MSC DANCE SCIENCE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme	MSc in Dance Science
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Location of study	Laban Building
Mode and duration	1 year full time, 2 years part time, 3 years flexible
UK Credits	180
ECTS	90

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The MSc Dance Science is a research-led taught programme which focuses on understanding and investigating dancers and dance practice across recreational, training and professional settings through scientific approaches. 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 informed by a range of disciplines such as physiology, biomechanics, nutrition, psychology and somatic practices.

The programme offers the opportunity to develop and apply knowledge in a variety of areas, including enhancement of dance practice and performance, dancers' wellness, and dance for health. The modules provide the opportunity to progress from the acquisition of critical foundations of performance science knowledge and skills, to focus on specific areas of knowledge and application in dance science, culminating with the development and implementation of a specialized and in-depth investigation of a chosen topic. Through the programme, students will have the opportunity to engage in laboratory and studio-based learning activities and perform a series of research-oriented tasks, including the design and execution of an independent dance science research study. The integrative nature of the programme and the diversity of experiences and backgrounds of both students and faculty makes it a thriving and organic interdisciplinary learning experience.

The aims of the Programme are:

- To enable students to develop an advanced theoretical knowledge of key areas of performance 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 cultivate students ability to examine complex, incomplete or contradictory areas of knowledge.
- To foster an interdisciplinary approach to examining topics in dance practice and performance.
- To foster students' ability to enhance individual and contextual dimensions of dance practice and performance informed by new knowledge of scientific principles applied to dance and dancers.
- To appreciate the complexities of integrating embodied and scientific practices.
- To expose students to dance science experiences in both laboratory and field-based settings.
- To produce graduates who can engage with and contribute towards the continually developing field of dance science research and application.
- To create an environment which nurtures innovation and creativity in dance science research, encourages and supports risk-taking and reflection, and supports the development of global citizens.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of current research and practice in dance science.
- Demonstrate awareness and advanced knowledge of a range of research paradigms, methodologies, methods and measurement techniques relevant to dance science research.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how to synthesise, interpret and interrogate complex ideas from a variety of perspectives.
- Recognise and appreciate the subjectivity and complexity surrounding embodied and experiential knowledge in dance and within dance science research.
- Reflect on ways to enhance individual and contextual dimensions of dance practice and performance underpinned by research-informed principles and procedures.
- Understand the dynamic and changing nature of careers in dance, including consideration of the challenges dancers and institutions face within a global environment.

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 research methods, laboratory equipment, standardised measurement procedures, and advanced data analysis tools.
- Work independently as well as cooperatively with faculty, peers and others, both in digital and in person contexts.
- Deal with complex scenarios both systematically and creatively, providing informed arguments and sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and act autonomously in planning and implementing solutions at a professional or equivalent level.
- Propose, design and implement a well justified piece of research with clear consideration of appropriate implementation and dissemination on dance settings.
- Present and disseminate knowledge and research in a public domain following scholarly standards and within a format suitable to specialist and general audiences.

Values and attitudes

- Exercise flexibility, initiative, and personal responsibility.
- Develop as a resourceful, self-determined, reflective, and independent learner and researcher.
- Display integrity in upholding ethical considerations as applied to dance science research and practice, including respect for codes of conduct and practice, standards, rules and responsibilities.
- Recognise and appreciate contextual and individual factors in professional contexts, in particular those related to equality, diversity and sustainability.
- Develop an appreciation of the process of research and development arising from independent inquiry.

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Trinity Laban 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 the MSc Dance Science programme should be able to:

1. Investigate, interrogate, and situate their practices in relation to existing and new areas of knowledge across disciplines, and associated theoretical, critical, and creative contexts.
2. Think critically and synthetise new and existing knowledge to inform decision making in complex scenarios and propose creative and efficient solutions.
3. Recognise the complexity of careers in dance, embrace challenges and take opportunities for development and change.
4. Show flexibility, openness and curiosity in a range of contexts, identifying and responding proactively to challenges in a considerate, pragmatic, and efficient way.
5. Design relevant, appropriate and systematic research processes and practices, considering its implementation and impact on a variety of practical and performance contexts.
6. Work efficiently within a team, contributing actively and critically to support the success of individual and team developments.
7. Communicate clearly, effectively, and in a scholarly way in a range of forms and adjusted to different audiences.
8. Develop as informed and responsible global citizens, showing integrity and a commitment to ethical practice and social issues such as equality, diversity, and sustainability.

