ERASMUS+ COURSES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

SUMMER SEMESTER 2026/2027

Theatre Faculty

Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava

The course offer is intended for incoming Erasmus+ students of the Theatre Faculty. Subjects may be updated or changed depending on teaching capacity and departmental availability.

The standard VŠMU grading scale A-FX is used. Individual course requirements and the form of the final assignment are specified by the teacher.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage	English	Description
A	91-100%	Excellent	Overall excellent quality
B	81-90%	Commendable	Great quality with some minor mistakes
C	73-80%	Good	Good / average quality
D	66-72%	Adequate	Several major / notable mistakes
E	60-65%	Sufficient	Shows significant mistakes but still passable qualities
FX	Under 60%	Insufficient / did not pass	Significant / major mistakes and overall insufficient quality

Teaching format	Dates
Regular classes (12 weeks)	8 February – 30 April 2027
Istropolitana Project International Theatre Festival (5 days)	3–7 May 2027

Participation in the Istropolitana Project festival week is optional for students who are unable to extend their stay in Bratislava beyond the regular teaching period. Students should discuss their availability and course completion requirements with the course coordinator in advance.

ACTING DEPARTMENT COURSES

Subject	ECTS	Hours/week	Teacher
Practical Theatre Project	8	8	Silvia Matejčíková
Movement and Rhythm	4	4	Elena Spaskov
Voice	2	2	Alexandra Lukáčová
Ensemble Singing	2	2	Janka Rychlá
Short Play	2	2	Matej Trnovec
Dramatic Text Analysis	2	2	Mário Drgoňa
Contemporary Slovak Theatre	2	2	Ján Šimko
Acting Techniques and Improvisation	6	4	Miroslava Joniak Durna
Slovak Language	2	2	Daniela Danihelová
Organization of the international theatre festival 2027	2	2	Katarína Figula

Total: 32 ECTS

Subjects might be updated or changed.

CULTURAL MANAGEMENT COURSES

Subject	ECTS	Hours/week	Teacher
Practical Theatre Project	8	8	Silvia Matejčíková, Katarína Figula
Dramatic Text Analysis	2	2	Mário Drgoňa
Short Play	2	2	Matej Trnovec
Arts Marketing and Theatre Production	10	10	Matúš Benža
English Language	2	2	Francisco Meija
Slovak Language	2	2	Daniela Danihelová
International Cultural Cooperation	2	2	Denis Farkaš, Natália Derner Urblíková
Contemporary Slovak Theatre	2	2	Ján Šimko
Organization of the international festival	2	2	Katarína Figula

Total: 32 ECTS

Subjects might be updated or changed.

Practical Theatre Project (Acting Department)

Teacher: Silvia Matejčíková

Hours per week: 8

Number of credits: 8

Course Description

The course is a practice-based theatre project in which students work collectively towards the creation of a performance. Through rehearsals and creative collaboration, students develop material, explore acting and staging approaches and participate in the full process from initial ideas to a public presentation.

Course Syllabus

- introduction to the artistic concept and working process
- collective creation and development of performance material
- acting and improvisational work
- exploration of space, movement, text and other stage elements
- rehearsals and development of individual and group scenes
- collaboration within an international group
- final rehearsals and preparation for public presentation

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- participate actively in a collaborative rehearsal process
- develop and shape performance material
- respond creatively to direction and to other performers
- work responsibly within an ensemble
- apply acting and stage skills in the creation of a complete performance
- present the resulting work to an audience

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on regular attendance, active participation and engagement throughout the rehearsal process. The course concludes with the creation and public presentation of a theatre performance.

Movement and Rhythm

Teacher: Elena Spaskov

Hours per week: 4

Number of credits: 4

Course Description

The course develops movement awareness, coordination, rhythm, musicality and physical expression for stage work. Students explore the qualities of movement, movement in time and space, and movement as a form of communication. The training also focuses on conscious and spontaneous physical responses to internal and external stimuli.

