

TRINITY LABAN

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION (UNDERGRADUATE)

Programme	<i>CertHE Foundations of Dance (Subject to validation for 2026 entry)</i>
Awarding Institution	<i>Trinity Laban</i>
Location of study	<i>Laurie Grove and Laban Building</i>
Mode and duration	<i>1 year full time</i>
UK Credits	<i>120 (Cert HE Level 4)</i>
ECTS	<i>N/A</i>

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Find your rhythm with our CertHE Foundations of Dance, a transformative course designed to enable you to explore an extensive range of dance styles.

This course will refine your dance technique in styles including ballet, commercial, contemporary, hip hop and jazz. You'll also get to build your creative and choreographic skills within a multi-disciplinary arts-based environment, working with teachers and peers to find the right route into dance for you. You'll gain experience of conservatoire training, with opportunities for performance and preparation skills for auditions.

It serves as the perfect springboard for your artistic journey, whether you seek a focused period to perfect your artistry or aim to later pursue specialist / vocational training.

Key features

- *Dance training in styles including ballet, commercial, contemporary, aerial, hip hop and jazz.*
- *Regular performance workshops and auditions preparation training, including the opportunity to have mock auditions.*
- *There will also be the chance to work with Music and Dance students during our CoLab festival.*

After completing the course, students can choose to audition for a range of undergraduate options, including dance and musical theatre pathways.

This course is new for 2026 and is subject to validation.

For international students it may additionally provide a route to develop your English Language skills alongside intensive vocational training.

Students may also wish to use the programme as a platform for access to London's vibrant cultural life.

On successful completion of this programme, participating students receive a transcript including a full listing of the learning undertaken.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- 1. Knowledge and understanding of the technical requirements of the different dance styles and genres.*
- 2. Knowledge and understanding of how to relate technique and creative development to choreography and performance practice.*
- 3. Knowledge and understanding of how research and contextual information can be used to inform practice and performance;*
- 4. Understanding of healthy and safe practices.*

Skills

- 1. The ability to use critical and analytical skills to select appropriate material for performance*
- 2. The ability to retain and reproduce basic technical skills in a range of dance styles*
- 3. The ability to connect acquired creative and technical skills to performance and class work*
- 4. The ability to establish meaningful connections between disciplines and use this to enhance practice*
- 5. The ability to respond effectively to feedback from peers, tutors, creative teams, and to own discoveries made during personal evaluation processes*
- 6. The ability to employ research skills to investigate contextual and theoretical information and use the findings to support practical work*

Values and attitudes

Display awareness of professional conduct, including:

- 1. Presentation*
- 2. Excellent attendance and punctuality*
- 3. Self-discipline*
- 4. Recognise and value healthy and safe practices*
- 5. Work with tutors/a Creative Team and as part of a supportive company towards the shared goal of a high-quality end product*

6. *Provide evidence of the development of various strategies for personal maintenance and wellbeing*
7. *Manage own time and workload efficiently and effectively.*

Curriculum

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
<i>Skills and Techniques</i>		90	Core	No	4
<i>Preparing to Audition</i>		10	Core	No	4
<i>Preparing to Perform</i>		20	Core	No	4

Teaching and Learning

Learning takes place through a blend of formal tuition, experiential learning, and personal study.

- *Individual one-to-one lessons, intensive group tuition, and performance workshops.*
- *Develop and contextualise individual learning within rehearsal and performance settings during the Preparing to Perform module.*
- *Refine audition technique during the Preparing to Audition module.*
- *Cross-disciplinary work through participation in Trinity Laban's annual CoLab festival.*
- *Self-study and access to the conservatoire's many learning resources.*
- *Development of independent learning strategies including formulating personal programmes of study and targets for learning.*
- *Collaborative learning with students from other courses at different levels (e.g. creating work with other musicians, dancers and / or other artists).*

Termly breakdown of activity

Terms 1 & 2

The first two terms have been designed to support the development, application and consolidation of your dance skills and techniques. These lessons have been designed to support the development of a broad toolkit of dance related skills that will support transition into a range of dance focused full-time degree level training options.

Skills and Techniques development is focused into three separate toolkits: Technical, Creative and Portfolio:

*The **Technical toolkit** focuses on the development of strong technical foundations in dance. Recognizing the modern context in which the Cert HE Foundations of Dance exists, styles include: Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, Hip Hop, Latin and Tap.*

*The **Creative toolkit** focuses on the development of skills that will support and complement a range of dance pathways: Areas of focus will include Acting through Dance, Voice/Singing, Improvisation, Storytelling, Choreography.*

*The **Portfolio toolkit**, focuses on exposing students to a wide breadth and experiences: Masterclasses, workshop and lectures in performance techniques not covered elsewhere on the programme such as aerial, circus, outreach and engagement, and preparing for auditions.*

In addition, students will develop audition techniques with a module designed to equip you with the planning skills and key research and techniques necessary to select and prepare effectively for dance auditions. Students will also learn how to identify and apply for courses at those institutions which suit their particular skillset and needs.

Term 3

You will undertake a five-week performance project which culminates in three performances.