CURRICULUM

Structure

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Approaches to Performance Research	D70032	30	Core	No	7
Foundations in Performance Science	D70033	30	Core	No	7
Performing Research 1	D70034	15	Core	Yes	7
Performing Research 2	D70035	15	Core	Yes	7
Applications in Dance Science	D70036	30	Core	Yes	7
Project	D70005	60	Core	No	7

The programme is comprised of a taught element of five modules plus an independent research project of 60 credits on a topic of choice. The 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). For guidance, we usually expect students to undertake 10 hours of learning activity towards each unit of credit. Learning takes place through a blend of digital and face to face learning activities including seminars/webinars, practical classes and other and experiential learning tasks, as well as independent practice and reflection, work towards assignments, tutorials and self-directed study. Digital platforms will play a significant role in supporting learning and communication in a blended learning approach.

The programme is a one-year full time or two-year part-time programme, delivered in a flexible way, including weekly contact hours on specified days either online or in person, intensive seminars as relevant and self-directed study. Where there is no scheduled delivery there is associated self-directed study and independent work. The delivery follows the academic calendar; tutorial support is

not available during holiday and staff annual leave periods.

Full-time - students take all modules, across all Terms from September to September.

Part time/Flexible route - students can complete the programme over a period of two years or three years at their own pace by completing a set number of credits in each year. MSc students can choose to complete the programme in two years or three years as long as the modules are taken in the following order:

- Approaches in Performance Research can only be taken after or along with Foundations in Performance Science
- Performing Research 1 and 2 can only be taken after Approaches in Performance Research
- Applications in Dance Science and Project can only be taken after all the previous modules were taken.

Mode	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
MSc part time (2 years)	Foundations in Performance Science Approaches to Performance Research	Performing Research 1 & 2 Applications in Dance Science Project	N/A
MSc flexible route (3 years)	Foundations in Performance Science	Approaches to Performance Research Performing Research 1 & 2	Applications in Dance Science Project

Students in the part time and flexible routes will normally be required to complete all taught modules before embarking on Project.

Students who have registered on the MSc Dance Science will have the opportunity to apply to transfer to the MFA Dance Science. Transfer is subject to application and approval by the Programme Leader (guidelines and timescales will be published on the relevant programme page on Moodle).

Key Progression Points (if applicable)

Students are normally required to pass all taught modules in the taught programme in order to progress to Project. An assessment board will meet at the end of the taught programme (summer term) and is responsible for making progress decisions. 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 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).

Applications in Dance Science module - Options/Electives

The *Applications in Dance Science* module offers students the opportunity to tailor their learning to specialist areas of study by choosing from a selection of optional components. Students will be able to select from a range of areas of specialist knowledge to support and tailor their learning as appropriate to their career interests and prospects. Students are required to select two (2) components from the

list below. Students will be offered the opportunity to audit additional components as part of the plan of enhanced extra-curricular activities, as relevant to their interests.

Please refer to individual component outlines for details of content.

Components

Component Title	Component Code
Strength & Conditioning in Dance	D70036a
Movement & Technique Analysis	D70036b
Psychology for Performance, Health & Wellbeing	D70037c
Dance Training & Education	D70038d
Arts in Health & Wellbeing	D70039e

Pre and Co-requisites

MSc students can choose the part time or flexible route and complete the programme in two years or three years as long as the modules are taken in the following order:

- Approaches in Performance Research can only be taken after or along with Foundations in Performance Science
- Performing Research 1 and 2 can only be taken after Approaches in Performance Research
- Applications in Dance Science and Project can only be taken after all the previous modules were taken.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Total contact hours [192 hours**]**

The total of contact hours is indicative in a blended learning approach. Contact hours include synchronous, asynchronous and in-person learning activities directed by a tutor, as well as individua and group tutorials.

Total self-directed study hours [1608 hours**]**

A blended learning approach encourages students to become autonomous, independent learners, and therefore, it includes a significant number of self-directed hours dedicated to extended reading and research, preparation of learning and assessment tasks as well as engaging in individual and group project-based work.

Total learning and teaching hours [1800 hours]

Learning and teaching methods

Following a blended learning approach, students will learn through a wide variety of flexible learning and teaching methods both in digital and in person learning environments, underpinned by a significant amount of self-directed learning. The learning and teaching strategies include webinars and seminars, digital and practical workshops, group and individual tutorials, peer and tutor led discussions, mini-conference days, studio-and lab-based application, as well as independent and self-directed work. Students will be encouraged to work collaboratively with peers within and external to their programme as part of their learning experience.

