

# Postgraduate Diploma Community Dance

## KEY FACTS

<b>Awarding Institution:</b>	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
<b>Type of study:</b>	Full time; part time
<b>UK Credits:</b>	150 credits
<b>ECTS:</b>	75 credits

## OUTLINE

### Summary Description

The Postgraduate Diploma Community Dance (PDCD) is a vocational programme for people who want to work as professional dance artists in community contexts. Community Dance has been a recognised field of professional dance activity in the UK for over 30 years, led by artists who continue to push the boundaries of how, where and with whom they practice, and make dance, in all its forms, accessible to more people. The Postgraduate Diploma Community Dance supports existing and emergent dance artists towards the profession, enabling them to develop their artistic practice alongside the skills and knowledge required to work effectively as practitioners in a range settings.

As a student on this programme you will train as a dance artist - working on your technical dance skills and artistic development - alongside developing knowledge and skills for leading dance activities in a variety of settings and with different kinds of people. Your development as a practitioner is supported by context-specific study that explores the values and principles of inclusive participatory dance practice, how it happens, and its impact on individuals and communities. You will learn about the practicalities of planning and delivering projects as well as have real life encounters with practice in community settings. Your study will be further contextualised by encounters with practising artists and their work, facilitating your understanding of how the profession operates and the demands of professional practice in this field.

### The aims of the Programme are:

- To provide learning experiences that engage students with dance as an artform and support their development as dance artists
- To facilitate students' development as practitioners who are skilled and confident in teaching and leading dance in a range of community and participatory dance settings
- To foster students' appreciation of, and engagement with, the values and principles of community dance as a context for their own practice
- To provide access to ways of learning and working which reflect, and prepare students for, professional practice in community dance
- To produce graduates who can contribute to the development of high quality, accessible and inclusive participatory dance opportunities which support the needs and aspirations of individuals and communities

### Programme Content

The programme consists of three Core Modules, plus an Elective Study Module. The Core Modules each consist of a group of related Components; Elective Study offers separate Elective Components from which you can select an area of supporting dance study that will extend your practice base.

### Core Module: PDCD400 Dance Practice

Components: 401 Contemporary Dance Technique  
402 Choreography  
403 Choreological Practice

**Core Module: PDCD410 Teaching and Leading Dance**

Components: 411 The Dancing Body  
412 Dance Teaching: Principles & Practice  
413 Leading Dance in Community Settings

**Core Module: PDCD420 Community Dance in Context**

Components: 421 Perspectives on Community Dance  
422 Community Dance Development

**PDCD430 Elective Study Module**

Choice of one component from a range of practice-based options

<b>What will I be expected to achieve?</b>
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On successful completion of the 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:

- The values and principles of community dance and the factors that inform the development of the practice
- The ways in which dance can benefit individuals and communities and the role of the dance artist in creating opportunities for participation
- Technical, creative and choreographic principles that inform dance and dance-making, and how to apply these in facilitating the artistic and creative development of others
- Appropriate and effective approaches to teaching and leading dance with, and for, diverse participant groups
- How to devise and deliver participatory dance activities and projects that support the needs and ambitions of communities in their artistic, social and cultural context
- The demands and expectations of professional practice in community dance

**Skills**

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

- Articulate a personal philosophy that reflects the core values of community dance and informs your role and practice as a dance artist
- Demonstrate an embodied understanding of dance and dance-making, and bring an informed artistic viewpoint to others' engagement with dance
- Articulate how dance can variously benefit, and support the needs and aspirations of, individuals and communities
- Facilitate enjoyable, challenging, safe, inclusive dance experiences for diverse participant groups in a range of community and participatory dance settings
- Work independently, and in partnership with others, to devise and deliver dance activities and projects that address communities in their social and cultural context
- Evaluate your own practice and assess your competencies in relation to the demands and expectations of professional practice in community dance

**Values and attitudes**

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

- Awareness of ongoing debate and discourse around community dance and informed engagement with the agendas and issues that influence practice and shape the development of the profession
- A commitment to delivering and supporting high quality, inclusive dance opportunities that respect and support the artistic and creative experience, abilities and potential of all participants

- Behaving in a responsible, caring and professional manner in relation to those with whom you work and represent
- An active commitment to purposeful reflection on your own practice and maintaining and investing in your own professional development

### How will I learn?

Learning takes place within studio-based practical classes and workshops; projects; lectures and seminars; group and individual tutorials and through learning opportunities afforded through participation in extra-curricular projects, volunteering, shadowing and observation of practice in professional or work-based contexts.

