

## MA Training Actors Programme Closure

### Stage 2: Closure Strategy

#### Section 1: Programme Details

a) Programme Title	MA in Training Actors (Voice or Movement)
b) Programme SITS code	PMARTTRAC- FT
c) FHEQ Level	7
d) Final Award	MA
e) Interim Exit Awards	Postgraduate Diploma in Training Actors
f) Length of programme	2 years
g) Mode of study	Full-time

#### Section 2: Information about the proposed closure/suspension

a) Proposed date of last recruitment to programme	May 2018
b) Proposed date of closure (assuming progression and completion within normal timescales)	July 2019
c) Proposed date of closure (assuming progression and completion delayed by repeating students)	September 2019

#### Section 3: Consultation

a) Details of student consultation
<p><b>Consultation with current students</b></p> <p>The Programme Leader (ES) met with the students currently enrolled on the 1<sup>st</sup> year on of the programme on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018. They discussed the implications of the proposed closure. Both 1<sup>st</sup> Year students attended this meeting. Both 2<sup>nd</sup> year students are currently abroad on placement. ES held separate telephone conversations with these students. Consultation include discussion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The history and context of the programme.</li> <li>• Confirmation that there would be no impact on the delivery of teaching as the programme works in such close relationship with the 3-year acting programmes.</li> <li>• The fact that all current students are expected to complete the programme and will be unaffected by this decision.</li> <li>• That the Programme and Pathway Leaders will ensure the standards and quality of the learning experience including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversight of scheduling, delivery of teaching and all curriculum activities.</li> <li>Providing tutorial support for students through to graduation.</li> <li>Ensuring quality assurance processes such as APERS, Programme and Academic board matters are completed thoroughly.</li> <li>Liaising with External Examiner.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Emphasise that they are the last generation to enjoy a programme with such a small cohort and bespoke approach.</li> <li>• Assuring students have access to Student Services and all relevant support mechanisms.</li> <li>• Assuring students that they can talk about concerns or questions at any point.</li> </ul> <p>The Programme Leader has followed up these conversations in writing, reminding the students about ongoing support should they have concerns.</p> <p><b>Other students</b></p> <p>No modules from the programme are available either as a core or elective modules on other programmes therefore no students in other departments need to be consulted.</p> <p><b>Alumni</b></p> <p>The Programme Leader has written to all graduates of the programme to inform them of this proposal. He has invited them to any respond with any questions or comments.</p>
b) Summary of impact/feedback

One student asked if the decision had been made because teaching staff on the Acting programmes no longer wanted the MA students to participate in their classes. ES confirmed this was absolutely not the case. He emphasised that current students on the MA had been 'hand-picked' and the Department's commitment to them was as strong as ever. Students expressed sadness at the news about the closure of the course but said they understood the reasoning.
<b>c) Details of inter-faculty consultation</b>
This programme is delivered entirely by staff in the Drama Department therefore no inter-departmental consultation was deemed necessary.
<b>d) Summary of impact/feedback</b>
Not applicable.
<b>e) Consultation with internal stakeholders</b>
<p>The Programme Leader has consulted with all internal stakeholders to explain the context and rationale for this decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Heads of Library, Student Affairs, Drama Administration and Marketing about this proposal.</li> <li>- The Student Union President. The Programme Leader explained the support which had been given to current students and the plan to write to all graduates of the programme.</li> <li>- Colleagues in Registry who have supported him to ensure all appropriate procedures have been followed.</li> <li>- All staff who regularly teach on the programme.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<b>f) Summary of impact/feedback</b>
<p><b>Feedback from the Students' Union</b>  The SU President had no concerns. She offered to attend any meetings with students, if this would be helpful in the future.</p> <p><b>Feedback from Library</b>  No concerns.</p> <p><b>Feedback from Student Affairs</b>  The Head of Student Affairs confirmed she did not have any concerns.</p> <p><b>Feedback from Drama Administration</b>  The Head of Drama Administration confirmed he did not have any concerns. He suggested it would be useful to consider options for the future for graduates of the acting programmes to develop as teachers.</p> <p><b>Feedback from Marketing</b>  The Head of Marketing had no concerns. She made the following requests:  Request a) Where is it possible to signpost interested prospective students in future?  Response a) The Programme Leader has agreed the wording concerning any inquiries including the PGCert and future MA programme.  Request b) Can we agree messaging to alumni of the programme, who may need reassurance that this does not devalue their degree or lessen their connection with the School.  Response b) The Programme Leader has drafted a letter to all alumni of the programme and has agreed the wording with colleagues in Marketing.  Request c) We need confirmation so that we can remove this programme from our advertising artwork and website once the decision has been made. The programme has already been removed from the prospectus copy.  Response c) The Programme Leader will communicate the final decision to Marketing.</p> <p><b>Current Staff</b>  Two responses have been received. Both expressed sadness at the closure of the programme but understood the rationale why.</p> <p>Overall, as this is such a small cohort of students (usually one or two per year) internal stakeholders do not anticipate this decision will have any major consequences for their respective departments.</p>
<b>g) Consultation with external stakeholders</b>
<p>The incoming External Examiner (who will commence her duties in September 2018) has been briefed about the planned closure of the programme. via telephone conversation.</p> <p>The programme does not have any formal collaborative partners or other organisations involved in delivery of the programme. It also does not have any external accreditors or professional recognition bodies. The programme puts students</p>

