

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION (POSTGRADUATE)

Programme	MFA Dance Leadership & Community Practice
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Location of study	Laban Building
Mode and duration	2 years full time
UK Credits	260
ECTS	130

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The MFA Dance Leadership & Community Practice (MFA: DLCP) is a vocational programme for people who want to work as professional dance artists in community contexts and also undertake the opportunity to undertake significant independent research across a second year of study. Community dance artists push the boundaries of how, where and with whom they practice, and make dance, in all its forms, accessible to more people. The MFA Dance Leadership & Community Practice 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 and leaders in a range community settings.

In the first year you will develop knowledge and skills for teaching dance 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 community dance, how it happens, and its impact on individuals and communities, alongside your artistic development as a creative dance artist. You will learn about the practicalities of planning and delivering projects in community settings, the networks and agencies that support community dance provision and the benefits of dance as a participatory practice. 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 to support the development and articulation of your substantial individual research in the second year.

Programme aims:

- This programme aims to facilitate your development as a practitioner in dance who has the skills and knowledges to develop and lead high quality, accessible and inclusive dance opportunities in a range of community and participatory dance settings.

- The course aims to foster your appreciation of and engagement with, the values and principles of community dance as a context for how you as an individual artist can support the needs and aspirations of other individuals and communities.
- 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 and foster a capacity to create presentational frameworks that can coherently and accessibly articulate your research.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

Knowledge and understanding

Through the programme, you will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- A1 systematic understanding of the values and principles of community dance and the factors that inform the development of the practice
- A2 A systematic understanding of the methodological approaches to the ways in which dance can benefit individuals and communities and the role of the dance artist in creating opportunities for participation
- A3 the choreological principles that inform dance and dance-making to create innovative and appropriate advanced problem-solving strategies, methods and techniques to facilitate, define and critically evaluate artistic and creative processes
- A4 knowledge of specialist theoretical and methodological approaches for appropriate and effective teaching and leading dance with, and for, diverse participant groups
- A5 Selecting and applying advanced principles, concepts, theoretical frameworks and approaches and develop innovative proposals to devise and deliver participatory dance activities and projects that support the needs and ambitions of communities in their artistic, social and cultural context
- A6 develop appropriate practice guidelines, take responsibility for outcomes in abstract and unpredictably complex contexts to fulfil the demands and expectations of professional practice in community dance

Skills

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

- B1 Select and apply advanced principles, concepts, theoretical frameworks and approaches to critically develop and articulate a personal philosophy that reflects the core values of community dance and informs your role and practice as a dance artist

- B2 Systematically synthesise advanced and specialist information and ideas to formulate and develop innovative proposals to address dance and dance-making, and bring an informed artistic viewpoint to others' engagement with dance
- B3 develop effective and advanced methodologies to facilitate enjoyable, challenging, safe, inclusive dance experiences for diverse participant groups in a range of community and participatory dance settings
- B4 critically analyse, evaluate and articulate how dance can variously benefit, and support the needs and aspirations of, individuals and communities
- B5 Work independently, and in partnership with others, to Design and develop advanced specialist projects and/or activities and deliver dance activities and projects that address communities in their social and cultural context
- B6 Take responsibility for leading the systematic and critical evaluation of own capabilities, performance and development, applying strategic management approaches to the unpredictably complex demands and expectations of professional practice in community dance.
- B7 Act autonomously to design and develop individual research through advanced specialist projects and/or activities to strategically enhance own and/or others learning, work or practice
- B8 critically develop systematic responses to existing discourses and methodologies to locate and inform your practice

Values and attitudes

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

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- C1 Systematically apply advanced awareness of ethical and professional values and codes of conduct, to personal and strategic decisions, actions, responsibilities, outcomes and dilemmas, to practice within and shape the development of the profession
- C2 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
- C3 Working proactively with others and Behaving in a responsible, caring and professional manner in relation to those with whom you work and represent
- C4 Taking responsibility for leading the systematic and critical evaluation of own capabilities, performance and development through an active commitment to purposeful reflection on your own practice and maintaining and investing in your own professional development
- C5 Engage in practical research as a means to interrogate unpredictably complex contexts. embedded in participatory arts/community dance practice

POSTGRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

In achieving institutional learning and teaching goals, Trinity Laban aims to produce graduates from our MFA Dance Leadership and Community Practice programme who:

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. Are familiar with the possibilities offered by and through collaborative forms of working
3. Have the skills to develop as effective project leaders, able both to devise and manage their own projects, workshops, research, and to participate as team members in such activities
4. Have the capacity to recognise the applied potential of their art form to engage with a variety of contexts such as social, community, performance, business, education
5. Have the potential to articulate persuasively and encourage and direct the participation of others in their art form.
6. Are equipped to take advantage of the wide range of employment opportunities available within the arts industries, and who understand how to generate their own work and have the skills to manage a sustainable and enriching career.
7. Have skills commensurate with the National Occupational Standards for Dance Leadership ([People Dancing :: National Occupational Standards :: Foundation for Community Dance](#))

CURRICULUM

Structure

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	
MFA Part 1	Res Lab (Core) 30 credits			
	Creative and Inclusive Dance Teaching (Core) 30 credits			
	Relatedness in Motion (Core)			
		Community Dance Leadership (Core) 30 credits		
MFA Part 2	Extended Project (MFA Core) 140 credits			

[OR]

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Res Lab	D70002	30	core	no	7
Creative and Inclusive Dance Teaching	D70037	30	core	no	7
Community Dance Leadership	D70039	30	core	no	7
Relatedness in Motion	D70038	30	core	yes	7
Extended Project	D70041	140	core	no	7

Key Progression Points

The programme commences in September each academic year and continues until September of the second 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.

