



NATIONAL ACADEMY  
OF DRAMATIC ART



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

# Prospectus 2023–2024

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



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# The Lir National Academy of Dramatic Art at Trinity College Dublin

**The Lir National Academy of Dramatic Art at Trinity College Dublin** is Ireland's only academy offering conservatoire training at foundation diploma, degree and postgraduate levels. A centre of excellence for training in acting, stage management, technical theatre, design, directing and playwriting, The Lir Academy is constantly reviewing the needs within the theatre, TV and film industries and is adapting to provide relevant training to meet them.

The Lir Academy offers three undergraduate courses, three postgraduate degrees and a wide range of short acting, voice, movement and technical courses. All of the teaching staff has extensive professional experience and continue to work in the industry. The depth and breadth of training is supplemented by professional placements, guest lectures and workshops from leading international figures of stage and screen.

Students at The Lir Academy come from very diverse backgrounds and are accepted on the course on the basis of exceptional natural talent. A series of auditions or interviews form the basis of the admission process with none of the undergraduate courses being part of the CAO/UCAS or other points-based systems. Undergraduate and postgraduate courses at The Lir Academy are awarded by Trinity College Dublin. These Lir Academy students are full-time students of Trinity College Dublin and have access to the range of services and supports that the University provides.

The Lir Academy is located on Pearse Street at Grand Canal Quay, a fifteen-minute walk from the main Trinity campus. The custom-made building is equipped with two black box theatres, a movement studio, four rehearsal spaces, a design studio, a wardrobe studio, set construction workshop, a scenic workshop and a lighting workshop.

The Lir Academy is a creative hub for nurturing the next generation of theatre-makers in Ireland.

Please see a [virtual tour of our building at this link](#).

# Foundation Diploma in Acting and Theatre

**Duration:** 24 weeks, full-time

**Qualification:** 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 broadening 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 a six-month-long course, it does not attract 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.

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<b>EU/UK Fees</b>	€9,332 plus additional student levies and charges of €199.75 (2023/2024)
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<b>Non-EU Fees</b>	€21,080 (2023/2024)
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You can see more on fees at  
[tcd.ie/academicregistry/fees-and-payments/](https://tcd.ie/academicregistry/fees-and-payments/)





# Bachelor in Acting Degree

**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 demanding. 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 [www.thelir.ie/courses/bachelor-in-acting](http://www.thelir.ie/courses/bachelor-in-acting)
- Applicants will also be able to book their preferred audition date and time online.
- Application fee is €50 before Christmas, €75 after Christmas.
- Students are required to meet the matriculation set out by Trinity College Dublin.

## Auditions

Applicants will have the option of doing their first-round audition in person at The Lir Academy or online 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 (a 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 (a full-day workshop) will take place in May. They will be in person for all attendees at The Lir Academy.

## 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 (€199.75). If a student is awarded a local authority grant the student contribution fee will be paid by the local authority. The sports centre and USI levy must be paid by ALL students.

Fees for students not qualifying for the free fees initiative:

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<b>EU/UK Fees</b>	€9,550
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<b>Non-EU Fees</b>	€23,650
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# Bachelor in Stage Management and Technical Theatre Degree

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

## 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 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

**Duration:** Three years, full-time

**Qualification:** Honours Degree from Trinity College Dublin

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 [www.thelir.ie/courses/stage-management-and-technical-theatre-degree](http://www.thelir.ie/courses/stage-management-and-technical-theatre-degree)
- Applicants will also be able to book their preferred interview date and time online.
- 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 (€199.75). If a student is awarded a local authority grant the student contribution fee will be paid by the local authority. The sports centre and USI levy must be paid by ALL students.

Fees for students not qualifying for the free fees initiative:

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<b>EU/UK Fees</b>	€9,550
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<b>Non-EU Fees</b>	€23,650
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# MFA Playwriting

<b>Duration:</b>	One-year full-time, or two-years part-time
<b>Qualification:</b>	Masters 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.

