

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – MFA CREATIVE PRACTICE

KEY FACTS

Programme:	MFA Creative Practice
Awarding Institution:	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Teaching Institution:	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Type of study:	Full time
UK Credits:	260
ECTS:	130

OUTLINE

Summary Description

The MFA Creative Practice is designed to provide a flexible and bespoke programme, including the opportunity to undertake significant independent research across a second year of study. In the first year you can choose from a range of modules delivered by Trinity Laban and our partner organisations, *Independent Dance* and *Siobhan Davies Dance*. Studio practice is supported by reflective and theoretical study; modules are devised to be conversant with one another, allowing for an interdisciplinary approach to the development and articulation of your substantial individual research in the second year.

The MFA Creative Practice aims:

- To foster the development of a resourceful, self-motivated dance artist through an extended period of sustained enquiry and critical engagement
- To develop you as a reflective practitioner who is critically aware of the reciprocity of theory and practice.
- To enable you to explore and interrogate creative practice in its many forms, taking account of the social, cultural, aesthetic and political contexts in which it is located.
- To develop your ability to address complex issues creatively and systematically, as well as the ability to problem-solve in a variety of artistic contexts through the engagement in practice based research, including collaborative projects.
- To enable you to rigorously develop and clearly articulate your individual practice as research
- To foster a capacity for substantial and in-depth independent research over an extended period of time

The MFA Creative Practice supports both emergent and professional dance artists in the further development of their practice, facilitated by an environment of intellectual and creative enquiry. The programme offer is divided into two curated focus areas: *Transdisciplinary* and *Dance Professional Practice*. Through these tailored routes of study, opportunities are provided to embark upon research within a range of disciplines and (for the more experienced artist), to reflect upon your previous professional experience and its role in your ongoing learning. Areas of study incorporate a diverse range of perspectives, including theoretical and philosophical underpinning of arts practice, visual and body-based art, film making, writing, and somatic practice. Across both areas of focus, there are possibilities to engage in intensive studio-based learning experiences with significant artists and a professional peer group, to deepen your own practice as a performer/maker, develop your understanding of a range of

research methodologies within the arts, and to be supported in pursuing your own area of artistic interest through a prolonged period of rigorous independent research.

MFA Creative Practice (Transdisciplinary Focus)

The Programme comprises 4 x 30 credit modules in the first year, plus an extended 140 credit independent project in a second year of study. In addition to the core modules, M502B Research Lab and M508B Extended Project, you can choose 3 modules from the module menu in consultation with the Programme Leader to create a bespoke programme of study.

- There are no pre-requisites/co-requisites for undertaking the Transdisciplinary programme
- Where eligible, students can elect to do M581 Embodied Practice as part of their taught programme of study. (Eligibility is determined through interview/audition with Lead Tutor of the Dance Professional Path).
- Students on the Transdisciplinary programme are not eligible to undertake M582 Investigative Practice (only available for Dance Professional Practice Students)
- Students must complete the taught component (4 modules) in their first year before progressing on to the extended independent project the following year.

MFA Creative Practice (Dance Professional Practice):

The Programme comprises of 4 x 30 credit modules in the first year, plus an extended 140 credit independent project in a second year of study. The core modules for this Path are M502B Research Lab, M508B Extended Project, M581 Embodied Practice and M582 Investigative Practice. M581 and M582 are delivered by our partner organisations, *Independent Dance* and *Siobhan Davies Dance*. In addition to these three core modules, you can choose one further module from the module menu. This programme is designed for dance professionals/exceptional early graduates with a strong grounding in somatic practice.

- Completion of M581 Embodied Practice is normally a pre-requisite for study on M582 Investigative Practice
- Students must complete the taught component (4 modules) in their first year before progressing on to the extended independent project the following year.

Independent Dance

Independent Dance (ID) is an artist-led organisation based at Siobhan Davies Studios, providing a responsive framework to support, sustain and stimulate dance artists in their ongoing development as professionals. It provides a specialist and coherent programme offering opportunities to learn, deepen enquiry, share practice and exchange ideas as part of an interdependent international community. ID works to foster greater international exchange, raise the profile of independent artists' practice, and embraces opportunities that enable artists to interact with a wider artistic and cultural field and contribute to the growth and evolution of the art form.

