

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – MFA DANCE SCIENCE

### KEY FACTS

<b>Programme:</b>	<b>MFA Dance Science</b>
<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
<b>UK Credits:</b>	260
<b>ECTS:</b>	130

### OUTLINE

#### Summary Description

The MFA Dance Science is a research-focused programme which explores the scientific principles underpinning dance practice and performance and its application within a variety of dance contexts. This programme creates opportunities to graduates, professionals and practitioners from both dance or science related areas to investigate the intersections between science and dance by acquiring new understanding and/or broadening their knowledge of dance science within dance practice and performance. From both a theoretical and applied perspective, the programme engages with qualitative and quantitative modes of research and practice, integrating interdisciplinary elements of dance science such as physiology, biomechanics, psychology and embodied practices (e.g. Somatics). The MFA programme shares the taught module with the MSc Dance Science programme, equipping MFA students with the key knowledge and skills necessary to further reflect on and investigate applications of dance science principles within dance practice through an extended independent project, which forms the second year of the programme.

#### Programme Aims:

- To develop an advanced theoretical knowledge of key areas of dance science and master the skills to translate that knowledge into practice.
- To provide an in-depth comprehension of scientific theory and methods as they relate to dance in a variety of contexts.
- To develop a high level of critical and analytical skills in examining complex, incomplete or contradictory areas of knowledge.
- To foster an understanding of the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to examining health and wellbeing of dance practice and performance.
- To engage with complexities of integrating embodied and scientific practices.
- To expose students to professional dance science experiences in both laboratory and field-based settings.
- To foster the capacity to enhance aspects of dance practice and performance informed by new knowledge of scientific principles applied to dance and dancers.
- To produce graduates who can develop further research and application of dance science principles in a variety of dance and/or research settings.
- To foster a capacity for substantial independent research over an extended period of time.
- To engage proactively in research and practice-oriented networking and sharing events.

#### Programme Content

The programme is comprised of a taught element of four modules plus a further year of extended independent research of 140 credits (M508A). There are no elective modules for this programme.

M502A Research Lab  
M568 Performance Enhancement: Physiology, Biomechanics, Psychology  
M567 Embodied and Applied Practices  
M565 Whole Dancer Study  
M508A Extended Project

The taught modules are delivered across three consecutive days, with the remaining two days available for self-directed study. Delivery includes lectures, practical workshops, seminars, group and individual tutorials, peer and tutor led discussions, mini-conference days, studio-and lab-based application, and becomes increasingly self-directed over the duration of the programme. In the first year, laboratory skills sessions additionally provide experience of working with testing equipment and dealing with human participants.

The second year is characterised by self-directed research, experimentation and reflection in the creation of a substantial and thoroughly researched piece of work.

Students who have registered on the MSc Dance Science will have the opportunity to apply to transfer to the MFA Dance Science. Transfer from the MSc to the MFA should be discussed with the Programme Leader before completion of the 4 taught modules. Transfer is subject to application and approval by the Programme Leader (guidelines and timescales will be published on the relevant programme page on Moodle).

### **What will I be expected to achieve?**

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of current research and practice in dance science.
- Evidence the capacity to critically appraise scientific research methodologies as applied to dance.
- Appreciate from an informed-perspective the complexities surrounding embodied knowledge within dance science research.
- Synthesise, reflect upon and evaluate evidence, arguments and ideas from primary, secondary and incomplete sources in a self-directed manner.
- Reflect on ways to enhance dance practice and performance informed by scientific principles and procedures.
- Understand the experimental, experiential and practice-based approaches and its applications in dance science research.

#### **Skills**

- Adopt and adapt interdisciplinary approaches to examining dance practice and performance in a variety of contexts and a range of populations.
- Be competent in the use of laboratory equipment, standardised measurement procedures and advanced data analysis.
- Translate theoretical knowledge into practice and application.
- Present knowledge in a public domain within a format suitable to the context of your research.
- Propose, formulate, develop and complete a substantial independent research study over an extended period by employing, adapting and adjusting scientific frameworks and methodologies to dance contexts

#### **Values and attitudes**

- Interact and work cooperatively with faculty, peers and volunteer participants.
- Develop as an independent and self-critical learner and researcher.
- Display integrity in upholding ethical considerations as applied to dance science research

- and practice.
- Develop an appreciation of the process of research and development arising from independent inquiry.

