

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION MFA DANCE PERFORMANCE

Programme	MFA Dance Performance
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Location of study	Laban Building
Mode and duration	2 years full time
UK Credits	280
ECTS	140

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Programme consists of a series of taught modules followed by an Extended Project which will demonstrate artistic ambition through an innovative investigation in dance and/or interdisciplinary performance.

Incorporating your Transitions Dance Company year, the MFA Dance Performance offers you the opportunity to go beyond that professional model experience: to critically reflect on your practice as a performer, to research and explore the role of the performer in the artistic process, and to deepen your understanding of both the artistic and technical complexities inherent in dance performance.

The Programme comprises a taught element of 4 modules plus an extended independent research project of 140 credits.

The programme seeks to:

- Provide opportunities for developing the range of skills and meeting the challenges of working as a performer in today's professional arts environment.
- Support the development of advanced-level performers through access to professional dance makers, performers, collaborative environments and performance opportunities.
- Provide a means whereby students can engage critically with their studio practice.
- Provide extensive opportunities for reflection on, and critical examination of, performance practice.
- Provide a comprehensive professional-level environment in which students can refine their knowledge, skills and understanding of creative and performance processes within dance.
- Foster a capacity for substantial independent, innovative and quality practice-based research in the field of dance performance over an extended period of time.
- Encourage artistic ambition and experimentation through supporting innovative investigation in dance and/or interdisciplinary performance.

Particular emphasis is given to:

- developing advanced technical skills alongside embodied knowledge and understanding that enables their transfer to new and challenging creative contexts;
- developing a deeper understanding of the artistic and technical complexities of the performance process;
- providing intensive creative engagement with a range of visiting professional choreographers utilizing diverse creative practices;
- developing a deeper understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the dancer in the creative process;
- extending and refining skills and understanding through an extensive tour of performances;

- developing an ambitious and experimental approach to collaborative and/or interdisciplinary creative performance processes;
- enabling and supporting a period of sustained and innovative enquiry and critical engagement in the realisation of a substantial work or body of work for performance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this programme, a student will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- Apply technical knowledge and understanding to new and unfamiliar contexts
- Demonstrate a knowledge of creative processes, and of newly devised works in the act of performance
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the interconnection between theory and practice as it relates to dance performance
- Reflect on, and give an intelligent and critical account of, devising and performance processes
- Reflect on, and give an intelligent and critical account of, one's own development and role as a performer
- Evidence knowledge and understanding of how to synthesise, interpret and interrogate complex ideas from a variety of performance perspectives

Skills

- Undertake independent research in the field of dance performance, and disseminate this to a wider professional public
- Propose, formulate, develop, sustain and bring to completion substantial individual research over an extended period
- Demonstrate an advanced level of technical skill in a wide variety of performance contexts
- Demonstrate a high level of artistry in the creative and performance processes in a variety of environments and in different modes of working
- Contribute intelligently and constructively to the creative process and adapt to changing demands

Values and attitudes

- Work independently, take initiative, and exercise personal responsibility for one's own performance practice
- Demonstrate a professional approach within the company context
- Exercise a professional and responsible attitude to one's own performance practice, including an understanding of the relationship between personal endeavour and collaborative enterprise
- Make individual choices and decisions in relation to performance practice
- Respond critically to issues in artistic and creative environments, especially those concerning the performer and performance practice
- Develop as a resourceful, independent, self-critical and investigative dance artist

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Trinity Laban Graduate programmes prepare artists and practitioners to contribute to the leadership and future development of the global creative ecology in a sustainable and responsible way. Those who have participated in a graduate programme should be able to:

1. Investigate and interrogate their practices in relation to existing bodies of knowledge and associated theoretical, critical and creative contexts to understand how their practice is situated
2. Design systematic and creative research processes and practices, transferring these into a variety of practical and performance contexts
3. Adopt play and openness within research processes to compliment frameworks that enable purposeful engagement in practice
4. Demonstrate emergent original thinking, and understand how this relates to practice and the conceptualisation of work in their discipline
5. Develop significantly refined practice skills in order to produce socially and ethically aware processes and products, enabling the individual to participate as creative and artistic leaders and as global citizens

CURRICULUM

Structure

The programme commences at the beginning of September each academic year. The first year of study comprises the taught programme, and participation in Transitions Dance Company. The second year of study comprises of the Extended Project. Study is only available full time.

