

**Proposal for New Special Topic Paper**  
(To introduce a new Special Topic code)

<b>Name of Division/School/Department</b>	Humanities/Music, Theatre and Performing Arts
<b>Subject Code, Number and Title</b>	THEA 257/357 Special Topic
<b>Year of Introduction (Year Proposal Takes Effect)</b>	2018

*This form should be used only if you wish to have an additional, generic, special topic paper created. If a special topic paper code in your subject already exists and you simply wish to specify the topic or content for a particular year, use the **DIV ST form**, or contact your **Divisional Administrator for advice**.*

### **Purpose of Proposal**

(A succinct description of the purpose of the proposal and any consequential amendments such as deletions of existing papers and amendments to schedules. )

To introduce a new 200- and 300-level Special Topic paper in Theatre Studies.

### **Reason for Proposal**

(A succinct justification for the proposal. How many Special Topic are there currently in the Department? What is the justification for adding one? The statement should include information on the background, context and evidence of demand. How does this fit with the strategic direction of the Department, Division and University? Please explain the advantages of offering a Special Topic as opposed to a named paper. )

Theatre Studies have experienced a decrease in staff numbers with the resignation of a staff member in 2015. That staff member has not been replaced. Moreover, another staff member will retire in mid-2018, and this retirement will have implications for the way in which some of our papers will be taught. Consequently, we are putting in place measures to allow us to be more responsive to new developments in our discipline, to implement current pedagogical practice in a range of ways, to be more swift in taking advantage of the skills of visiting theatre scholar-practitioners, and to make expeditious strategic partnerships with industry organisations in relation to our teaching. One such development is to introduce a new double-coded Special Topic paper at 200 and 300-level. This plan responds to the University of Otago's *Strategic Direction to 2020* document, specifically to develop courses that will "be informed by current research into teaching and learning" (p.6), and to "enable our academic programmes to evolve to better meet changing workplace needs" (p.10). This proposal also responds to Theatre Studies' Strategic Plan 2016, specifically to "produce graduates in Theatre Studies equipped with appropriate future-facing skills" and to provide "increased choice for students" (p. 3). The proposed paper would be taught in Summer School, semester one or semester two.

Currently Theatre Studies has two Special Topic papers, both at 400-level, neither of which are pertinent to this proposal, as they affect only our Honours cohort.

### **Qualifications Affected**

(Qualifications for which the Special Topic will be offered)

BA  
BPA

## **Consequential Amendments to Regulations or Schedules A, B and C and/or Other Papers**

(All changes to regulations and schedules as a result of introducing this paper must be detailed below. This includes changes that will need to be made to Schedules, including Schedules A, B and C. Include Calendar page numbers. Changes to Programme Information in the Guide to Enrolment are not required. Consequential deletion(s) of papers must also be reported here in which case a separate Form 5, proposal to delete a paper, does not need to be completed.)

No amendments are required in Schedules A, B or C in the Calendar.

## **Staff Member Responsible for Drafting Proposal**

(Please give the name and contact details of the staff member who drafted the proposal if different from the Head of Department)

Hilary Halba, Programme Co-ordinator, Theatre Studies.

**Head of Department** (Signature/date)

**Dean (if applicable)** (Signature/date)

**Pro-Vice-Chancellor** (Signature/date)

*I confirm that this proposal is financially viable and that adequate staffing is available to support it.*