

Zurich University of the Arts

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Degree Programme Regulations (DPR BFA)

19 January 2022

Based on § 2 para. 3 of the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Zurich University of the Arts of 2 November 2021, the University Board hereby decrees:

A. General Provisions

§ 1. Subject

In addition to the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at ZHdK, the Degree Programme Regulations (DPR) set here govern the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre.

§ 2. Programme Objective

¹ The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre builds the artistic and scientific knowledge and skills needed to earn a first professional qualification and prepares for a master's degree in the respective field.

² The standard qualification awarded on completion of the programme is a bachelor's degree.

§ 3. Majors in Theatre

¹ The bachelor's degree programme comprises the following majors, each awarded 150 credits:

- a. Major in Directing;
- b. Major in Acting;
- c. Major in Scenography;
- d. Major in Theatre Education.

² The Annexes to these DPR describe the various majors in theatre.¹

B. Admissions

§ 4. Admissions

Programme admissions are governed by the provisions of the Regulatory Framework.

§ 5. Admissions Process and Entrance Examination Committee

¹ The admissions process comprises four stages:

- a. The University Office establishes whether applicants meet the University's entrance requirements in terms of their previous education, additional requirements (in accordance with § 6), language skills and application documents;
- b. Applications are reviewed to verify whether applicants fulfil the subject-specific admissions requirements;
- c. Subject-specific aptitude test, which is conducted by the Entrance Examination Committee;
- d. Admissions decision.

² The head of programme appoints an entrance examination committee for the first and second parts of the subject-specific aptitude test. The committee comprising a lecturer and at least one other person (professor or member of the teaching and research staff) from the respective major. For the majors in directing, acting and scenography, the committee responsible for the second part of the subject-specific aptitude test also includes an internal or external expert.

§ 6. Additional Admissions Requirements

¹ The following age restrictions apply to the majors in theatre:

- a. Major in Directing: at least 21 years of age;

- b. Major in Acting: at least 17 years of age;
- c. Major in Scenography: at least 18 years of age;
- d. Major in Theatre Education: at least 20 years of age.

² . . . ³

§ 7. Evidence of Language Proficiency

¹ Students must provide evidence of a sufficient knowledge of the German language.

² Students may demonstrate an adequate knowledge of German in one of the following ways:

- a. Native speaker;
- b. German as a subject examined as part of their previous education (passed or at least grade 4)¹;
- c. B2 certificate in German earned under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

³ Proof of the required language skills can be provided in the first two semesters. In this case, programme admission is subject to students providing evidence of their language proficiency at the latest by the end of their second semester. Students who fail to meet the language requirements may be expelled.

§ 8. Verification

¹ The University Office reviews the documents listed below to verify whether applicants meet the admissions requirements (previous education, additional requirements and language proficiency):

- a. Application form;
- b. Portfolio or preparatory task (as announced in the call for applications);
- c. Motivation letter;
- d. Previous educational certificates in accordance with the Regulatory Framework and with overarching legislation.

² Candidates may be requested to submit a medical certificate.

§ 9. Admission to the Subject-Specific Aptitude Test

Students who fulfil the requirements set out in § 8 and who have submitted the required documents are admitted to the subject-specific aptitude test.

§ 10. Subject-Specific Aptitude Test

¹ The subject-specific aptitude test has two parts.

² The first part of the aptitude test involves an assessment of the submitted documents. The positive assessment of these documents is a prerequisite for applicants being invited to the second part of the aptitude test.

³ The second part of the subject-specific aptitude test consists of a preliminary examination and an entrance examination. Candidates who pass the preliminary examination are admitted to the entrance examination. No preliminary examination is conducted for admission to the Major in Scenography.

⁴ Programme admission is subject to the positive overall assessment of both the submitted documents and the subject-specific aptitude test.

⁵ Failed subject-specific aptitude tests may be repeated only once for any degree programme.

§ 11. Assessment Criteria

The following criteria are used to assess candidate aptitude:

- a. Developmental capacity/artistic potential;
- b. Quality of portfolio/work sample;
- c. Motivation, interest and curiosity;
- d. Independence and personal responsibility;
- e. Reflective thinking skills and self-assessment;
- f. Critical reflection skills;
- g. Teamwork and communication skills, interpersonal and social skills.

C. Student Performance

§ 12. Credit Requirements

The number of credits required to pass the various majors in theatre are set out in the respective programme structures (see Annexes).