### How will I learn?

There are a wide variety of learning and teaching methods; lectures, practical workshops, seminars, group and individual tutorials, peer and tutor led discussions, mini-conference days, studio-and lab-based application, and the programme becomes increasingly self-directed over the duration of the programme. Laboratory skills sessions additionally provide experience of working with testing equipment and dealing with human participants. One to one tutorial support is offered in every module. Group discussion is encouraged in order to provoke informed debate about the application of dance science research to the practical dance environment.

The MFA Dance Science consists of approximately 2600 notional learning hours. The Programme is structured so as to support progressive development in learning and to increasingly encourage the application of theory to practice, leading to increased autonomy in learning and engagement. The four taught modules vary in their contact hours relative to the module aims and awarding credits (for an outline of contact hours per module, refer to the individual module specifications). M508A Extended Project comprises 15 hours tutorial support and the remainder of the module is self-directed research. MFA students will be encouraged to regularly take part in both internal and external postgraduate sharings (e.g. MFA sharing events), external events (e.g. One Dance UK conferences), meetings (e.g. Programme seminars) and seminars (e.g. Research Seminars at Trinity Laban).

### How will I be assessed?

The range of summative assessments are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills required of graduates entering the dance science sector and centre on a critical examination of dance science theory and research as applied to dance practice. 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. Assessment tasks include scientific lab reports, critical conceptual investigations, development of performance enhancement strategies, developing a project proposal and data analysis exam. Assessment modes may include written, oral and practice-based presentations.

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

You must achieve a pass mark of at least 50% in each module 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 47% has been achieved in the module to be compensated. Compensation is not permitted for the dissertation.

### What award can I get?

#### Master of Fine Arts (MFA):

	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?

#### Taught Modules

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Research Lab	M502A	35	Core	No	7
Performance Enhancement: Physiology, Biomechanics, Psychology	M568	45	Core	No	7
Embodied and Applied Practices	M567	20	Core	Yes	7
Whole Dancer Study	M565	20	Core	Yes	7

#### Project/Dissertation Module

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Extended Project	M508A	140	Core	No	7

#### Structure

##### Full-time route

**Year 1:** Full-time students take all taught modules, across Terms 1, 2 and 3 for 10 months (September to June).

Delivery is scheduled across three consecutive days (usually Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) in Term 1 (September to Christmas). Term 2 is also delivered across three days (January to Easter). Term 3 (Easter to June) requires flexible availability due to the nature of the module. Note, where there is no scheduled delivery there is associated self-directed study amounting to approximately two or more days.

**Year 2:** Full-time students take M508A Extended Project across 13 months (September to September). This is an independently scheduled module via tutorials with your supervisor as relevant. Students are encouraged to attend meetings with the Module Leader, share their progress with their peers and participate in internal and external events as relevant to their extended project. There is no provision of tutorial support during August.

*You are normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before progressing to the project/dissertation.*

#### Key Progression Points

The programme consists of a single part, however there is a progression point at the end of

the taught programme (summer term of the first 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 at the discretion of the Assessment Board (or the Interim Assessment Panel, subject to confirmation by the Assessment Board). The mark will be capped at the minimum pass mark of 50%. 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**

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)

In preparing students for employment or further study in the field, a Networking and Careers Day is provided upon completion of the taught element of the Programme. This is an open event where students and graduates can network and receive information on employment and further study possibilities in dance science. Trinity Laban's careers advisor and a host of dance science professionals share tips for and experiences of working and pursuing further study in the field.

Upon completion of the Programme, graduates are invited to submit a 100 word biography to the Programme Leader along with a bullet pointed list of topics they are confident in delivering via educational workshops, and a brief overview of their research interests. This information forms part of an 'exit strategy' and will be used to signpost graduates to possible opportunities available within the sector as workshop leaders or research assistance in a variety of settings.

## **ADMISSIONS**

### **Entry Requirements**

Applicants are expected to have an appropriate first degree (or an equivalent qualification). 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 for whom English is not their first language should demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 6.5 in all 4 areas or Trinity ISE III. 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.