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%. 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).

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Total contact hours: 286 hours

Total self-directed study hours: 2314

Total learning and teaching hours: 2600

Module	Contact Hours	Self-directed study	Total Hours	Credits
Res Lab	48	252	300	30
Creative and Inclusive Dance Teaching	70	230	300	30

Community Dance Leadership	105	195	300	30
Relatedness in Motion	48	252	300	30
Extended Project	15	1385	1400	140
Totals	286	2314	2600	260

The **MFA Dance Leadership & Community Practice** assumes 2600 notional learning hours. 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.

Learning and teaching methods

Learning will take place in a variety of different contexts including taught workshops or lectures, seminars, group discussions, tutorials, and individual study and research and utilise studios, seminar rooms and virtual spaces as appropriate for specific parts of the curriculum (such as seminars with overseas Visiting Lecturers, or exploring teaching in virtual environments). Some 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.

Students assist in professional contexts providing support to professionals, gaining insight into professional life and organizational structures and learn from the expertise of professionals in successful community organizations. Students will engage in critical reflection and evaluation of real-world community leadership to support their development as future dance teachers and leaders.

Placements and Exchanges

All students will have the opportunity for Work-based Learning placement opportunities with TL Learning & Participation Dance. Other opportunities with organisations outside TL can be sort by individuals in liaison with Module Leader/academic tutor.

ASSESSMENT

Overview

Assessment is through a variety of mechanisms that evaluate your knowledge and understanding, skills and abilities, 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. Assessment tasks also support the acquisition of graduate attributes through interrogation, investigation and articulation of your art form and practice as well as project leading, collaborating with others and recognising the applied potential of the dance to engage with a variety of contexts such as social, community, performance, business, education. The Learning Advisory Services team are on hand to offer guidance to tutors and staff on potential individual assessment adjustments where appropriate to support the needs of students with disability/protected characteristics.

What do I have to do to pass?

In order to pass the programme, you must achieve the credit for each module. You must pass each module with an overall mark of 50 (except where compensation applies).

Certain modules may be compensated at the discretion of the assessment board: compensation is the award of credit for a failed module on the basis of good performance in other modules. 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 Extended Project, Research Lab, Creative and Inclusive Dance Teaching and Community Dance Leadership. Compensation may only be applied at the point of award and only to the following modules:

- Relatedness in Motion

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

AWARDS

Award	HE Level	Credits
Master of Fine Arts	7	260

Classification	% required
With Distinction	70

Postgraduate Diploma	7	120
Postgraduate Certificate	7	60

With Merit	60
With Pass	50

Accreditation and additional qualifications

MFA Dance Leadership and Community Practice: Students will receive a free DBS check through their assisting roles with Learning and Participation Dance.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Applicants are expected to have a first degree (or an equivalent qualification) or 5 years' professional experience in dance/performance/teaching etc. Applicants should not have a criminal record (that is within a rehabilitation period) as a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check is required for work-based learning.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language should demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 6.5 overall with minimum 5.5 in all 4 areas / Trinity College London – Integrated Skills in English III (ISEIII). 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.

Entry to this programme is initially by submitting a UCAS application by following the Link – How To Apply, on the Trinity Laban website: www.trinitylaban.ac.uk

Applicants will then be invited to:

- An afternoon in the building for an experience of moving practice (a class and a creative dance session), Q&A and an interview. (Covid restrictions permitting). This is so the panel can get to meet you as an embodied person.

OR

- upload video submissions to Embark and on-line interview via zoom. Video can include:
 - Video document(s) showing you dancing material from a dance/movement class (this can be in any movement genre) or doing a movement practice. This is so the panel can see you in an embodied practice and your potential to be communicative through moving and engage others in moving. Can be filmed in any space available to you. (Guideline for length: around 10-12 minutes)
 - Footage of movement improvisation with some information of the basis or inspiration for the improvisation. (guideline for length: 2-4 minutes)
 - Addition Option: footage of you teaching dance, or facilitating a workshop in a community/educational setting. (Please ensure you have the consent of any other people / participants – including musicians and other professionals - who appear in the footage (especially in the case of

children or vulnerable adults) to film and share the footage. Trinity Laban agrees only to view/share the filmed material amongst individuals on the Admissions Panel and purely for the purposes of considering your application to the Programme).

- Videos can have a verbal introduction so you can introduce yourself and explain the content.

MFA Applicants should demonstrate:

- appreciation of, and engagement with, the values and principles of Community / Participatory Dance as a professional area of practice
- understanding of the programme and how it can develop them as dance leaders and community practitioners
- potential to teach and lead dance in a range of community and participatory dance settings
- commitment to undertaking the programme, including independent study and assisting opportunities alongside timetabled classes
- A first degree (or an equivalent qualification) or 5 years' professional experience in dance/performance/teaching etc.

MFA applicants should demonstrate their capacity to undertake self-directed research by submitting 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 Dance Leadership and Community Practice
- The nature of their intended research and a draft projected timeline with indicated outputs of research (which is understandably subject to change)