Siobhan Davies Dance

Siobhan Davies Dance is one of the UK's leading dance organisations. Based at Siobhan Davies Studios the company devises situations in which dance is recognised as a physical model of thought, one that can be experienced in the moment of its doing, whose choreographic information becomes part of a lasting and transferable knowledge, benefitting practices beyond dance.

What will I be expected to achieve?
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On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate critical awareness of techniques and methodologies for creating performance work in order to support creativity in practice-based research.
- Demonstrate an ability to synthesise, interpret and interrogate complex ideas from a variety of perspectives
- Engage critically and practically with methods for creative practice, documentation and presentation.

Skills

- Set frameworks for purposeful engagement in practice
- Propose, formulate, develop, sustain and bring to completion substantial individual research over an extended period
- Locate, inform and extend your creative practice through in-depth engagement with wider frameworks of artistic practice and existing bodies of knowledge

Values and attitudes

- Engage in practical research as a means to interrogate complex, incomplete or contradictory perspectives embedded in arts practice.
- Adopt a professional, reflective, and responsible attitude to your practice
- Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the role that art plays in shaping the socio-political and cultural context.
- Develop as a resourceful independent, self-critical and investigative researcher

How will I learn?

Depending on the modules you select, learning will take place in a variety of different contexts including taught sessions or lectures, workshops, seminars, in studio tutorials, and individual study and research. Some studio based modules encourage reflection and peer review through sharing of practice. Teaching embraces different learning styles, allowing for a flexibility of response to your needs and abilities. The introduction of visiting lecturers and artists allows you to encounter a variety of views and approaches from current fields of practice.

The **MFA Creative Practice** assumes 2600 notional learning and teaching hours with average contact time of approximately 55 hours per module (naturally this will vary depending on your selected modules, please refer to individual module specifications to determine precise number of hours per module). Supervisory contact during the extended project will be arranged in consultation with your project supervisor, located at key points in the development of your research.

How will I be assessed?

The majority of modules are assessed within a practice-based format, often by performance or presentation with supporting reflective/contextual documentation. Usually, following a practical assessment task, there will be an opportunity to discuss the outcome with tutors. This is normally led by tutors but also includes opportunities for peer involvement. Assessors will examine the submitted supporting documentation as part of the assessment. In some modules, the assessment task is wholly written in the form of an essay or proposal and does not include a practical component. For all assessment tasks you will be assessed according to your ability to meet the learning outcomes for the module, and against any specific assessment criteria provided.

What do I have to do to pass?

You must achieve a pass mark of at least 50% (C-) in each module taken in order to pass the programme. The mark awarded will reflect the extent to which you have met the descriptors set out in the level 7 marking criteria.

Compensation (the award of credit for a failed module) may be awarded for no more than one module (up to 30 credits), provided that a mark of no less than 45% (D) has been achieved in the module to be compensated. Compensation is not permitted for the dissertation.

What award can I get?

Master's Degree, MFA Creative Practice:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	40
Dissertation	7	140	60

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

CONTENT

What will I study?

Structure

The programme commences in September each academic year, and continues until September of the third year (it is two years of study full time). The taught component of the programme must be completed in the first year, with the second year devoted to an extended independent project. The taught component of the programme can be made up by either the Transdisciplinary modules or the Dance Professional Practice modules

MFA Creative Practice (Transdisciplinary Focus):

Core (compulsory) Modules:

M502B Research Lab	30 credits
M508B Project	140 credits

Elective Modules

You must select three elective modules (90 credits). The following is an indicative list of the electives available on the programme. Not all modules may be offered in any one year and there may be scheduling conflicts which may render some choices 'unavailable'.

