

Independent Study Programme

KEY FACTS

Awarding Institution:	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Teaching Institution:	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Type of study:	Full time; part time
UK Credits:	120 credits
ECTS:	60 credits

OUTLINE

Summary Description

The Independent Study Programme (ISP) is an open and flexible programme, based on a 'professional development' model. It offers intensive (full or part time*) study in dance enabling you to navigate a personal route of study and open up possibilities for your personal, artistic and professional development.

The ISP draws from the same subject list as the Graduate Diploma in Dance Studies programme and the elective menu offers a range of practices and perspectives across technical, creative and performance disciplines, and different modes of learning: from taught dance classes and creative workshops to lecture-seminar based study and independent and collaborative projects.

The programme offers rigorous, progressive and supported study in a flexible, open format that encourages a maturity of approach and supports you in working towards your individual learning / training / professional goals.

With opportunities to study across a wide range of subject areas, and with flexible routes of study, the Programme appeals to a wide range of individuals at different stages in their personal and professional development. As a student on the Programme, you will be part of a diverse community of students from a wide variety of backgrounds and training and with different types and levels of expertise and experience.

**part time study option is only available to UK/EU students*

The aims of the Programme are:

- To facilitate students' engagement with dance as an art form and support their development as dance artists
- To provide learning experiences that enable students to develop a sound appreciation of fundamental principles in a range of dance and dance-related practice
- To foster students' development as autonomous and committed learners who can engage critically with their own practice and support their own professional development

Programme Content

The Programme consists of a range of components of varied credit sizes, covering various aspects of dance practice and modes of study. These are grouped into four Component Groups according to related areas of dance practice, modes of learning and learning outcomes:

- Component Group 1: Technical Dance Practice
- Component Group 2: Creative Dance Practice
- Component Group 3: Extending Dance Practice
- Component Group 4: Investigating Dance Practice

You select a minimum of 80, and up to 120 credits from the Elective Study menu, enabling you to navigate an individual route of study according to your needs, experience and interests. You may choose to select complimentary or contrasting subject areas; emphasise practical study or sample across a range of practical dance classes, applied study, seminar based academic study and so on.

There may be restrictions on opportunity to study some components depending on: whether other components have to be studied (e.g. Teaching Dance), passing an audition in induction week (Rep Extracts) and previous experience of the subject area (Ballet). More information can be found in the component specifications.

What will I be expected to achieve?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to demonstrate the following:

Knowledge and understanding

Through the programme, you will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- A1** Technical and artistic principles underpinning contemporary dance and movement practices
- A2** Investigative and collaborative approaches to dance making and performance
- A3** Theoretical and conceptual principles that inform a range of dance and dance-related practices

Skills

The skills you will gain through the programme will enable you to:

- B1** Demonstrate technical and artistic skills in dancing and dance performance
- B2** Demonstrate creative and analytical skills in processes of dance and dance making
- B3** Bring an informed viewpoint to your own work and that of others
- B4** Utilise a range of approaches to investigating and exploring a given area of practice
- B5** Process feedback and reflect critically on your own practice

Values and attitudes

The programme promotes values and attitudes that you will uphold through:

- C1** Openness to exploring different approaches to learning about, through, and in dance
- C2** A readiness to engage in independent and shared enquiry around your own practice and that of others

How will I learn?

Learning takes place within studio-based practical classes and workshops, lectures, seminars and group and individual tutorials. Learning and teaching methods are varied and support the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills, critical engagement with ideas and practice and reflective evaluation.

The teaching and learning ethos of the Programme is to establish dialogic, inclusive working practices that support learner autonomy. Learning activities on the Programme are experiential, interactive and co-operative and you will be encouraged and expected to be active learners in engaging with your own ideas and practice and that of your peers in contributing to discussion, peer observation and feedback and group work.

Alongside the taught aspect of the Programme, there are hours allocated for self-directed study – this may comprise set tasks and reading to support taught sessions, or individual reflection and research.

The Programme – if you select 120 credits - consists of (approximately) 1200 notional learning hours. The programme comprises (at 120 credits) between approximately 550 and 700 contact hours. The total number of contact hours varies according to the combination of components selected.

An important aspect of the programme is increasing knowledge of the art form, and students are

encouraged to attend as many performances, exhibitions, showings etc. in as many different art forms as they are able. These do not always have to be in major professional venues; there are many local arts events and activities that are of high quality and reasonably priced or sometimes free of charge. During the year there are performances by visiting professionals in the Laban Theatre. There are also many internal performances, showings and sharings of work from all programmes in the Faculty of Dance and the Faculty of Music at Trinity Laban.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through a variety of mechanisms that evaluate your knowledge and understanding, skills and abilities, and values and attitudes as demonstrated in relation to the areas of study. Modes of assessment are varied, to suit different learning styles and enable you to apply a range of practical, written and oral skills in evidencing your learning.