Taught Modules

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Advanced Technical Practice	D70017	30	Core	Yes	7
Performer in the Creative Process	D70018	40	Core	No	7
Dance Performance	D70019	40	Core	No	7
Res Lab	D70002	30	Core	No	7

Project/Dissertation Module

Extended Project	D70013	140	Core	No	7
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Key Progression Points

Students are normally required to pass all taught modules before proceeding with the dissertation/project.

An assessment board will meet at each progression point and is responsible for making progress decisions.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Average contact hours: approximately 35 hours per week (Year 1)

Total self-directed study hours: Other types of learning and number of learning hours required of students e.g. for self-directed study/group study etc: 1050 (Year 1)

Total learning and teaching hours:2000 (Year 1)

Overall number of learning hours for year 2: 1400

See D70013 module specification for breakdown of hours for year 2

Learning and teaching methods

A primary focus of the programme is to provide - through membership of Transitions Dance Company - a learning environment which closely resembles and prepares students for a professional company context. This is reflected in the emphasis on studio practice; on the structure of the working day, which routinely begins with a company class; on extensive touring and performing opportunities; and on the leadership and guidance of the Artistic Director of the company.

- Technical skills are developed through daily technique classes. Through an investigative focus on three contrasting but complementary dance techniques, students are encouraged towards a commonality of experience and understanding. Following the initial guided exploration that contributes towards assessment, additional stylistic approaches allow students to further develop their technical abilities to support choreographed work in performance.
- Three professional choreographers are selected to lead the students in intensive creative processes, which involve them in devising new works and introduce them to a range of choreographic styles and working methods.
- To prepare for the professional performance milieu, students normally undertake 15-17 performances over a three month period of national and international touring where they perform the repertory as well as improvised performances using the repertory as a starting point in a wide range of performance contexts - from small spaces with minimal production capacity, to well-equipped professional theatres. Students are led in this process by the Artistic Director with support from professional production staff.
- Reflection on both performance processes and individual development is encouraged in the studio and via seminars which relate closely to the phases of the practice being undertaken and the issues that arise from them.
- Contextualizing studies in the form of a series of lectures from practicing artists, and supporting group seminars, place the performance practice developed in the Transitions Dance Company experience into a wider arts context.

The second year comprises of Extended Project in which students demonstrate their artistic ambition through an innovative investigation in dance and/or interdisciplinary performance with the support of a supervisor and a Faculty mentor.

ASSESSMENT

Overview

Assessment is through a variety of modes which evaluate skill related to performance practice and research, and which prepare you for engagement with the various modes in which the processes of performance practice and creative dance making are realized and in which related issues are critically examined and disseminated. Assessment modes include: assessment of performance practice (e.g. technical skill, dance performance) a journal demonstrating the student's ability to critically reflect on and contextualize their progress; lecture-demonstration, and a practice based research project, which test the student's ability to critically reflect on, synthesize and apply knowledge and understanding across both theory and practice.

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 45% has been achieved in the module to be compensated. Compensation is not permitted for the 40 credit modules, or the project. Compensation may only be applied to the following module:

- Advanced Technical Practice

Rules applying to compensation can be found in the Assessment Regulations for Taught Programmes. Compensation is agreed at point of award.

AWARDS

Award	HE Level	Credits
Master of Fine Arts	7	280
Postgraduate Diploma	7	140
Postgraduate Certificate	7	60

Classification	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Pass	50

Students who have registered on the MA Dance Performance will have the opportunity to apply to transfer to the MFA Dance Performance. Transfer from the MA to the MFA should be discussed with the Programme Leaders before completion of the four taught modules and normally have applied before the end of March. Transfer is subject to application and approval by the Programme Leaders.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

In addition to acceptance into Transitions Dance Company (through audition), students will normally have successfully completed a UK undergraduate degree in an appropriate or related subject; or hold an overseas award of equivalent standard (e.g. USA degree - GPA 3.00 or above).

For MFA, applicants must include a project proposal, outlining the following:

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

Applicants who do not meet the standard entry requirements are invited to complete a recognition of prior learning (RPL) process to establish their suitability for level 7 study. This might include appropriate levels of professional experience

Applicants for whom English is not their first language should demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 6.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in all 4 areas. 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.