M506	Self-Directed	30 credits
M512	Synergies & Transformations	30 credits
M532	Histories of the Body	30 credits
M548	Performance Making	30 credits
M571	Bodies, Space, Place	30 credits
M572	Dance & the Moving Image	30 credits
M573	Writing the Body	30 credits
M581	Embodied Practice	30 credits

Where eligible, students can elect to do M581 Embodied Practice as part of their taught programme of study. (Eligibility is determined through interview/audition with Lead Tutor of the Dance Professional Path).

MFA Creative Practice (Dance Professional Practice):

Core (compulsory) Modules

M502B	Research Lab	30 credits
M581	Embodied Practice	30 credits
M582	Investigative Practice	30 credits
M508B	Project	140 credits

Elective Modules

You must select one elective modules (30 credits). The following is an indicative list of the electives available on the programme. Not all modules may be offered in any one year and there may be scheduling conflicts which may render some choices 'unavailable'

M506	Self-Directed	30 credits
M512	Synergies & Transformations	30 credits
M532	Histories of the Body	30 credits
M548	Performance Making	30 credits
M571	Bodies, Space, Place	30 credits
M572	Dance & the Moving Image	30 credits
M573	Writing the Body	30 credits

Taught Modules

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Research Lab	M502B	30	Core	Yes	7
Self-Directed	M506	30	Elective	Yes	7
Synergies & Transformations	M512	30	Elective	Yes	7
Histories of the Body	M532	30	Elective	Yes	7
Performance Making	M548	30	Elective	Yes	7
Bodies, Space, Place	M571	30	Elective	Yes	7
Dance & the Moving Image	M572	30	Elective	Yes	7
Writing the Body	M573	30	Elective	Yes	7
Embodied Practice	M581	30	dependent on route of study	Yes	7
Investigative Practice	M582	30	Core (DPP only)	Yes	7

Project/Dissertation Module

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Project	M508B	140	Core	No	7

You are normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before progressing to the extended project in your second year.

Key Progression Points

The programme consists of a single part, however there is a progression point at the end of the taught programme (at the end of the first academic year). Students who have yet to complete the taught modules due to failure or deferral may be required to complete any outstanding assessments before embarking on the project.

Where an assessment component is failed, one resit may be permitted by the Assessment Board (or by the Interim Assessment Panel subject to confirmation by the Assessment Board). The mark will be capped at the minimum pass mark of 50% (C-). The date and mode of reassessment will be set by the Interim Assessment Panel or by the Assessment Board (depending on the timing of the assessment).

CAREERS

Graduates from the MFA Creative Practice have gone on to work professionally in a number of fields. They work as dance artists, performers, choreographers, teachers and visual/film artists. Alumni have had their work programmed in international festivals and performance platforms, and they have published research within peer-reviewed journals. Please refer to the alumni profiles on the Trinity Laban website for individual examples: <http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-profiles>

Comprehensive careers support is available for all Trinity Laban students and recent graduates, supported by a dedicated Careers Coordinator and our careers website: www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/student-experience/careers

STUDY ABROAD / WORK PLACEMENTS

Study Abroad options

Not Available

Placement options

Not Available

ACCREDITATION AND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Accrediting Body

Not Available

ADMISSIONS

Entry Requirements

Applicants are expected to have an appropriate first degree (or an equivalent qualification) or 5 years' professional experience. Applicants without formal qualification are subject to the Institution's recognition of prior learning (RPL) process. Decisions are made by the RPL Panel with delegated authority from the Assessment Board. An External Examiner may decide to scrutinise the evidence supporting a claim as part of the Assessment Board process.

Applicants will also be required to submit an initial project proposal, outlining the following:

- The reasons they wish to carry out an independent project over one academic year
- Their suitability for extended independent research in the context of an MFA Creative Practice
- The nature of their intended research and a draft projected timeline with indicated outputs of research (which is understandably subject to change)

An interview (phone/Skype interview is acceptable) will also be required

Applicants for whom English is not their first language should demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 7.0. Trinity Laban web site provides guidance on the standard expected by reference to acceptable English Language qualifications.

In addition, meeting external requirements of UK Visas and Immigration is essential.