

Core Principles for Training

A defining feature of all members of the Federation of Drama Schools is the commitment to the highest quality training that is situated within a *conservatoire* ethos. Students in these schools benefit from the strong links and collaborative partnerships that member institutions have established with the industry and the professional environments in which graduating students will eventually secure sustainable employment as performers, directors, technicians, designers and other related professions.

The core principles and essential characteristics of training in these schools include the following:

- A primary focus on the development and assessment of rehearsal, production and performance skills that are commensurate with the professional standards required of the theatre, broadcast and media industries.
- The provision of a teaching and learning environment that is rich in performance and technical/production opportunities and in which public performances realise and sustain the highest professional standards.
- The selection of all students through an appropriate audition/interview process in which the vocational/conservatoire values of the provision are clearly reflected and communicated at each stage of the application procedure.
- An intensive teaching and learning environment involving a strong emphasis on the importance of the whole team; high levels of staff/student contact hours; rigorous and exacting rehearsal and production schedules and regular feedback.
- An emphasis on the training, development and assessment of the practical, intellectual, physical and emotional skills of students in an environment that is enabling, supportive and empowering and in which classes are taught predominantly by experienced, professional practitioners.
- A sustained track record of success, over a significant period of time, of producing a high number of professional performing arts practitioners.
- Strong professional links with industry that enables students to work with a range of visiting professionals as well as a culture that encourages and supports staff to sustain and develop individual artistic and professional profiles.
- A commitment to equality and diversity in all forms.
- A commitment to preparing students for a sustainable career in a rapidly changing professional environment.