To assist learning, students will have access to a range of additional support provided by the dance science laboratory team, student support, audio-visual and digital enhanced learning teams, as well

as library support. Individual and/or group tutorial support is offered to students in preparation for assessments. Academic tutor office hours are also available to students.

The MSc Dance Science consists of approximately 1800 notional learning hours. The programme is structured to support progressive development in learning and to increasingly encourage the application of theory to practice, leading to increased autonomy in learning and engagement. For an outline of contact hours per module, refer to the individual module specifications.

Project comprises 5 hours tutorial support, 1h introduction session and the remainder of the module is self-directed research and study.

MSc students are encouraged to engage actively in dance science related activities to enhance their portfolio of specific and transversal career skills, including: attend and observe a range of performative and creative activities; attend both internal and external postgraduate sharings (e.g. MFA sharing events); participate actively in conferences and other relevant events (e.g. One Dance UK/IADMS conferences), meetings (e.g. Programme seminars) and seminars (e.g. Research Seminars at Trinity Laban); collaborate in Trinity Laban knowledge exchange and research activities (e.g., CoLab, Screening, Staff research projects, etc.).

Placements and Exchanges

Exchanges and/or study abroad opportunities may be available subject to individual application and eligibility requirements.

ASSESSMENT

Overview

The range assessments offered in the MSc programme encourage critical thinking, analysis and synthesis of knowledge, and evidence of academic as well as applied skills. These assessments aim to capture the diversity of learning objectives across the programme but also to prepare the students for potential tasks they will encounter in their future careers.

The range of summative and formative 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. Students will be assessed according to their ability to meet the learning outcomes for the module, and against any specific assessment criteria provided. Assessment tasks include developing a project proposal, provide a learning portfolio that includes a range of learning tasks (e.g., reports, critical reviews), group project lab reports and poster presentations, a case study, and culminates with a written journal article. Assessment modes include individual and group assessments in written, oral and practice-based presentations, in digital and/or in person contexts.

What do I have to do to pass?

In order to pass the programme students must achieve the credit for each module. Students must pass each module with an overall mark of 50% (except where compensation applies). The mark awarded will reflect the extent to which you have met the descriptors set out in the level 7 marking criteria. There may also be a requirement for students to achieve a minimum mark in each assessment. Where this is the case it will be stated in the module specification.

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 agreed at point of award. Compensation is not permitted for Approaches in Performance Research, Foundations in Performance Science and the Project.

Rules applying to compensation can be found in the Assessment Regulations for Taught Programmes.

AWARDS

Award	HE Level	Credits
Master of Science	7	180
Postgraduate Diploma	7	120
Postgraduate Certificate	7	60

Classification	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Pass	50

All modules contribute to the overall aggregate mark and are weighted according to credit.

Students who successfully complete the taught programme but not the Extended Project will be awarded the Postgraduate diploma in Dance Science.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Entry Requirements

Applicants 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). Exceptionally, applicants who do not hold an undergraduate degree but have more than 5 years' professional experience in a relevant discipline (e.g., dance teaching, choreography) and relevant qualifications (e.g., Yoga/Pilates, Personal Training qualifications) may be considered for entry. 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.

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 areas. Trinity Laban website 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.

Applications for the programme are made online through UCAS Conservatoires. Applications include two references (one practical and one academic), a copy of the applicant's undergraduate transcript, evidence of English Language proficiency (where applicable). In addition, applicants are asked to submit a Comprehensive Personal Statement which consists of two parts:

Part One includes a brief commentary (which can be based on our UCAS Conservatoires application statement) on:

- *the reasons to study Dance Science and its value for the dance artist and dance practice,*
- *previous experience on research or other activities relevant to dance science,*
- *the particular areas of Dance Science in which you are currently interested, i.e., what you are interested in exploring more while on the Programme and why.*

Part Two consists of a writing sample where applicants are asked to choose and answer to three questions of a list of Dance Science related topics. The word count for this part is circa 900 words (approximately 300 words per question, not inclusive of the reference list). Detailed guidance for this task is sent to the applicant upon setting up an account on Embark.

Selection is by scrutiny of the applicant's written application and they may also be asked to attend an interview as part of the application.

Students who have registered on the MSc Dance Science will have the opportunity to apply to transfer to the MFA Dance Science. Transfer is subject to application and approval by the Programme Leader (guidelines and timescales will be published on the relevant programme page on Moodle), following the submission of additional documentation, namely:

- Meeting external requirements of UK Visas and Immigration is essential. Students requiring a UKVI study visa are strongly advised to consider applying for the MFA at initial application in order to minimise possible disruption to their studies owing to visa restrictions.