

TRINITY LABAN

Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

Programme	MFA Creative Practice
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban Conservatoire
Location of study	Laban Building/Independent Dance/Siobhan Davies Studios
Mode and duration	Full time
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. Dance or body-based creative 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 individual research. The MFA Creative Practice supports both emergent and professional dance artists and movement practitioners from different disciplines in the further development of their practice, facilitated by an environment of intellectual and creative enquiry.

The MFA Creative Practice aims:

- To foster the development of resourceful, self-motivated artists through an extended period of sustained enquiry and critical engagement in dance research
- To develop reflective and critically aware research practitioners who are skilled in articulating the reciprocity of theory and practice.
- To enable practitioners to explore and interrogate creativity in its many forms, taking account of the social, cultural, aesthetic and political contexts in which it is located.

- To develop artist's ability to address complex issues creatively and systematically and support problem-solving in a variety of artistic contexts through the engagement in practice-based research, including collaborative projects.
- To enable artists to rigorously develop, clearly articulate and evaluate their individual practice as research within its socio-cultural context.
- To foster a capacity for substantial and in-depth independent research over an extended period of time,
- To enable new understandings of the relational capacities of dance practices and their impacts on participants, audiences, stakeholders, in various contexts.
- To foster a capacity to create presentational frameworks that can coherently and accessibly articulate your research in process.

The programme offer is divided into two curated focus areas: *Transdisciplinary* and *Dance in Context*. 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, curatorial concerns within dance 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/teacher/researcher, understand its relevance in wider socio-cultural contexts, 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:

The Programme comprises 4 x 30 credit modules in the first year, plus an extended 140 credit research project in the 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 programme
- 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 in Context pathway.
- Students on the Transdisciplinary programme are not eligible to undertake Investigative Practice (only available for Dance in Context students)

- Students must complete the taught component (4 modules) in their first year before progressing to the Extended Project the following year.

MFA Creative Practice: Dance in Context:

The Programme comprises 4 x 30 credit modules in the first year, plus an extended 140 credit research project in the second year of study. Research Lab, Extended Project, Embodied Practice and Investigative Practice are all core to this path and in addition you can choose one further module from the module menu. Embodied Practice and Investigative Practice are delivered by our partner organisations: Independent Dance and Siobhan Davies Dance. This programme is designed for experienced dance professionals/movement practitioners and interdisciplinary artists, and exceptional early graduates with a strong grounding or interest in somatic practices as research methods.

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

Independent Dance

Artist-led since 1984, Independent Dance (ID) supports the development of dance through radical enquiry, learning, community-building, and audience engagement. ID is a research engine and 'home' organisation for a growing community of practitioners in London, the UK and around the world. Their public programme supports a wide range of accessible and interdisciplinary approaches to dance, somatic practices, improvisation and choreography. Co-designed with UK/international artists and partner organisations, the programme includes classes, talks, workshops, research, digital initiatives, and festivals. ID is based at Siobhan Davies Studios.

Siobhan Davies Dance

Siobhan Davies Dance (SDS) is artist and female-led and has been part of the contemporary dance landscape since the 1980s. Their RIBA award-winning studios are a public arts building located in the diverse and densely populated area of Elephant and Castle. They run activities that welcome people to be together in ways that prioritise sharing and collaboration. They host social gatherings, spaces to co-work and create classes for all abilities, performances, talks and free exhibitions. Their programme centres people who have experienced marginalisation, displacement, exclusion and violence. SDS believes that making time and space to dance and move is inherently political and offers tools to exist in the world. It encourages human contact, connection, self-expression and the negotiation and sharing of space.

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 and relational engagement in practice
- Propose, formulate and develop individual research within a clearly defined context
- Locate and inform your creative practice through critical engagement with wider organisational and systemic 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

Curriculum

Module Title	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Research Lab	30	Core	No	7
Performance Making	30	Elective	Yes	7
Body, Space, Place	30	Elective	Yes	7
Writing the Body	30	Elective	Yes	7
Dance & the Moving Image	30	Elective	Yes	7
Self-Directed	30	Elective	Yes	7
Embodied Practice	30	Elective/Core (DC only)	Yes if elective/No for DC	7

Investigative Practice	30	Core (DC only)	No	7
Extended Project	140	Core	No	7

Key Progression Points

The programme consists of a single part, however there is a progression point at the end of the taught programme (summer term). 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 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

MFA Creative Practice: Transdisciplinary:

Core Modules:

Research Lab	30 credits
Extended Project	140 credits

Module Options:

You must select three module options. The following is an indicative list of the modules available.

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 an interview with Lead Tutor of the Dance in Context pathway.*

MFA Creative Practice: Dance in Context:

Core Modules:

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

Module Options:

You must select one module option. The following is an indicative list of the modules available.

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

Learning and Teaching

Total contact hours 220 hours

Total self-directed study hours 2380 hours

Total learning 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, 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.

Assessment

Most 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 a 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?

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). There may also be a requirement for you to achieve a minimum mark in each assessment. Where this is the case, it will be stated in the module specification. Rules applying to compensation can be found in the Academic 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

Admissions criteria

Applicants are expected to have a UK undergraduate degree in an appropriate or related subject, or an overseas award of equivalent standard. Exceptionally, applicants without formal qualifications but with appropriate levels of professional experience will be considered for direct entry into postgraduate study. The details of relevant professional experience should be detailed in the application.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language must achieve a minimum of IELTS Band 6.5 overall, with a minimum of 5.5 in all four areas (Academic Test). Alternative English language qualifications may be considered and are listed on our website.

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 to minimise possible disruption to their studies owing to visa restrictions.

Entry to the programme is dependent upon selection through submission of a portfolio and an online interview. 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/realisation. If their practice is in another 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 (maximum two pages), outlining the following:

- The reasons they wish to carry out a research 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)