on placements towards the end of their second year of study. These placements are arranged on an *ad hoc* basis depending on what opportunities arise in the profession and other suitable institutions.

#### h) Summary of impact/feedback

The incoming External Examiner confirmed she had no concerns or questions about this and that she understood her tenure would last for only one year. She is looking forward to working with the Programme Team in the autumn.

Closure will not have an effect on the validation arrangements or external accreditation of other programmes within the School. It will also not have an impact on any relationships with collaborative partners. There is no ongoing expectation by placement providers.

#### Section 4: Arrangements for teaching out the programme

<b>a) What arrangements are in place for teaching out the programme</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The programme works largely in connection with the 3-year acting programmes which provide students with a range of opportunities to observe teaching and participate in classes and rehearsals. Teaching staff will remain in place and the same learning opportunities will be available as the acting programme will be ongoing in 2018/19. All teaching for the MA in training Actors programme for 2018/19 will be scheduled as normal.</li><li>• There are no electives in the programme.</li><li>• There is no collaborative activity which takes places between year 1 and year 2 students in terms of formal programme delivery of teaching or assessment. Therefore the fact that there will not be a year 1 cohort in September 2018 is not problematic.</li><li>• There are no students currently intermitting. As the programme is largely delivered in conjunction with the 3-year acting programme, should a student need to intermit, the learning opportunities and staff will remain available to the student.</li></ul>
<b>b) What arrangements are in place for assessment during the teaching out phase</b>
The programme is largely delivered in conjunction with the 3-year acting programme. Teaching staff will remain in place. Should a student be required to do an assessment retake, the learning opportunities and staff will remain available to complete the retake. The programme's usual assessment regime remains available to students beyond the life of the programme, if necessary.
<b>c) What arrangements are in place to mitigate the effect of programme closure on other students of the School</b>
The programme has a very small cohort and functions largely alongside the daily provision of the Acting programmes. Whilst MA in Training students often study alongside the actors, they are not involved in the delivery of learning and therefore this will have no significant impact on the Acting students. There is no anticipated impact on other students in the School.

#### Section 5: Communication Plan

<b>a) Impact on relevant stakeholders</b>
The programme responds to a very niche market. It is anticipated there will not be any significant impact and therefore the communication plan is modest.
<b>b) Communication of programme closure</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are no applicants who were made offers in the current recruitment cycle.</li><li>• The Programme Leader has drafted a letter to all alumni of the programme explain this decision, inviting them to express any concerns or questions, and encouraging them to stay in contact with the School.</li><li>• This programme belongs to a very specialist sector. The delivery of the programme is not something the wider public have an awareness of and therefore no broader communication plan is thought necessary.</li><li>• There are no other relevant external stakeholders.</li></ul>