See more online at [www.thelir.ie/courses/master-in-fine-arts-playwriting](http://www.thelir.ie/courses/master-in-fine-arts-playwriting)

## Entry requirements

In addition to the information required on the online form, students are also required to upload 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 résumé (CV)
- A sample of writing in the form of a play (minimum 45 minutes reading time)
- Two references/testimonials from those familiar with your writing and/or third level education





# MFA Theatre Directing

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

The Master in Fine Art in Theatre Directing is the first entirely practiced-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 and Theatre Skills.

See more online at [www.thelir.ie/courses/master-in-fine-art-theatre-directing](http://www.thelir.ie/courses/master-in-fine-art-theatre-directing)

## Entry requirements

In addition to the information required on the online form, you are also required to upload a copy of each of the following:

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





# MFA Stage Design – Lighting, Set and Costume

Duration:	One-year full-time, or two-years part-time
Qualification:	Masters 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) or to combine two disciplines as desired e.g. set and costume design or set and lighting design.

In addition to the core classes and workshops, individual and group tuition from The Lir Academy's resident designers is a key feature of the training. In addition, masterclasses 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 end of the course.

Modules include; Contemporary Theatre Practice, Production Design, Set Design, Costume Design, Lighting Design and Dramaturgy for Stage Design.

See more online at [www.thelir.ie/courses/master-in-fine-art-stage-design](http://www.thelir.ie/courses/master-in-fine-art-stage-design)

## Entry requirements

In addition to the information required on the online form, you are also required to upload a copy of each of the following:

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



# Application process for all master degrees

Applicants should apply online at [www.thelir.ie/courses/post-graduate](http://www.thelir.ie/courses/post-graduate)

Shortlisted applicants should anticipate an admission interview, either in person or by video conference call.

Students on all three programmes will work together in collaboration, developing a shared understanding of contemporary theatre practice and a collective appreciation of the dedication and commitment required to make innovative performances happen.

## Fees for MFA Degrees 2023/2024

### Full-time Fees

EU/UK	€12,250
Non-EU	€22,290

### Part-time Fees

EU/UK	€6,120 per annum
Non-EU	€12,260 per annum

### Student levies & charges

Full-time	€301.00
Part-time	€233.50 per annum

# 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. Short courses include:

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**Introduction to Acting**

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**Intermediate Acting**

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**Actors' Ensemble**

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**Stanislavski Workshops**

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**Audition workshops  
and masterclasses**

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**Dialect and Accents Intensives**

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**Introduction to Screen Acting**

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**Introduction to Dance**

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**Physical Theatre**

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**Stage Combat**

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

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**Armed Combat**

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**Introduction to Musical Theatre**

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**Introduction to Playwriting**

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**Audiobook Narration**

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**Introduction to Set Design**

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**Introduction to Lighting Design**

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**Introduction to Costume Design**

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**Summer Camps**

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**Young Actors Programme**

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**Musical Theatre Intensive**

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**Junior Academy**





# 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.

## Matriculation

Matriculation refers to the minimum requirements for entry to college. Before you can be considered for admission you must meet these minimum standards.

The standard matriculation requirements are pass grades in English, Mathematics, a language other than English, and a full set of valid subjects for your examination system.

For further information and to check out the equivalent requirements from other countries, visit: [www.tcd.ie/study/apply/admission-requirements/undergraduate](http://www.tcd.ie/study/apply/admission-requirements/undergraduate)

## Access

The Lir Academy aims to provide an inclusive environment which promotes equality and 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 disabled students and ask that relevant information regarding any disability is disclosed when completing the form 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 they do not exceed the allocated time of three 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, please bring 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.