Learning and teaching methods are varied and support the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills, and critical engagement with ideas and practice. 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.

Alongside the taught aspect of the programme, there are substantial hours allocated for self-directed study. This may be guided by your tutors towards specific activity – tasks, reading, research, practice - to support your taught classes and coursework and towards completion of your assignments. Otherwise there is an expectation that you are proactively and continuously using time outside contact hours to support your learning through independent study and voluntary work based learning in community teaching contexts.

The programme consists of approximately 1500 notional learning hours.  
The three Core Modules plus Elective Study comprise approximately 600 contact hours.

### 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, and enable you to apply a range of practical, written and verbal skills in evidencing your learning. The assessment strategy allows for a variety of assessment modes that integrate theory and practice, as appropriate to the subject and the modes of learning and, in selected assignments, replicate practices that are transferable to the context of professional practice in community dance.

#### **PDCD400 Dance Practice**

Assessed through a range of practical modes focussing on knowledge, skills and understanding of the art form:

- technique class
- a choreographed work
- practical presentation – lecture demonstration (group)

#### **PDCD410 Teaching and Leading Dance**

Assessed through practical and written modes focussing on applied knowledge and integration of theory and practice:

- written analysis of practice-based scenarios
- verbal presentation, taught workshop and post-workshop discussion
- teaching project and evaluation

#### **PDCD420 Community Dance in Context**

Assessed through written and presentation modes focussing on application of conceptual, analytical and reflective skills to specific contexts:

- essay
- project proposal and presentation (group)

### What do I have to do to pass?

To pass you need to satisfactorily PASS each of the modules that constitute the programme. As a Postgraduate Diploma made up of a combination of Level 6 and Level 7 modules, the minimum pass grades for each of the three modules are as follows. (NB the grade for PDCD430 Elective Study does not count to the final award – see ‘What Award can I get?’ below):

Module	HE Level	Minimum pass grade
PDCD400 Dance Practice	6	D- (40%)
PDCD410 Teaching and Leading Dance	7	C- (50%)
PDCD420 Community Dance in Context	7	C- (50%)
PDCD430 Elective Study	5-6	D- (40%)

The grade you receive will reflect, in the view of the assessment panel, the extent to which each of the assignments within the module meet the assessment criteria. Assignments will be graded using the Generic Marking Criteria / Grade Descriptors for that Level.

There is no compensation across Components within a Module, and no compensation between Modules. There is provision to retrieve a failure under certain circumstances as defined in the Assessment Regulations for the programme.

### What award can I get?

#### Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	150	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				With Pass	50

This Postgraduate Diploma requires you to pass 4 modules:

- PDCD400 Dance Practice
- PDCD410 Teaching and Leading Dance
- PDCD420 Community Dance in Context
- PDCD430 Elective Study

The award is decided on the overall aggregate of the three Core Modules, weighted as follows:

- PDCD400 Dance Practice 30%
- PDCD410 Teaching and Leading Dance 35%
- PDCD420 Community Dance in Context 35%

## CONTENT

### What will I study?

#### Taught Modules

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Dance Practice	PDCD400	45	Core	No	6
Teaching and Leading Dance	PDCD410	55	Core	No	7
Community Dance in Context	PDCD420	45	Core	No	7
Elective Study	PDCD430	5	Elective	No	5-6

#### Structure of Programme

CORE MODULES & COMPONENTS	Credits	Level	Delivery over the year		
			T1	T2	T3
<b>PDCD400 Dance Practice</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6</b>			
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		●	●	●
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		●	●	●
403 Choreological Practice  A specialism of the Trinity Laban Dance Faculty: Rudolf Laban's praxis for dance performance known as Choreological Studies	15		●	●	●
<b>PDCD410 Teaching and Leading Dance</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>7</b>			
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		●		
412 Dance Teaching: Principles & Practice  The development of knowledge and skills for effective dance teaching. You will be introduced to principles of teaching and learning, and investigate the application of these to practice	15		●	●	