§ 13. Assessment Criteria

¹ The following criteria are used to assess student performance:

- a. Artistic quality and expressiveness;
- b. Originality of work;
- c. Technical skills and replicability;
- d. Theoretical knowledge;
- e. Conceptual skills;
- f. Reflective thinking skills and ability to handle criticism;
- g. Motivation, interest, curiosity, willingness to experiment and take risks (work attitude);
- h. Communication and team skills.

² These criteria are assessed in accordance with the programme outcomes to be achieved (see Annexes).

D. Programme Organisation

§ 14. Internship

¹ The head of major must approve the type, content, duration and crediting of an internship prior to commencement.

² Internships can be credited only if they meet the content-related and organisational requirements, which must be defined in a respective agreement.

³ Students are responsible for finding internships themselves.

E. Graduation

§ 15. Graduation Requirements

¹ Students who wish to graduate with a major in theatre must fulfil the following requirements:

- a. Written bachelor's thesis;
- b. Artistic presentation (Major in Acting);
- c. Project work (Major in Directing, Major in Scenography and Major in Theatre Education).

² The head of programme appoints an examination committee comprising a lecturer and at least one other person (professor or member of the teaching and research staff) from the respective major. For the majors in directing, acting and scenography, the committee also includes an internal or external expert.

³ Students who wish to graduate with a Major in Theatre must be awarded at least a grade of 4.0.

⁴ Students who are awarded a "Fail" mark (i.e. a grade below 4.0) may repeat their final examinations only once and at the next possible examination date.

F. Intellectual Property Rights

§ 16. Copyright Ownership

¹ Copyright in all inventions, designs and copyrighted works created in degree programmes is owned by ZHdK.

² ZHdK reserves the right to decide on the licensing and transfer of intellectual property rights.

G. Final Provisions

§ 17. Enactment

¹ These Degree Programme Regulations were enacted on 1 February 2023.

² They apply to all students entering their programmes in the 2023/24 autumn semester or later.

§ 18. Transitional Provision

¹ Bachelor's students who began their studies before the 2022/23 autumn semester will complete their studies in accordance with the Degree Programme Regulations for the ZHdK Bachelor of Arts in Theatre of 27 April 2016 and with the respective curricular concept

² In accordance with previous legislation, students must complete their degree programme before the end of the maximum period of study.

³ Students who interrupt their studies fall within the scope of the new legislation. The terms and conditions of resumption, as well as the crediting of previous achievements, are governed by § 34 of the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Programmes.

¹ Resolution of the University Board of 13 December 2023. In Effect since 1 February 2024.

² Resolution of the University Board of 3 July 2024. In Effect since 1 August 2024.

³ Resolution of the University Board of 14 January 2026. In Effect since 1 February 2026.

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

19 January 2022

Major in Directing

Level of Study: Bachelor

Credits: Major (150 Credits)

Qualification: «Bachelor of Arts ZHdK in Theatre with a Major in Directing»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted student will possess:

- Personal commitment and creative vision;
- Scenic imagination;
- Grasp of acting in its various contexts;
- Conceptual thinking skills and an understanding of dramaturgy.

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will possess the competencies listed below and be able to:

- Expertise/Profession: Argue their artistic position within theatrical culture and competently apply classical, post-dramatic as well as performative methods in their work as directors.
- Position: Independently develop their own artistic approach in a variety of formats and reflect on and further develop their artistic agency, authorship and aesthetic practice in a differentiated manner based on an adequate knowledge of theories of theatre and cultural studies, as well as of the canon of classical dramatic literature and current developments and discourses in contemporary theatre.
- Responsibility: Understand their work as an open process and take responsibility in production processes in terms of fair practice.
- Perspective: Open up scope for action for their artistic activity and the future of theatre-making and act on their awareness of the need to achieve justice in society.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with a Major in Directing must earn at least 150 credits.	
Students must complete modules from the following areas in accordance with the rules set out below:	
Training	min. 5 Credits from CE-Modules
Core	min. 91 Credits from C- and CE-Modules ¹
Project Work	min. 30 Credits from C- and CE-Modules ¹
Graduation	min. 24 Credits from C-Modules

Key: C = Compulsory Module, CE = Compulsory Elective

Enactment and Effectiveness

¹ This Annex to the Degree Programmes Regulations was enacted on 1 February 2023. It was approved by the University Board on 19 January 2022.

² This Annex applies to all students entering their programmes in the 2023/24 autumn semester or later.

¹ Resolution of the University Board of 14 January 2026. In Effect since 1 February 2026.

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

19 January 2022

Major in Acting

Level of Study: Bachelor

Credits: Major (150 Credits)

Qualification: «Bachelor of Arts ZHdK in Theatre with a Major in Acting»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will:

- Possess a playful curiosity about forms of representation;
- Be able to transfer a director's impulses and prompts energetically and imaginatively into physical, physical-vocal and figurative-situated action.

