€5,987 p.a.
<b>Part-time fees (Non-EU)</b>	€11,982 p.a.
<b>Student levies and charges</b>	€293 (full-time) €225.50 (part-time p.a.)

# SHORT COURSES

The Lir Academy offers a number of short courses in the areas of acting, voice, movement, technical theatre, auditions, stage combat, dance and theatre devising to suit your needs, experience and level of interest. Short courses include one-day intensive workshops, weekend intensives, adult summer camps, masterclasses, weekly sessions and six-month-long programmes. They include training in:

## Application Process

- Introduction to Acting
- Intermediate Acting
- Actors' Ensemble
- Stanislavski Workshops
- Audition workshops and masterclasses
- Dialect and Accents Intensives
- Introduction to Screen Acting
- Introduction to Dance
- Physical Theatre
- Stage Combat
- Armed Combat
- Intro to Musical Theatre
- Technology and the Stage
- Introduction to Playwriting
- Audiobook Narration
- Introduction to Stage Management and Technical Theatre
- Introduction to Set Design
- Introduction to Lighting Design
- Introduction to Costume Design
- Summer Camp
- Young Actors Programme
- Musical Theatre Intensive
- Junior Academy

Visit [thelir.ie](https://www.thelir.ie) for further information on all short courses and to apply/book your place online.



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Bursaries and Support

EU students offered places at The Lir Academy are eligible to apply to The Lir Bursaries Fund (fees and maintenance support) and to Trinity's Student Hardship Fund (maintenance support only) towards the cost of fees and maintenance. You can apply for a bursary once you have been offered a place at The Lir Academy.

## Application Process

Matriculation refers to the minimum requirements for entry to college. Before you can be considered for admission you must meet these minimum standards. To be offered a place you must: Present six subjects, three of which must be at grade C or above on higher Leaving Certificate papers or at least grade C in the University Matriculation examination. The six subjects above must include:

- A pass in English
- A pass in mathematics and a pass in a language other than English

## OR

- A pass in Latin and a pass in a subject other than a language

For further information and to check out the equivalent requirements from other countries, visit:

<https://www.tcd.ie/study/apply/admission-requirements/undergraduate/>

## Official Photographer of The Lir Academy: Keith Dixon

Front cover image: Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare. Director: Davey Kelleher, Set Designer: Pai Rathaya, Costume Designer: Sarah Foley, Lighting Designer: Paul Keogan, Sound Designer: Denis Clohessy.

Back cover image: Summerfolk by Maxim Gorky in a version by Nick Dear. Directed by Tom Creed, Set Design: Maree Kearns, Costume Design: Caroline O'Connor, Lighting Design: Bill Woodland, Sound Designer: Ivan Birthistle.

## Access

The Lir Academy aims to provide an inclusive environment which promotes equality, values diversity and is committed to maintaining an environment of dignity and respect where all students can develop their full potential.

We welcome applications from potential students with a disability and ask that relevant information regarding any disability is disclosed when completing your application so that we can provide additional support during the audition/interview process as required.

## Advice for auditions/interviews

It is recommended when choosing your monologues that you choose characters that are most relevant to your age. Make sure you know your monologues and that do not exceed the allocated time of 3 minutes per monologue.

The panel is looking for someone who has potential and who is willing to train hard and take on board all that The Lir Academy has to offer.

For interview preparation for the Bachelor in Stage Management and Technical Theatre degree and the three MFA postgraduate degrees, bring with you any supporting materials which you feel may enhance your application. Any evidence you may have of working on amateur productions, whether it be writing scripts, working on set designs/construction, acting or directing, will help support your application.

For further information on all courses on offer from The Lir Academy visit our website, [thelir.ie](https://www.thelir.ie)



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