

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION MFA CREATIVE PRACTICE

Programme	MFA Creative Practice
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Location of study	Laban Building/Independent Dance/Siobhan Davies Dance
Mode and duration	Full time 2 Years
UK Credits	260
ECTS	130

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The MFA Creative Practice is designed to provide a flexible and bespoke programme, including the opportunity to undertake significant independent research across a second year of study. In the first year you can choose from a range of modules delivered by Trinity Laban and our partner organisations, Independent Dance and Siobhan Davies Dance. Studio practice is supported by reflective and theoretical study; modules are devised to be conversant with one another, allowing for an interdisciplinary approach to the development and articulation of your substantial individual research in the second year.

The MFA Creative Practice aims:

- To foster the development of a resourceful, self-motivated dance/movement artist through an extended period of sustained enquiry and critical engagement
- To develop you as a reflective practitioner who is critically aware of the reciprocity of theory and practice.
- To enable you to explore and interrogate creative practice in its many forms, taking account of the social, cultural, aesthetic and political contexts in which it is located.
- To develop your ability to address complex issues creatively and systematically, as well as the ability to problem-solve in a variety of artistic contexts through the engagement in practice based research, including collaborative projects.
- 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
- To foster a capacity to create presentational frameworks that can coherently and accessibly articulate your research in process.

The MFA Creative Practice supports both emergent and professional dance artists and movement practitioners in the further development of their practice, facilitated by an environment of intellectual and creative enquiry. The MFA Creative Practice offer is divided into two pathways: *Transdisciplinary* and *Dance Professional*. Through these tailored routes of study, opportunities are provided to embark upon research within a range of disciplines and (for the more experienced artist), to reflect upon your previous professional experience and its role in your ongoing learning. Areas of study incorporate a diverse range of perspectives, including theoretical and philosophical underpinning of arts practice, visual and body-based art, film making, writing, and somatic practice. Across both areas of focus, there are possibilities to engage in intensive studio-based learning experiences with significant artists and a professional peer group, to deepen your own practice as a performer/maker, develop your understanding of a range of research methodologies within the arts, and to be supported in pursuing

your own area of artistic interest through a prolonged period of rigorous independent research.

MFA Creative Practice: Transdisciplinary

This pathway comprises 4 x 30 credit modules in the first year, plus an extended 140 credit independent project in a second year of study. In addition to the core modules, Research Lab and Extended Project, you can choose 3 modules from the module menu in consultation with the Programme Leader to create a bespoke programme of study.

- There are no pre-requisites/co-requisites for undertaking the Transdisciplinary pathway
- Where eligible (determined through interview/audition), students can elect to do Embodied Practice as part of their taught programme of study.
- Students on the Transdisciplinary pathway are not eligible to undertake Investigative Practice (only available for Dance Professional Practice Students)
- Students must complete the taught component (4 modules) in their first year before progressing on to the extended independent project the following year.

MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional:

This pathway comprises of 4 x 30 credit modules in the first year, plus an extended 140 credit independent project in a second year of study. The core modules for this path are Research Lab, Extended Project, Embodied Practice and Investigative Practice. Embodied Practice and Investigative Practice are delivered by our partner organisations, Independent Dance and Siobhan Davies Dance. In addition to these three core modules, you can choose one further module from the module menu. This pathway is designed for dance professionals/exceptional early graduates and movement practitioners with a strong grounding in somatic practice.

- Completion of Embodied Practice is normally a pre-requisite for study on Investigative Practice
- Students must complete the taught component (4 modules) in their first year before progressing on to the extended independent project the following year.

Independent Dance

Independent Dance (ID) is an artist-led organisation based at Siobhan Davies Studios, providing a responsive framework to support, sustain and stimulate dance artists in their ongoing development as professionals. It provides a specialist and coherent programme offering opportunities to learn, deepen enquiry, share practice and exchange ideas as part of an interdependent international community. ID works to foster greater international exchange, raise the profile of independent artists' practice, and embraces opportunities that enable artists to interact with a wider artistic and cultural field and contribute to the growth and evolution of the art form.

Siobhan Davies Dance

Siobhan Davies Dance is one of the UK's leading dance organisations. Based at Siobhan Davies Studios the company devises situations in which dance is recognised as a physical model of thought, one that can be experienced in the moment of its doing, whose choreographic information becomes part of a lasting and transferable knowledge, benefitting practices beyond dance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate critical awareness of techniques and methodologies for creating performance work in order to support creativity in practice-based research.

- Demonstrate an ability to synthesise, interpret and interrogate complex ideas from a variety of perspectives
- Engage critically and practically with methods for creative practice, documentation and presentation.