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will possess the competencies listed below and be able to:

- Expertise/Profession:
 - Competently deal with diverse subject matters and approach them in an interpretive, physical and locutional manner.
 - Apply their knowledge and skills joyfully and exploratively also in (as yet) unfamiliar and unknown contexts.
- Positioning:
 - Position themselves confidently as authors of their stage work.
 - Work collaboratively und integratively.
- Participation:
 - Integrate into ensembles in different fields of contemporary theatre.
- Perspective:
 - Engage in the world of theatre as self-confident stage artists, capable of working as members of ensembles in various fields and of being authors in their own right.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with a Major in Acting must earn at least 150 credits.	
Students must complete modules from the following areas in accordance with the rules set out below:	
Training	min. 14 Credits from CE-Modules
Core	min. 105 Credits, of which 45 Credits from C-Modules and 60 Credits from CE-Modules ¹
Project Work	min. 16 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 12 Credits from C-Modules

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Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

19 January 2022

Major in Scenography

Level of Study: Bachelor

Credits: Major (150 Credits)

Qualification: «Bachelor of Arts ZHdK in Theatre with a Major in Scenography»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will:

- Possess spatial and scenic imagination and the ability to represent space;
- Be able to create and design scenarios and spaces;
- Be able to grasp different types of content and translate them into a scenic language.

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will possess the competencies listed below and be able to:

- Expertise/Profession:
 - Formulate strong artistic concepts and positions and express their imagination using convincing artistic strategies and research techniques.
 - Implement their ideas based on an in-depth knowledge of artistic interior design and spatial construction using colour, light, materials and projection techniques.
 - Apply their extensive craft skills to communicate their designs appropriately and organise their execution.
 - Independently plan and carry out smaller projects.
- Position:
 - Convincingly position themselves as experimental as well as critical artists with a sound basic knowledge of theatre, art practice and theory.
 - Explore issues of social relevance and translate them into their own artistic language.
- Responsibility:
 - Understand their work as an open process and perceive openness, perseverance and independence as the foundations of artistic activity and lifelong learning.
- Participation:
 - Contribute to the changing world of theatre.
 - Pursue a master's degree in scenography at an international arts university/academy or at ZHdK.
- Perspective:
 - Situate and reflect on their work based on their knowledge of spatial theory, art history and performance analysis.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with a Major in Scenography must earn at least 150 credits.	
Students must complete modules from the following areas in accordance with the rules set out below:	
Core	min. 95 Credits, of which 91 Credits from C-Modules and 4 Credits from CE-Modules
Project Work	min. 15 Credits, of which 13 Credits from C-Modules and 2 Credits from CE-Modules ¹
Internship / Shadowing	min. 8 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 24 Credits from C-Modules

Key: C = Compulsory Module, CE = Compulsory Elective

Enactment and Effectiveness

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¹ Resolution of the University Board of 14 January 2026. In Effect since 1 February 2026.

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

19 January 2022

Major in Theatre Education

Level of Study: Bachelor

Credits: Major (150 Credits)

Qualification: «Bachelor of Arts ZHdK in Theatre with a Major in Theatre Education»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will:

- Be genuinely motivated to act and perform;
- Be able to recognise changing forms of representation and different ways of reading them;
- Possess scenic and dramaturgical imagination;
- Be able to recognise the scope for social engagement in work structures and projects.

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will possess the competencies listed below and be able to:

- Expertise/Profession:
 - Select and justify the most appropriate approach to a specific situation from a wide range of concepts and procedures.
 - Independently generate experiential and dialogical thinking and action in different contexts and environments using an exploratory approach.
 - Use the means and techniques of theatre education to form ensembles from heterogeneous groups and to make shared authorship visible in theatre education projects.
 - Use their own extensive and differentiated performance experience to derive feasible approaches for non-professional actors and performers and to take responsibility for transferring and communicating such approaches in an informed and carefully reflected manner.
- Responsibility:
 - Act as constructive partners in team processes and collective work settings and manage themselves and others responsibly, prudently and pertinently.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with a Major in Theatre Education must earn at least 150 credits.	
Students must complete modules from the following areas in accordance with the rules set out below:	
Training	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules
Core	min. 109 Credits, of which 97 Credits from C-Modules and 12 Credits from CE-Modules
Project Work	min. 6 Credits from C-Modules
Internship / Shadowing	min. 3 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 27 Credits from C-Modules

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Enactment and Effectiveness

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