Course Syllabus

- development of movement and musical memory
- work with tempo and dynamics
- coordination and movement skills
- movement in time and space
- movement as a form of communication
- conscious and spontaneous responses to internal and external stimuli
- practical movement exercises
- physical interpretation of rhythmic patterns
- movement tasks based on different acting situations
- principles of safe and conscious movement

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- improve movement and musical memory
- develop greater precision and expressiveness in physical performance
- work consciously with tempo, rhythm and dynamics
- improve coordination and movement skills
- respond physically to different acting situations and stimuli
- understand and apply basic principles of safe and conscious movement

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment consists of attendance (30%), active participation in class (30%) and a collective practical examination (40%). The final examination consists of the presentation of selected group and individual exercises in the required scope and quality.

Voice

Teacher: Alexandra Lukáčová

Hours per week: 2

Number of credits: 2

Course Description

The course guides students through the exploration and discovery of their own natural voice. Through exercises inspired primarily by the voice method of Kristin Linklater, we will gradually release habitual tension in the body, creating space for an open and free sound. The course provides a safe space for connecting with one's voice, observing and discovering it, allowing the voice to become an essential and original expression of the actor's personality.

Course Syllabus

- body and breath awareness
- awareness of tension in the body and how to release it
- deepening the breath and opening the resonating spaces
- connecting movement with breath and breath with sound
- finding impulses for sound
- activation of the body and breath
- working with text
- imagination
- expanding the vocal potential
- working individually within a group, with the group, and with the support of the group

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- consciously work with their body, breath, diaphragm and resonating spaces
- become aware of excessive tension in the body and release it
- open their voice without unnecessary energy
- experience their voice as an authentic expression of their personality
- collaborate effectively with a group
- allow themselves to open up and be surprised by their own voice

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on attendance and active participation throughout the semester. The course concludes with an "open class" consisting of a presentation of selected individual and group exercises and training methods used during the semester.

Ensemble Singing

Teacher: Janka Rychlá
Hours per week: 2
Number of credits: 2

Course Description

The course develops ensemble singing skills through practical work with repertoire from different musical genres. Students focus on vocal coordination, intonation, listening, rhythm, phrasing, dynamics and harmonic awareness. Particular emphasis is placed on the ability to sing as part of a group, respond to other performers and develop musical sensitivity useful for stage work.

Course Syllabus

- breathing and basic vocal technique
- intonation and aural awareness
- ensemble listening and harmonic coordination
- singing in canon and simple polyphonic structures
- rhythm and body percussion
- work with dynamics and phrasing
- repertoire from different musical genres, including folk songs, musical theatre and popular music
- singing in different languages depending on the selected repertoire

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- apply basic vocal technique in ensemble singing
- maintain intonation and rhythmic stability within a group
- listen and respond to other singers
- coordinate voice, rhythm, dynamics and phrasing with the ensemble
- contribute effectively to collective musical and stage work

Final Assignment / Assessment

Practical examination consisting of the presentation of several pieces at the end of the semester, usually as part of a public student performance. A maximum of three absences is permitted. In case of health-related limitations, an alternative form of assessment may be agreed with the teacher.

Short Play

Teacher: Matej Trnovec
Hours per week: 2
Number of credits: 2

Course Description

The aim of the Short Play course is for students to write their own original short play. The course consists of theoretical sessions, practical workshops, and consultations. In the first part of the course, students focus primarily on reading and analysing existing plays, mostly short ones, before exploring themes and developing ideas for their own work. The second part is devoted to the writing process itself, with classes serving as a space for feedback, discussion, and consultation. The course aims to help students develop the skills necessary to write their own dramatic texts while also enabling them, through this experience, to gain a deeper understanding of other dramatic texts.