## 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 and 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.



# Image Credits

## Front Cover:

*Hungry* by Chris Bush.  
Director: Sorcha Harris,  
Set Designer: Hannah Foster,  
Costume Designer: Toni Bailey,  
Lighting Designer: Sophie Cassidy,  
Sound Designer: Sam Hardiman.  
Photo by: Ste Murray

## Page 01:

*The River* by Jez Butterworth.  
Director: Cathal Cleary,  
Set Designer: Ciaran Bagnall,  
Costume Designer: Ciara Fleming,  
Sound Designer: Jenny O'Malley,  
Hair and Make-Up: Val Sherlock,  
Assistant Director: Ursula McGinn,  
Assistant Set Designer: Clara Cohen,  
Assistant Costume Designer: Toni Bailey,  
Assistant Lighting Designer: Sophie Cassidy.  
Photo by: Keith Dixon.

## Page 04:

*Three Sisters* by Anton Chekov.  
Director: Marc Atkinson Borrell,  
Set Designer: Molly O'Cathain,  
Costume Designer: LaurA Fajardo Castro,  
Lighting Designer: John Gunning,  
Sound Designer: Lara Gallagher.  
Photo by: Keith Dixon.

## Page 06:

*The River* by Jez Butterworth.  
Director: Cathal Cleary,  
Set Designer: Ciaran Bagnall,  
Costume Designer: Ciara Fleming,  
Sound Designer: Jenny O'Malley,  
Hair and Make-Up: Val Sherlock,  
Assistant Director: Ursula McGinn,  
Assistant Set Designer: Clara Cohen,  
Assistant Costume Designer: Toni Bailey,  
Assistant Lighting Designer: Sophie Cassidy.  
Photo by: Keith Dixon.

## Page 08:

*Mud* by Maria Irene Fornes.  
Director: Giulia Grillo,  
Costume and Set Designer: Chrysi Chatzivasileiou,  
Sound Designer: Lara Gallagher,  
Lighting Designer: Pedro Pacheco.  
Photo by: Ste Murray.

## Page 10:

*The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare.  
Director: Connall Morrison,  
Set Designer: Liam Doona,  
Costume Designer: Sinead Lawlor,  
Lighting Designer: Kevin McFadden,  
Sound Designer: Jack Cawley.  
Photo by: Keith Dixon.

## Page 12:

*4:48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane.  
Director: Sara Joyce,  
Sound Designer: Fiona Shell,  
Lighting Designer: Sinead McKenna,  
Costume Designer: Joan O'Clery,  
Set Designer: Alyson Cummins,  
AV Designer: Jose Miguel Jimenez,  
Wigs and Make-Up: Val Sherlock.  
Photo by: Keith Dixon.

## Page 14:

*The Sugar Wife* by Elizabeth Kuti.  
Director: Dolores Rice,  
Lighting Designer: Pedro Pacheco,  
Costume Designer: Maija Koppinen,  
Set Designer: Clara Cohen,  
Sound Designer: Cameron McCauley.  
Photo by: Ste Murray.

## Page 16:

*Lobby Hero* by Kenneth Lonergan.  
Director: Annabelle Comyn,  
Set Designer: Ciara Murnane,  
Set Design Assistant: Hannah Foster,  
Costume Designer: Caroline O'Connor,  
Costume Design Assistant: Maija Koppinen,  
Lighting Designer: Paul Keoghan,  
Sound Designer: Philip Stewart,  
Production Manager: Sally Whitnel,  
Wigs and Make-Up: Val Sherlock.  
Photo by: Keith Dixon.

## Back Cover:

*Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell.  
Director: Holly Griffith,  
Set Designer: Irene Enguita,  
Costume Designer: LaurA Fajardo Castro,  
Lighting Designer: Kevin Murphy,  
Sound Designer: Fiona Shiel.  
Photo by: Keith Dixon.

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**The Lir National  
Academy of  
Dramatic Art Trinity  
College Dublin**

Trinity Technology  
and Enterprise Campus,  
Pearse Street  
(at Grand Canal Quay),  
Dublin 2,  
D02 HW24,  
Ireland

Registered  
Charity Number:  
20076689

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