Assessment includes: practical technique classes; practical presentations; performance; written critical observations; individual/group oral presentations; teaching; viva voce; essay. Assignments are phased and a schedule of submission / presentation dates is published each year. Students receive an assignment sheet which details the requirements of each formal assignment / presentation.

What do I have to do to pass?

To pass, you need to satisfactorily PASS (40%) each selected component, as defined by the Level 4-6 Grading Criteria.

The grade you receive will reflect, in the view of the assessment panel, the extent to which each of the assignments meet the assessment criteria. Assignments will be graded using the Generic level 4-6 Marking Criteria / Grade Descriptors. There is provision to retrieve a failure under certain circumstances as defined in the Assessment Regulations for the programme.

What award can I get?

On completion of your programme, Trinity Laban will provide a transcript of your results and you will be awarded with a Trinity Laban Independent Study Programme Certificate.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

For international students, eligibility for a Tier 4 study visa for the ISP requires you to register for an additional qualification: the Associate Trinity College London Diploma in Performance Arts (ATCL). Further information about the qualification can be found on the Trinity College London website here: <http://www.trinitycollege.com/site/?id=2989>

Registration for the ATCL is necessary as the ISP is an internal Trinity Laban professional development programme and as such does not qualify for recognition by UK Visa and Immigration.

There is an additional fee cost for the ATCL (which is payable during the Spring term). Students would be guided through the process of registration during the year and tutored towards the exam which happens at the end of the ISP programme in late June/early July.

Additionally, as an international student you would need to meet a minimum number of contact hours per week to meet your study visa requirements so you are advised to take the full 120 credits available. Your Programme Leader would work closely with you in choosing your electives and designing your timetable to ensure that it meets this requirement

CONTENT

What will I study?

Programme Content and Structure

The Programme allows you to select components from the list below, totalling up to 120 credits in the year as a full time student (you must select a minimum of 80 credits).

For part time students, the programme is structured over two years; individuals determine the pattern of study over the two years, apart from *Contemporary Dance Technique* which they take as 2 classes a week in year one and two classes a week in year two. It is recommended that part time students take 40-60 credits per year.

There may be restrictions on opportunity to study some components as follows (more information can be found in the component specifications):

Co-requisites:

- To elect *Teaching Dance* students must also elect *The Dancing Body*

Pre-requisites:

- To elect *Ballet* students must have some previous experience of ballet and pass a levelling/audition class in induction week
- To elect *Rep Extracts* students must pass an audition in induction week

COMPONENT GROUPS; COMPONENT CODES & TITLES AND BASIC DESCRIPTION	Credits	Level	Delivery over the year			Classes per week
			T1	T2	T3	
Group 1: Technical Dance Practice						
401 Contemporary Dance Technique This component fosters your competence in contemporary dance technique through practical study. It emphasises embodiment of technical understanding to achieve effective and expressive performance of dance material	15	6	●	●	●	4 (2 over two years if Part Time)
431 Pilates for Dance a somatic bodywork practice designed to facilitate body awareness and the development of bodily skills that can support dance practice.	5	5	●	●	●	1
432 Contemporary Jazz Development of technical skills, physicality and performance quality through practical classes that draw from the vocabularies of traditional, commercial and African jazz and contemporary dance	5	5	●	●		1
433 Ballet further develop your ballet skills: expanding technical range and enhancing physical confidence and performance skills. (Some experience of Ballet and a good potential for learning in this area is required to take this component)	15	5	●	●	●	3

Group 2: Creative Dance Practice						
402 Choreography enquiry into the choreographic processes, alongside the development of individual creativity. You will be encouraged to expand and develop your choreographic thinking rather than learning techniques of composition, supporting you towards becoming an independent choreographic practitioner.	15	6	●	●	●	2
403 Choreological Practice a specialism of the Trinity Laban Dance Faculty: Rudolf Laban's praxis for dance performance known as Choreological Studies	15	6	●	●	●	2
404 Devising and Performance This component involves you in a practical devising and rehearsal process lead by a choreographer, leading to a performance of a dance work	10	6			●	4
434 The Creative Body practical experience of somatic approaches and improvisational methods to investigate the body and instigate movement exploration	5	6	●			2
435 Site & Performance practical experiences of different approaches to investigating movement within performance contexts to resource creative practice	5	6		●		2
436 Contact Improvisation an improvisational practice in which the dance is generated by the readiness to respond to moment by moment interaction of two or more movers in physical contact	5	6			●	2
437 Rep Extracts an experiential encounter with current contemporary dance performance practice through exploration of a specific piece of recent professional repertoire. (entry by audition)	5	6		●		2
Group 3: Extending Dance Practice						
411 The Dancing Body explore the workings of the human body as it relates to dance and how the body can be prepared for, responds to, and is affected by the demands of dance practice including strategies to safeguard the dancing body, enhance physical practice and maintain efficiency and well-being for the dancer.	10	6	●			2