Course Syllabus

- creating original short play
- development of writing and storytelling
- development of ability to analyze dramatic texts in different dimensions
- help with articulating own ideas
- development of structural reading of different plays
- learning about different approaches to drama and theatre

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- write their own short or even longer play
- develop their storytelling abilities
- practically and structurally analyze drama plays from the position of author
- articulate their creative ideas and learn how to put them on medium of drama
- discuss their own ideas with a group
- critically perceive their own creative work in order to develop greater outcome of their creative process

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment consists of attendance (20%), active participation in class (30%) and creating their own short play (50%). Short play is the final assignment in this class and should be finished before end of the semester.

Dramatic Text Analysis

Teacher: Mário Drgoňa

Hours per week: 2

Number of credits: 2

Course Description

The course focuses on close reading and analysis of dramatic texts. Students examine the structure, themes, characters, situations and relationships within a play and discuss how these elements can be interpreted in performance.

Course Syllabus

- reading and discussion of selected dramatic texts
- analysis of dramatic structure
- character and relationship analysis
- themes, conflicts and situations
- interpretation of text from the perspective of performance
- discussion of different possible readings and staging approaches

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- analyse the basic structure and components of a dramatic text
- identify key themes, conflicts and relationships
- formulate and discuss an interpretation of a play
- connect textual analysis with possible approaches to performance

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on active participation in class discussions and analytical work with selected texts. The final assignment may consist of an oral or written analysis of a selected dramatic text.

Contemporary Slovak Theatre

Teacher: Ján Šimko
Hours per week: 2
Number of credits: 2

Course Description

The course introduces students to contemporary Slovak theatre through lectures, discussions and direct encounters with current theatre practice. It focuses on selected artists, institutions, productions and tendencies shaping the Slovak theatre scene today. An important part of the course is attending selected performances in Bratislava, followed by discussion and critical reflection.

Course Syllabus

- introduction to the contemporary Slovak theatre landscape
- key theatres, independent companies and artistic institutions
- selected directors, playwrights, performers and creative teams
- current aesthetic and thematic tendencies
- relationships between institutional and independent theatre
- contemporary approaches to directing, dramaturgy and performance
- visits to selected theatre performances
- post-performance discussions and critical reflection
- comparison of Slovak theatre practice with students' own cultural and theatrical contexts

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- identify key features and tendencies of contemporary Slovak theatre
- recognise selected artists, institutions and forms of theatre practice
- analyse and discuss contemporary performances
- reflect critically on different artistic approaches
- place selected Slovak theatre works within a broader European and international context
- articulate their own response to live performance

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on attendance, active participation in discussions and engagement with the performances attended during the semester. The final assignment may take the form of a short written or oral reflection on a selected performance, artist or tendency in contemporary Slovak theatre.

Acting Techniques and Improvisation

Teacher: Miroslava Joniak Durna

Hours per week: 4

Number of credits: 6

Course Description

A practical acting course focused on the development of the actor's creativity, spontaneity and ability to respond to different stage situations. Through individual and group exercises, students explore improvisation, interaction with partners and the creation of dramatic situations.

Course Syllabus

- individual and group acting exercises
- improvisation and spontaneous response
- partner and ensemble work
- concentration and stage awareness
- development of dramatic situations through improvisation
- work with action, intention and circumstances
- exploration of different approaches to character and stage presence
- development of individual creativity within ensemble work

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- respond spontaneously and creatively in an acting situation
- work effectively with a stage partner and ensemble
- develop a dramatic situation through improvisation
- apply basic acting techniques in practical stage work
- use improvisation as a tool for developing performance material

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on attendance, active participation and practical work throughout the semester. The final assessment consists of a practical presentation of selected individual and/or group acting and improvisation exercises.

Slovak Language

Teacher: Daniela Danihelová

Hours per week: 2

Number of credits: 2

Course Description

The course introduces international students to basic Slovak language skills and practical cultural knowledge useful for everyday life during their stay in Slovakia. The focus is on simple communication in common situations, orientation in Bratislava and basic understanding of Slovak culture and social conventions.

