

University of Chichester
Department of Performing Arts
MA Theatre Collectives
Application Guidelines

The degree is open to groups (minimum of 2) who wish to work together in creating and presenting new theatre/performance work. Not all collective members need to be performers, but all should identify a creative role of some sort (this is not a course for theatre administrators). In the collective application, the group will need to provide evidence of either previous creative work together (at undergraduate level or in another appropriate context) or cultural/theoretical/practical reasons for wanting to work together, preferably both. All candidates, individually, are expected to possess, at the point of entry, a good honours degree in Theatre/Performing Arts or related subject.

THERE ARE TWO PROCESSES TO FOLLOW WHEN YOU APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAMME.

1. **The Group/Collective** creates and submits a 'company pack' and sends it to our Performing Arts administrator
 2. Each **individual** within the collective applies for the MA formally through the Admissions Office.
- 1) **The Group/Collective application should include:**
- **A company statement (of no more than 700 words)** outlining:
 - What the collective is/does (company history/profile)
 - What the collective wants to do (proposal for group activity)
 - The individual perspectives within the group (Briefly outlining each individual member's contribution and direction within the collective/group activity)
 - **Copies of your individual application forms, references, and personal statements**
 - **Any relevant supporting material** (which might include):
 - DVD's, Videos of previous work
 - Visual Portfolio or Company information/publicity material
 - Resume/Curriculum Vitae

Send these documents to:

JULIE THURSTON
Performing Arts department
University of Chichester
Bishop Otter Campus
College Lane
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 6PE

Tel No: 01243 816206
Email: j.thurston@chi.ac.uk

- 2) **Individuals** (within the collective) should provide the following:
- **Standard application form, stating clearly (in 'course you are applying for') the name of your collective.**
 - **A personal statement**
 - **Two academic/professional references** (for PG reference form, please click below)
 - **proof of Higher degree qualification or equivalent**

Send these documents through to:

Recruitment Officer
Admissions Office
University of Chichester
Bishop Otter Campus
College Lane
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 6PE

Tel: 01243 816034
Fax: 01243 816161
Email: admissions@chi.ac.uk

See <http://www.chiuni.ac.uk/applying/ApplicationForms.cfm> for details

When we have received your group, and individual applications we will get back in touch with an offer from which we will invite the collective for a formal interview. If you do not send us any supporting material, you might also be required to show an aspect of your work. See below for more information.

If you are successful, you will be sent a course handbook, details of your start-date, a reading list, as well as other documents and materials for induction, and your study.

If you need any help with the above – please do not hesitate to contact either Julie Thurston or Vicky Waddingham via the details above.

The Collective/Individual axis: implications for admissions and beyond.

Both Individual and collective requirements should be presented together as one application package (with the exception of the references) and candidates should see the application process as a starting point for their collective commitments to the group.

The programme team will view applications in collective terms, but will seek reassurance, through individual references, of individuals' personal ability to realise the academic requirements of the degree. Also, the team will want to understand the particular dynamics of the collective and will wish to identify the individual responsibility to the programme and to the collective. This is crucial as the programme team will, during the course of the programme, primarily connect with the collective: if individuals are struggling to commit or to realise the programme, the collective - as a whole - will be under threat. With this in mind, individuals within the collective, on being accepted to the programme, are asked to sign a collective contract committing themselves to their group for the duration of the programme. Each collective has the right to submit at this point an 'exit strategy', which will outline the processes for the collective to continue on the programme in the event of an individual withdrawal. The programme team has the right, however, to ignore this strategy if they feel that the quality of the collective's work is under threat from the reduction in numbers.

Candidates for the programme need to get used to this challenging collective responsibility at the point of application. For example, the programme team might wish to reject an application based on individual(s) inability/lack of commitment/personal qualifications. The team will, in this situation, reject the collective **as a whole**. At this stage certain individuals might wish to withdraw from the collective, allowing the remainder to offer a new application: that is a matter for the individuals and the collective involved; the programme team will never involve itself with this kind of negotiation. While the programme team will be happy to accept a revised application from any collective, it does not guarantee automatic success second time around.

Interview

All applications will be invited for interview. The programme team must see all members of the collective individually. Before the interview, the collective should decide on how best to present themselves collectively to the programme team. We recommend that the collective offers a simple theatrical 'statement', lasting no more than five minutes, which gives the programme team some indication of the aesthetic and cultural 'position' of the company at the point of application. Collectives will engage in a group discussion with members of the programme team and will get the chance to talk with staff on an individual basis.