414 Teaching Dance guided experiential learning, to explore approaches to teaching dance, and develop competence in dance leadership and facilitation	10	6	●	●		2
Group 4: Investigating Dance Practice						
440 Perspectives on Dance explore dance in its historical and socio-cultural context; Describe, theorise and interpret performance events from a range of perspectives; interrogate dominant criteria and frameworks that inform our understanding of dance as art.	10	6	●	●		2
441 Independent Investigation an independent research project on a topic of your choice with one-to-one supervision	15	6	●	●	●	Individual supervision
442 CoLab Participation in a collaborative laboratory of interdisciplinary/shared practice between dance and music students and staff with an opportunity to reflect on collaboration as an area of practice	10	5		●		Minimum 20 hrs total

TIMETABLE

Each academic year is divided into three terms: Autumn, Spring and Summer. At the start of each year there is a two week induction period which includes Freshers' Week for new students. During the induction weeks students will make their final selection of their choices of study with one-to-one support from their academic tutor. A calendar with term dates from 2016 to 2022 can be found: http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/media/1559350/tl_term_dates_2014-20.pdf

Each term has 10 weeks of scheduled classes and 1 or 2 study weeks. Timetabled classes are 1.5 hours in length and happen over 5 days a week Mon-Fri between 0830 and 1845. The structure of each day and each term varies according to each individual student's selections from the component menu.

PART TIME STUDENTS

For part time students, the programme is structured over two years; individuals determine which components they will take in each year and the days they will be studying. It is recommended that part time students take approximately 60 credits per year and be in classes on a minimum of 3 days a week* (one of these days maybe a half day). Components are taken in full and completed within one year; each component can only be taken once. The exception to this is 401 Contemporary Dance Technique which part time students take as 2 classes a week in year one and two class a week in year two, spreading the learning over two years of study.

*Some extracurricular activities may not be accessible to part time students if they occur on a day the student is not in.

CAREERS

The ISP is a professional development programme: each student comes to the programme for different reasons and with different ideas about what they want to get out of it. The programme might lead you towards further dance training or study, at Masters level for example; it might be the culmination of your initial training and your springboard into the profession; it may help you clarify your professional identity or practice; it may open up new areas of practice and potential collaborators, networks and opportunities for employment. For all students, the programme offers the opportunity to invest in exploration and discovery both about dance and about yourself. Gaining an enhanced education in dance at a mature level enables graduates to assimilate their skills and learning into their professional careers or open new career possibilities within the broad, wide ranging possibilities of the developing dance sector and beyond it.

The Trinity Laban Careers Advisor is available to all students for specific individual support as well as

the dissemination of work opportunities via email bulletins. Academic tutors can also support students in thinking about, and planning for, life post-graduation.

Many graduates of the programme - which has been running successfully for over 20 years - work as independent artists, performers, choreographers, dance educators, teachers and managers, and are part of a network of Trinity Laban alumni that spreads out of the UK into Europe and overseas. Alumni profiles are available to view on the Trinity Laban website:
<http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-profiles?tag=2101>

ADMISSIONS

Entry Requirements

This programme provides opportunities for learners whose dance training/education has taken an unconventional route or have trained in a different style of dance or outside formal education, to study contemporary dance practice(s) within a conservatoire environment. Equally, the programme suits students with considerable training or professional experience who wish to re-engage with supported learning or refresh, hone and broaden their knowledge and skills base.

Applicants are expected to have a level of maturity to enable them to work towards level 5/6 study (such as through experiential knowledge/professional experience/other qualifications) as well as experience in a dance/performance arts related area.

EU and Overseas Students

English Language requirements: IELTS Band 5 (General English Test) or above, the Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English II (or equivalents). Certificates will need to be provided in order for your application to be fully considered.

If you require a Tier 4 visa to study in the UK, please be aware of its English language requirements, as they may differ. Secure English Language Tests and levels can be found at gov.uk. In addition, meeting external requirements of UK Visas and Immigration is essential.

Application Process

Should you wish to start the application process for this programme, please submit a UCAS Conservatoires application first. When you apply through UCAS Conservatoires, please use Conservatoire Code T75, and Programme Code 100F for full-time or 100P for part-time study.

The UCAS Conservatoires form asks for personal information, qualifications, references and a personal statement. There is no audition requirement for the programme, but you may submit examples of your practice online (via Decision Desk) to support your application once your UCAS form has been received. References should support your application through evidencing your academic/professional and dance/performance arts experience. Entry requirements reflect that the programme is designed for people with a variety of experiences and backgrounds; your personal statement should describe your suitability for the programme as well as indicate how the programme will support your personal and professional development.

Candidates should:

- Evidence an enthusiasm for dance as an art form and to develop skills as a dance artist/practitioner
- Demonstrate a commitment to undertaking the programme, including evidencing understanding of the programme structure and aims
- Evidence understanding of how the programme can support their personal and professional development
- Evidence experience in a dance/performance arts related area, and a first degree or equivalent level of educative maturity

CONTACT

If you have any further questions about the programme please contact the Programme Leader – Melanie Clarke on M.Clarke@trinitylaban.ac.uk.

If you have questions about the admissions process please contact the admission department on: admissions@trinitylaban.ac.uk