Course Syllabus

- basic greetings and introductions
- numbers, dates and time
- everyday vocabulary
- ordering food and drinks
- shopping and basic services
- asking for and understanding directions
- public transport and orientation in Bratislava
- basic communication at school and in everyday situations
- useful phrases for emergencies and practical needs
- basic information about Slovakia, Bratislava and Slovak cultural customs

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- understand and use basic Slovak expressions
- communicate in simple everyday situations
- introduce themselves and exchange basic personal information
- manage basic practical situations during their stay
- orient themselves more easily in Bratislava and Slovakia
- recognise selected aspects of Slovak culture and everyday life

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on attendance, active participation and completion of practical language exercises. The final assessment may consist of a short practical conversation and/or a simple presentation demonstrating basic communication skills.

Practical Theatre Project (Department of Management)

Teacher: Katarína Figula (production supervision); artistic project led by Silvia Matejčíková
Hours per week: 8
Number of credits: 8

Course Description

The course gives Theatre Management students hands-on experience in the management and production of a theatre project created with acting students under the artistic leadership of Silvia Matejčíková. Students become part of the production process and are responsible for selected organisational, communication and coordination tasks from the preparation phase through rehearsals to the public presentation. The course is designed as supervised learning through practice in a real creative environment.

Course Syllabus

- introduction to the artistic concept, production framework and division of responsibilities
- production planning and preparation of a working schedule
- coordination of communication between the artistic, production and technical teams
- organisation of rehearsals and practical production logistics
- coordination of space, technical and material requirements
- preparation and updating of production documents, schedules and contact information
- support for internal and external communication related to the project
- coordination of selected tasks connected with the public presentation
- on-site production work during final rehearsals and performance
- problem-solving and response to changes during the production process
- documentation and evaluation of the project and the student's own production work

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- understand the basic workflow of a theatre production from preparation to public presentation
- prepare and maintain essential production documents and schedules
- coordinate assigned organisational and logistical tasks responsibly
- communicate effectively with artistic, technical and production collaborators
- identify production needs and respond constructively to practical problems
- work independently within an agreed area of responsibility while contributing to the wider team
- reflect critically on their own role and contribution to a theatre production

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on regular attendance, active participation in the production process, reliability and the quality of completed production tasks. Students are expected to take responsibility for an agreed area of work during the preparation, rehearsal and presentation phases. The course concludes with submission of selected production documentation and a short written or oral reflection on the student's contribution and learning experience.

Organization of the International Theatre Festival 2027

Teacher: Katarína Figula
Hours per week: 2
Number of credits: 2

Course Description

The course offers international students practical experience in the preparation and organization of Istropolitana Project, an international theatre festival held every two years. The 2027 edition will take place from 3 to 7 May 2027. Students become part of the organizational team and participate in selected tasks related to festival preparation, communication and coordination. Particular emphasis is placed on communication with participating schools, international and Slovak students, and cooperation within an international festival environment. The course connects practical organizational work with an understanding of how an international theatre festival is prepared and delivered.

Course Syllabus

- introduction to Istropolitana Project and its organizational structure
- preparation and planning of an international theatre festival
- communication with participating schools and their representatives
- communication and coordination with international and Slovak students
- preparation of information and organizational materials
- cooperation with the festival organizational team
- coordination of selected tasks before and during the festival
- participation at selected festival activities (workshops, discussions, creative assignments)
- practical problem-solving in an international environment
- reflection on the organizational process and the students' own contribution

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- understand the basic principles of organizing an international theatre festival
- communicate effectively with participating schools and students
- contribute to the preparation and coordination of selected festival activities
- work responsibly as part of an organizational team
- respond to practical organizational situations and solve assigned tasks
- reflect on their own role and experience in an international festival environment

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on active participation in festival preparation, responsible completion of assigned tasks and cooperation with the organizational team. Students who are able to stay for the festival week (3–7 May 2027) may also participate in its implementation. Students who cannot extend their stay beyond the regular teaching period will complete equivalent preparatory assignments agreed with the course coordinator. The course concludes with a short reflection on the student's contribution and learning experience.