413 Leading Dance in Community Settings  This component enables you to explore the role of the dance artist in community contexts and develop your confidence and competence in leading participatory dance activity for participants with varied backgrounds, experiences, needs and abilities.	30		●	●	●
<b>PDCD420 Community Dance in Context</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7</b>			
421 Perspectives on Community Dance  Contextualise your understanding of what community dance is and locate yourselves culturally and politically within debates around its values and purpose.	15		●	●	
422 Community Dance Development  Equipping you with the necessary understanding of how to initiate, plan, resource and deliver dance initiatives in community settings.	30		●	●	●
<b>ELECTIVE STUDY MODULE</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>	Delivery over the year		
Choose one 5 credit component from the following:			T1	T2	T3
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	●	●	●
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	●	●	
434 The Creative Body  Practical experience of somatic approaches and improvisational methods to investigate the body and instigate movement exploration	5	6	●		
435 Site & Performance  Practical experiences of different approaches to investigating movement within performance contexts to resource creative practice	5	6		●	
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			●
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		●	

### Key Progression Points

The programme consists of a single block of study.

## 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 selection of their elective 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](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 will vary.

## PART TIME STUDY

Part time study over two years is also available for this programme. Part time students would be expected to be in classes three days of the week (one of these days may be a half day). Core components are met across the two years according to the schedule outlined in the table below. Elective study can be taken in either year.

CORE MODULES	YEAR 1	Year 2
<b>PDCD400 Dance Practice</b>		
401 Contemporary Dance Technique	✓	✓
402 Choreography		✓
403 Choreological Practice	✓	
<b>PDCD410 Teaching and Leading Dance</b>		
411 The Dancing Body	✓	
412 Dance Teaching: Principles & Practice	✓	
413 Leading Dance in Community Settings		✓
<b>PDCD420 Community Dance in Context</b>		
421 Perspectives on Community Dance	✓	
422 Community Dance Development		✓
<b>430 ELECTIVE STUDY choose which year you will do it in</b>		
431 Pilates for Dance		
432 Contemporary Jazz		
434 The Creative Body		
435 Site & Performance		
436 Contact Improvisation		
437 Rep Extracts ( <i>by audition</i> )		

## CAREERS

Graduates of this programme have a very good history of gaining employment. Many graduates from this programme now work in the field as, for example, independent dance artists, community dance artists with dance agencies and organisations, in learning and participation units with professional dance companies, as dance development officers with local authorities, as project or programme managers and dance administrators or as teachers and lecturers in schools, colleges and universities. Alumni profiles can be found on the website: <http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-profiles?tag=2107>.

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](http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/student-experience/careers).

## ADMISSIONS

Candidates should:

- Demonstrate an enthusiasm for dance as an artform and to develop their skills as dance artists
- Demonstrate an appreciation of, and engagement with, the values and principles of Community Dance as a professional area of practice
- Demonstrate an understanding of the vocational and theoretical aspects of the programme and how they sit together to develop students holistically as Community Dance practitioners
- Demonstrate potential to teach and lead dance in a range of community and participatory dance settings
- Demonstrate a commitment to undertaking the programme, including independent study and work based learning opportunities alongside timetabled classes

Application Process

- Initial application via UCAS Conservatoires;
- further selection via audition and interview.
- Decision Desk profile.

Once your UCAS Conservatoires application has been received and considered by Trinity Laban, you may be invited for audition and interview. Application does not guarantee an audition. At audition, applicants will undertake a contemporary technique class and a creative dance workshop, and each candidate will have a one-to-one interview with a member of the programme team.

Applicants are normally expected to have a first degree (or an equivalent qualification) in a relevant subject and/or relevant (professional) experience, preferably in dance, education or community-related work. Applicants without formal qualifications are subject to the Institution's recognition of prior learning (RPL) process.

Early application is recommended. However, the on-time deadline for 2016-17 applications is 10 June 2016.

Should you wish to start the application process for this programme, please submit your UCAS Conservatoires application first. When you apply through UCAS Conservatoires, please use Conservatoire Code T75, and Programme Code 601F for full-time or 601P for part-time study.

### EU and Overseas Students

English Language requirements: IELTS Band 7 (General English Test) or above (or equivalents). Certificates will need to be provided in order for your application to be fully considered. If the panel

feel that there is a lack of English Language proficiency or understanding of a subject area, then you may be asked to supply additional written material.

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](http://gov.uk). In addition, meeting external requirements of UK Visas and Immigration is essential.

## **CONTACT**

If you have any further questions about the programme please contact the Lead Tutor – Bethan Peters on [B.Peters@trinitylaban.ac.uk](mailto:B.Peters@trinitylaban.ac.uk)

If you have questions about the admissions process please contact the admission department on: [admissions@trinitylaban.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@trinitylaban.ac.uk)