In the final term students will engage in the Preparing to Perform module, providing a performance platform that will facilitate the application and adaption of the developing technical skills to meet the needs of a variety of dance/theatre repertoire and outputs. Work will include a multitude of different danced based outputs including different ways of choreographing and creating dance-based work that supports a range of performance outputs

Assessment

- *Practical tasks*
- *Assessed classes*
- *Rehearsal and Performance*
- *Skills & Techniques portfolio*
- *Working Journals*
- *Research activities*
- *Development of audition repertoire*
- *Self-critical analysis*

You will receive regular formative feedback in class from teachers, and written feedback (including an indicative grading) following each formal assessment point.

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

In achieving institutional learning and teaching goals, Trinity Laban aims to produce graduates from our Undergraduate programmes who (variously through their differing programmes of study):

- 1. Are highly creative and resourceful and exhibit technical excellence within their field*
- 2. Have outstanding performance skills*
- 3. Are familiar with the possibilities offered by and through collaborative forms of working*
- 4. Have extensive knowledge of the context within which dance/music work is created and performed*
- 5. Are confident in the creative use of technologies within their art form*
- 6. Have the skills to develop as effective project leaders, able both to devise and manage their own performance projects, workshops, research, and to participate as team members in such activities*
- 7. 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*
- 8. Have the potential to articulate persuasively and encourage and direct the participation of others in their art form*
- 9. 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.*

These attributes relate also to the Cert HE, acknowledging what should be achieved by the end of Level 4.

ASSESSMENT

CertHE Foundations of Dance students are assessed in a number of ways:

- Practical assessment in the form of a mock audition (Skills and Techniques)*
- Reflective Journal (Skills and Techniques)*
- Written portfolio assessment (Preparing to Audition)*
- Practical assessment in the form of a rehearsal environment, which allows students to demonstrate professional conduct skills which are not measured in other assessment tasks (Preparing to Perform)*

The mock audition assessment enables students to prepare for auditions for a three-year programme which tends to be the primary motivation for enrolling on the Cert HE. Similarly, the Preparing to Audition module requires students to compile an audition portfolio which they are then able to use for their personal audition requirements.

The rehearsal assessment for the Preparing to Perform module sets up the students for ensemble working akin to what they will experience on a three-year programme.

The assessments have been designed to include a range of assessment methods, testing technical and performance skills, reflection, analysis and writing skills, as well as rehearsal skills and etiquette.

There is a fixed formative assessment point for the Skills and Techniques module, giving both staff and students the opportunity to reflect on progress and adapt lessons/practice accordingly.

Assessment deadlines are spaced out so that students can focus on one main assessment at a time, and students are supported in weekly tutorial sessions.

What do I have to do to pass?

To pass the year and receive a formal certificate of participation, you must satisfactorily PASS (40%) each of the modules that constitute the Programme. The mark awarded for each assessment will be based on the module-specific assessment criteria and the Institutional Generic Marking Criteria.

Failed assessments may be retrieved by resitting. The Assessment Board will determine resit opportunities and arrangements based on the Assessment Regulations for Taught Programmes.

AWARDS

This Programme of study leads to a Level 4 CertHE award. The CertHE is awarded without classification.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The programme is designed for less experienced students and those who wish to develop their skills before pursuing additional vocational training. A wide variety of candidates may find this programme to be suitable, for example: gap-year students preparing for entry to a conservatoire or university; those seeking to further develop their dance skills before auditions; those wishing to consolidate their interest in dance prior to university interviews; those seeking to develop their artistic identity whilst enjoying London's cultural scene; or those seeking to establish a more secure technique or understanding of the industry before making decisions about further study.

Trinity Laban places greater emphasis on its own auditions than on formal qualifications. As a guide, please note that the course is aimed at students considering entry to undergraduate study at conservatoire or university, and places are offered to candidates who demonstrate the potential to reach that level within the year.

For students whose first language is not English, the minimum standard for entry onto the programmes is IELTS 5.5 in all four areas. This is also the minimum requirement for Student visas. Alternative English Language assessments may be considered.

International students benefit from all the facilities and performance opportunities available at the Conservatoire and enjoy the unique experience of living and studying within our vibrant international community. Successful applicants will normally qualify for a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.

CAREERS

Trinity Laban's programmes of study include extensive preparation for a professional career in the performing arts; the CertHE programme provides an introduction to such vocational training. The career trajectory of an individual student will be (in part) determined by the type of degree programme s/he progresses to on completion of the CertHE programme.

Through our tutorial system, students receive regular advice from the Programme Leader on their potential next steps and the options available to them for further study, based on their interests and their strengths and weaknesses. Outside speakers are regularly invited to deliver sessions on a range of careers related topics.

It is anticipated that graduates from this programme will develop their career based on their subject area focus, most choosing to audition for further study on three-year courses. Students from this type of programme have gone on to perform, direct/choreograph, compose, write and to teach in schools, colleges and universities.

Progression within Trinity Laban

- *Students who wish to progress to an undergraduate degree at Trinity Laban will need to apply to that programme in the standard way and meet the auditions and entry requirements of the relevant programme. Students from the CertHE Foundations of Dance will not automatically progress to an undergraduate degree at Trinity Laban.*