English Language

Teacher: Francisco Meija

Hours per week: 2

Number of credits: 2

Course Description

The course develops professional English communication skills with a focus on cultural management, theatre, marketing and business communication. Students expand their professional vocabulary, analyse texts and case studies, and practise communication relevant to international artistic and cultural environments.

Course Syllabus

- business English and professional terminology
- principles and terminology of management, marketing and advertising
- communication in television, radio and online media
- analysis of professional texts and case studies
- business and official correspondence
- different communication styles in professional contexts
- presentation of artistic and cultural projects

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- use professional terminology related to cultural management, marketing and business
- understand and analyse professional texts
- communicate in international theatre and cultural environments
- present their own work and projects at international events, workshops and festivals
- prepare different forms of business and official correspondence in English

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on attendance (minimum 80%), active participation, completion and presentation of short projects, and successful completion of midterm and final tests. Students must achieve at least 56 points to pass the course.

Arts Marketing and Theatre Production

Teacher: Matúš Benža
Hours per week: 10
Number of credits: 10

Course Description

The course provides an intensive, practice-oriented introduction to arts marketing and theatre production. It connects communication and audience development with the organisational, financial and logistical processes required to create and present a theatre project. Students work with concrete production and marketing tasks and learn how artistic intentions are translated into a feasible production plan and communicated to audiences.

Course Syllabus

- specific features of marketing in arts and cultural organisations
- audience identification, segmentation and audience development
- positioning, visual identity and communication strategy for a theatre project
- online communication, social media, public relations and media relations
- planning and preparation of promotional content and campaign materials
- the theatre production cycle: from concept and planning to presentation and evaluation
- production roles, responsibilities and communication within a creative team
- production schedules, budgets and basic resource planning
- coordination of rehearsals, technical requirements, venues and logistics
- implementation of selected marketing and production tasks for a practical theatre project
- evaluation of the project, communication outputs and production process

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- understand the basic principles of arts marketing and theatre production
- identify target audiences and propose an appropriate communication approach
- prepare basic marketing and communication materials for a theatre project
- develop a production schedule and a basic project budget
- coordinate selected organisational, technical and logistical tasks
- communicate effectively within an artistic and production team
- respond to practical production problems and changing project needs
- reflect on and evaluate the marketing and production process of a theatre project

Final Assignment / Assessment

Assessment is based on regular attendance, active participation and the responsible completion of assigned marketing and production tasks throughout the semester. The final assessment consists of a presentation and/or portfolio documenting the student’s contribution to the project, together with a short reflection on the production and communication process.

International Cultural Cooperation

Teachers: Denis Farkaš, Natália Derner Urblíková
Hours per week: 2
Number of credits: 2

Course Description

The course introduces students to the main actors, instruments and forms of international cultural cooperation, with particular attention to the European context. It examines cultural networks, mobility, international project management and financing, sustainability of cooperation, and the principles and models of cultural diplomacy. Case studies connect the theoretical framework with current cultural practice.

Course Syllabus

- levels and actors of international cultural cooperation
- Slovakia and international cultural cooperation frameworks
- international cultural networks, umbrella organisations and platforms
- international mobility of artists and cultural professionals
- production and management of international cultural projects
- financing international cooperation and mobility
- sustainability of international cultural projects and partnerships
- definition, history and key principles of cultural diplomacy
- models of cultural diplomacy in selected countries and in Slovakia
- case studies from international cultural cooperation and cultural diplomacy

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- identify the main levels and actors of international cultural cooperation
- describe selected European cultural networks and forms of participation
- understand the principles and selected models of cultural diplomacy
- identify examples of good practice and opportunities for international cooperation
- discuss international cultural cooperation using appropriate professional terminology
- apply the acquired knowledge to the analysis and preparation of international cultural projects

Final Assignment / Assessment

Continuous assessment is based on active participation in seminars (minimum 70%) and seminar presentations. The course is completed by a seminar paper and a colloquium examination.