



NATIONAL ACADEMY
OF DRAMATIC ART



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

Prospectus 2025–2026



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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, producing 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, four postgraduate degrees and a wide range of short acting, voice, movement and technical courses. All of the teaching staff have 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. 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, two movement studios, seven rehearsal spaces, 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 at participants who are interested in preparing themselves for three years of actor training at conservatoire level, either at The Lir Academy or a similar institution.

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.

EU/UK Fees	€9,332 plus additional student levies and charges of €213.50 (2025/2026)
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Non-EU Fees	€21,570 (2025/2026)
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You can see more on fees at
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
- Applicants will also be able to book their preferred audition date and time online.
- Application fee is €50 before December 1st, €75 from December 1st.
- 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 (€209.75). 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 (2025/2026):

EU/UK Fees	€9,550
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Non-EU Fees	€24,760
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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
- 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 (€209.75). 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:

EU/UK Fees	€9,550
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Non-EU Fees	€24,760
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MFA Playwriting

Duration:	One-year full-time, or two-years part-time
Qualification:	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

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

Duration:	One-year full-time, or two-years part-time
Qualification:	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

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

The MFA in Stage Design (Set, Costume & Lighting) brings together a cohort of designers including graduates with experience or professionals who wish to deepen their practice. They create a dynamic collaborative learning environment in which to explore their own stage design processes.

The course is run alongside the MFA in Playwriting and the MFA in Theatre Directing. Students on all three programmes work together to develop a shared understanding of Contemporary Theatre Practice and to think creatively and critically about the making of innovative theatre work.

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. 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

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



MFA Theatre Producing

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

The MFA in Theatre Producing equips students of exceptional talent with the skills necessary to pursue a career in professional theatre and related industries through the development of skills, professional practices and creative approaches to theatre producing. It encourages a self-reflexive approach to learning with a view to developing independent thinking and collaboratively-focused producers. Students will work with the participants on our other MFA programmes in Theatre Directing, Stage Design and Playwriting.

In addition to the core classes and workshops, individual and group tuition from The Lir Academy's Head of Theatre Producing is a key part of the training. In addition, master classes by visiting practitioners supplements the student experience. The MFA culminates in the students applying all the professional skills acquired through the taught modules to a fully staged theatrical production presented to a public audience. Productions will either be staged in The Lir Academy or as part of Dublin Fringe Festival – our professional partners. This is further supported by industry placements from key partners such as the Dublin Theatre Festival and The Gate Theatre. This will also give students the opportunity to build relationships and their networks. Students will reflect on the research, development and delivery of the production in a critically reflective creative journal.

Modules include: Theatre in Context, Performing Arts Ecology, Producing Practices, Contemporary Theatre Practice, Creative Leadership and Theatre Producing Project.

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 producing/directing/curating experience to date
- A 'statement of purpose' that refers to the applicant's ambitions in terms of theatre producing
- A résumé (CV)
- A portfolio of your work
- A critical assessment of recently produced/curated/directed work
- Two references/testimonials; one from those familiar with your work and one from third-level education

See more online at www.thelir.ie/courses/master-in-fine-art-theatre-producing



Application Process For All Master Degrees

Applicants should apply online at www.thelir.ie/courses/post-graduate

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

Students on all four 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 2025/2026

MFA Full Time

EU Fees	€12,530
Non EU Fees	€22,800

MFA Part time

EU Fees	€6,400
Non EU Fees	€12,830



Short Courses

The Lir Academy offers a number of short courses for ages 12-adult 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.

Visit www.thelir.ie for further information on all short courses and to book your place online.

Acting Levels 1 to 3

Actors' Ensemble

Audition Workshops & Masterclasses

Audiobook Narration

Clowning

Costume Level 1

Fundamentals of Acting

Introduction to Directing

Introduction to Musical Theatre

Introduction to Playwriting

Musical Theatre Intensive

Prop Making Level 1

Puppetry Weekend Workshop

Physical Theatre

Screen Acting Levels 1–3

Screenwriting Level 1 & 2

Stanislavski Workshops

Summer Camps

Theatre Directing

Youth Ensemble

Youth Academy (15–17)

Youth Academy (12–14)

Voice Over Acting

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

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 students with a disability 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 relevant to your age. Make sure you know them and that they do not exceed the allocated time of three minutes per monologue.

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

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 have of working yourself or on amateur productions e.g. writing, painting, working on set design/ construction, acting or directing, stage management, technician etc. 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, Page 02 & 09:

The Government Inspector by:
Roddy Doyle from Nikolai Gogol
Director: Tom Creed
Set Designer: Ronan Duffy
Costume Designer: Joan O' Clery
Lighting Designer: Matthew Burke
Sound Designer: Ivan Birthistle
Photo by: Ste Murray

Page 05:

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

Page 07:

Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde
Director: Tom Creed
Set Designer: Pai Rathaya
Costume Designer: Florentina Burcea
Lighting Designer: Matt Burke
Sound Designer: Peter Power
Photo by: Keith Dixon

Page 11:

Peribáñez by: Lope de Vega
Adapted by: Tanya Ronder
Director: Gemma Bodinetz
Set Designer: Ciara Murnane
Costume Designer: Clodagh Deegan
Lighting Designer: Bill Woodland
Sound Designer: Denis Clohessy
Props: Dragana Stevanic
Photo by: Ste Murray

Page 13:

Gundog by: Simon Longman
Director: Kate Russell
Producer: Jack Shanley
Set Designer: Cecilia Mondadori
Costume Designer: Lisa Della Chiesa
Lighting Designer: Iris Liange
Sound Designer: Chris Nolan
Photo by: Bill Woodland

Page 15:

You Got Older by: Clare Barron
Director: Chloe Naomi
Co-Producer: Bernie Bourke
Co-Producer: Pilar Maria
Set Designer: Eugenia Genuchi
Costume Designer: Triin Kolmkant
Sound Designer: HK Ni Shioradain
Lighting Designer: Kevin Murphy
Hair & Makeup: Leonard Daly
Photo by: Ste Murray

Page 17:

The Aliens by: Annie Baker
Director: Ellen Buckley
Lighting Designer: Sophie Cassidy
Costume Designer: Toni Bailey
Set Designer: Ronan Duffy
Sound Designer: Leon Henry
Associate Sound Designer: Iain Synnott
Photos by: Bill Woodland

Page 18:

Twelfth Night by: William Shakespeare
Director: Davey Kelleher
Set Designer: Rathaya Treerat
Costume Designer: Sarah Foley
Lighting Designer: Paul Keogan
Sound Designer: Denis Clohessy
Photo by: Keith Dixon

The Lir
National Academy of Dramatic Art
Trinity College Dublin

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