Skills

- Set frameworks for purposeful engagement in practice
- Propose, formulate, develop, sustain and bring to completion substantial individual research over an extended period
- Locate, inform and extend your creative practice through in-depth engagement with wider frameworks of artistic practice and existing bodies of knowledge

Values and attitudes

- Engage in practical research as a means to interrogate complex, unpredictable or contradictory perspectives embedded in arts practice.
- Adopt a professional, reflective, and responsible attitude to your practice
- Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the role that art plays in shaping the socio-political and cultural context.
- Develop as a resourceful independent, self-critical and investigative researcher

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

Key Progression Points

The programme consists of two parts, with a progression point at the end of Part 1 (the taught programme). Students who have yet to complete the taught modules due to failure will normally be required to complete any outstanding assessments before embarking on the 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).

Options/Electives

The programme commences in September each academic year, and continues until September of the third 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. The taught component of the programme can be made up by either the Transdisciplinary modules or the Dance Professional Practice modules

MFA Creative Practice: Transdisciplinary:

Core (compulsory) Modules:

Research Lab	30 credits
Project	140 credits

Elective Modules

You must select three elective modules (90 credits). The following is an indicative list of the electives available on the programme. Not all modules may be offered in any one year and there may be scheduling conflicts which may render some choices 'unavailable'.

Self-Directed	30 credits
Performance Making	30 credits
Body, Space, Place	30 credits
Dance & the Moving Image	30 credits
Writing the Body	30 credits
<i>Embodied Practice</i>	<i>30 credits</i>

Where eligible, students can elect to do Embodied Practice as part of their taught programme of study. (Eligibility is determined through interview/audition with Lead Tutor of the Dance Professional Path).

MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional:

Core (compulsory) Modules

Research Lab	30 credits
Embodied Practice	30 credits
Investigative Practice	30 credits
Extended Project	140 credits

Elective Modules

You must select one elective modules (30 credits). The following is an indicative list of the electives available on the programme. Not all modules may be offered in any one year and there may be scheduling conflicts which may render some choices 'unavailable'

Self-Directed	30 credits
Performance Making	30 credits
Body, Space, Place	30 credits
Dance & the Moving Image	30 credits
Writing the Body	30 credits

Taught Modules

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Research Lab	D70002	30	Core	No	7
Self-Directed	D70009	30	Elective	Yes	7
Performance Making	D70021	30	Elective	Yes	7
Body, Space, Place	D70025	30	Elective	Yes	7
Dance & the Moving Image	D70026	30	Elective	Yes	7
Writing the Body	D70027	30	Elective	Yes	7
Embodied Practice	D70028	30	dependent on route of study	No for DP/ Yes for TD	7
Investigative Practice	D70029	30	Core (DP only)	No	7

Project/Dissertation Module

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Extended Project	D70011	140	Core	No	7

You are normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before progressing to the extended project in your second year.

Pre and Co-requisites

Not applicable

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Total contact hours [235 hours]

The **MFA Creative Practice** assumes 2600 notional learning and teaching hours with average contact time of approximately 55 hours per module (naturally this will vary depending on your selected modules, please refer to individual module specifications to determine precise number of hours per module).

Total self-directed study hours [2365 hours]

Total learning and teaching hours [2600 hours]

Learning and teaching methods

Depending on the modules you select, learning will take place in a variety of different contexts including taught sessions or lectures, workshops, seminars, in studio tutorials, and individual study and research. All studio based 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.

Placements and Exchanges

Not available

ASSESSMENT

Overview

The majority of modules are assessed within a practice-based format, often by performance or presentation with supporting reflective/contextual documentation. Usually, following a practical assessment task, there will be an opportunity to discuss the work presented with tutors. This is normally led by tutors but also includes opportunities for peer involvement. Assessors will examine the submitted supporting documentation as part of the assessment. In some modules, the assessment task is wholly written in the form of an essay or proposal and does not include a practical component. 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.

What do I have to do to pass?

You must achieve a pass mark of at least 50% in each module taken 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 Extended Project, Research Lab, Embodied Practice (unless on TD programme) and Investigative Practice.

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 may only be applied to the following modules:

- Body, Space, Place
- Performance Making
- Dance & the Moving Image
- Self-Directed
- Writing the Body
- Embodied Practice (Transdisciplinary only)

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
Postgraduate Diploma	7	120
Postgraduate Certificate	7	60

Classification	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

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

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Applicants are expected to have an appropriate first degree (or an equivalent qualification) or 5 years' professional experience. 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.

Entry to the programme is dependent upon selection at audition. If the applicant's practice is in dance/dance theatre, they would upload or provide an online link to choreographed work that they have created or an excerpt of a rehearsal, workshop or class in which they are an active participant.

Applicants should also include; commentary on the material presented, and on the process for its creation/devising/realization. If their practice is in an other art form, they should upload or provide an online link to; material evidence of your dance/movement ability; and substantial evidence of current artistic practice (such as design portfolio, scripts, evidence of theatre direction, acting involvement, etc.). The visual material must be accompanied by explanatory notes that set the context of the material.

Applicants will also be required to submit 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 Creative Practice
- The nature of their intended research and a draft projected timeline with indicated outputs of research (which is understandably subject to change)

An interview (phone/online interview is acceptable) will also be required

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 four 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.