

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION: MFA Dance Science

Programme	MFA in Dance Science
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Location of study	Blended –Laban building and online
Mode and duration	2 years full time, 3 years* (2 years MSc part time + 1 year MFA full time)
UK Credits	260
ECTS	130

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The MFA Dance Science is a research-focused programme that explores the dance phenomenon from an interdisciplinary, integrative, and holistic approach. It explores both individual and contextual perspectives in dance by using systematic research methodologies and implementation approaches, recognising the role of the dance phenomenon in guiding the scientific enquiry. This programme is designed to assist professionals, practitioners and graduates from both dance or science related areas to investigate the intersections between science and dance tailored to the specific interests and career goals of each student, enhancing the understanding, application, and dissemination of dance science research in applied contexts of dance practice and performance. The diversity of experiences and backgrounds of both students and faculty makes it a thriving and organic interdisciplinary learning experience.

The MFA programme offers a range of core modules as well as enhanced extra-curricular activities where students engage with mixed methodological frameworks, interdisciplinary approaches in dance science and opportunities to converge knowledge and skills into career-oriented applications. The first year of the MFA offers the scholarly and critical foundations of performance science underpinned by a range of scientific and somatic disciplines and research frameworks, which can be further explored through the choice of specialist components where students can focus on specialist areas of knowledge and application in dance science. In the second year, students will conduct an independent, extended piece of research focusing on a selected area of interest, being encouraged to interrogate and expand the frontiers in dance and science through a rigorous research design, considering avenues for implementation and dissemination in real-world scenarios.

The aims of the Programme are:

- To enable students to develop an advanced theoretical knowledge of key topics in performance science and master the skills to translate that knowledge into practice in dance contexts.
- To provide an in-depth understanding 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 with advanced criticality.
- 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 career-oriented dance science experience in relevant laboratory-based and real-world settings.
- To prepare students to lead complex and innovative research projects, and consider implementation, and dissemination in a variety of dance and/or research settings.

- To encourage students to engage proactively in career-oriented networking and sharing events.
- 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 and critical appraisal of current and seminal theory and research developments in a range of disciplines relevant to performance science.
- Demonstrate critical awareness and advanced knowledge of a range of research paradigms, methodologies, methods and measurement techniques relevant to performance 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 performance 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 performing domains, including consideration in research design, implementation, and dissemination of the challenges dancers/performers 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.
- Demonstrate competence 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.
- Translate theoretical knowledge into appropriate and well justified applications through the ability to analyse and deal with complex scenarios, 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 robust and well justified independent piece of research with clear consideration of appropriate implementation, dissemination, and impact 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.
- Demonstrate openness and self-direction in advancing their knowledge and understanding, and in developing new skills to a high level.
- 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 MFA 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 synthesise 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
Extended Project	D70010	140	Core	No	7

The programme is 2 years full 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.

The first year or Part 1, full time consists of the taught programme, also shared with the MSc Dance Science. 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.

The second year or Part 2 of the MFA consists of the Extended Project module and is characterised by self-directed research and study towards the creation of a substantial and thorough research project. MFA students can also choose to expand their skills set through a range of enhanced extra-curricular career-oriented activities.

*A partial part time route is also available to MFA students, allowing students to complete the programme over a period of three years. Students may first enrol as part time MSc students to complete the taught portion of the programme over two years. In Year 3, students may transfer to the MFA to complete the Extended Project. To this end, MFA students can complete the programme in 3 years as long as the modules are taken in the following order:

- *Approaches to 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 to Performance Research*
- *Applications in Dance Science* and *Extended Project* can only be taken after all the previous modules were taken.
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MSc/MFA route	Year 1 (MSc part time)	Year 2 (MSc part time)	Year 3 (MFA full time)
MFA (3 years)	Foundations in Performance Science Approaches to Performance Research Performing Research 1 or Performing Research 2 One Elective component of choice in Applications in Dance Science (credits awarded in Year 2)	Performing Research 2 or Performing Research 1 One Elective component of choice in Applications in Dance Science	Extended Project

Key Progression Points (if applicable)

The programme consists of two parts. Part 1 refers to the taught programme and Part 2 refers to Extended project and any additional extra-curricular activities. Students are normally required to pass all taught modules in Part 1 in order to progress to Part 2 of the programme. An Assessment Board will meet at the end of the taught programme (summer term of the first year) 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 the Extended 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. MFA Students will be encouraged to audit additional components to expand their skill set as part of the enhanced extra-curricular activities, and as relevant to their interests. PG and RDP students across faculties can also audit the components, as relevant to their studies, upon approval of the Programme leader and the Head of Programmes.

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	D70036c
Dance Training & Education	D70036d
Arts in Health & Wellbeing	D70036e

Pre and Co-requisites

MFA students can complete the programme in 3 years as long as the modules are taken in the following order:

- *Approaches to 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 to Performance Research*
- *Applications in Dance Science* and *Extended Project* can only be taken after all the previous modules were taken.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Total contact hours [229 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 individual and group tutorials.

Total self-directed study hours [2371 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 [2600 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. Skills Workshops embedded each module provide further support for the development of academic and research skills specific to the module learning outcomes and assessments. Individual and/or group tutorial support is offered to students in preparation for assessments. Academic tutor office hours are also available to students.

The MFA Dance Science consists of approximately 2600 notional learning hours. The Programme is structured to encourage autonomy in learning and engagement, supporting progressive development of independent and self-directed learning. For an outline of contact hours per module, refer to the individual module specifications. Extended Project comprises 15 hours tutorial support and the remainder of the module is self-directed research and study.

MFA students are encouraged to engage in a range of extra-curricular activities offered within and external to Trinity Laban to enhance their portfolio of specific and transversal career skills, including: attend and observe a range of performative and creative activities; audit additional components in *Applications in Dance Science* or other modules within the Trinity Laban Postgraduate programmes or externally (following discussion with Programme leader and institutional approval); undertake work placements/internships at partner institutions; take part in both internal and external postgraduate sharing events (e.g. MFA sharing events); participate actively in conferences and other relevant events (e.g. One Dance UK/IADMS conferences), attend meetings (e.g. Programme seminars), seminars (e.g. Research Seminars at Trinity Laban) and workshops (e.g., advanced lab/research skills); shadowing teaching; 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 of assessments offered in the MFA 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, designing and delivering a workshop, and culminates with a written dissertation accompanied by a dissemination output of choice. 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 Extended Project.

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

AWARDS

Award	HE Level	Credits	Classification	% required
Master of Fine Arts	7	260	With Distinction	70
Postgraduate Diploma	7	120	With Merit	60
Postgraduate Certificate	7	60	Pass	50

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

Students who successfully complete the taught programme and choose not to pursue Extended Project will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Dance Science. The Postgraduate Certificate will be awarded to students who have gained at least 60 credits but fewer than 120 credits from the completion of taught modules

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 4 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.

In addition to the previous, applicants must also 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 Science.
- The nature of their intended research and a draft projected timeline with indicated outputs of research (which is understandably subject to change)

Applicants to the MFA will be required to undertake an interview (online). This interview focuses on the reasons and preparedness of the applicant to undertake an independent research project and a discussion of the feasibility and appropriateness of the research proposal.

Applicants who may want to apply for direct entry to the second year of the MFA may be able to do so, following the application process for the MFA and providing evidence for recognition of prior learning.

Students who have registered on the MSc Dance Science wishing to transfer onto the MFA will have the opportunity to do so prior to the commencement of the Project module. 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.