

TRINITY LABAN

MFA Dance Performance Programme Specification

Programme	MFA Dance Performance
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban Conservatoire
Location of study	Laban Building
Mode and duration	Full time over 2 years
UK Credits	260
ECTS	130

Summary Description

The MFA Dance Performance is a full-time programme taught over 2 years onsite at Trinity Laban. Students join the taught modules for MA Dance Performance in the first year, completing 120 credits. In the second year of study, students undertake a significant independent research module (Extended Project, 140 credits)

This programme seeks to interrogate questions around the shifting identity and qualitative challenges inherent in the evolving portfolio career of the dance performer. The programme centres the lived experience of the dancer as active agent in terms of both navigating their own learning and, ultimately, in navigating and shaping the professional field. Throughout the first year, students work both collectively and independently throughout a range of different modules; they are positioned as both performers and performance makers throughout the programme, fostering their capacity to create their own performance opportunities. Practice-based work is underpinned by regular engagement with embodied movement alongside a strong commitment to reflective practice, research and critical dialogue.

Activities involve classes, workshops, seminars, tutorials, supervision, creative rehearsals and performances. Students will be guided in the interrogation of their own relationship to the role of the performer, whilst deepening their understanding and skills in relation to the artistic, technical and ethical complexities inherent in dance performance and

performance making. Themes explored include artistic labour, power, value, relevancy, ethics, sustainability, presence in performance and others.

The Extended Project in the second year offers time and space for students to work independently with guidance and supervision on a research area of their choice which will demonstrate artistic ambition through innovative investigation of their performance practice.

Students on the MFA Dance Performance are immersed within the wider Graduate School at Trinity Laban and have the benefit of shared delivery and collaborative exchange across postgraduate dance programmes.

This Programme aims to

Support the development of advanced-level performers through access to professional dance makers, performers, collaborative environments and performance opportunities. **(Craft)**

Promote a culture of experimentation and exploration, enabling students to engage with and propose emerging and unfamiliar practices and ideas.
(Creativity)

Provide tools for reflective practice and critical thinking that enable the student to deepen their understanding of their own practice as well as that of others.
(Criticality)

Enable students to situate their practice within complex contextual frameworks, including artistic, social, theoretical, political and environmental.
(Contextualisation)

Foster a community of learners who can work responsibly, respectfully and resourcefully in both collective and independent endeavours **(Collaboration)**

Empower students with the skills and confidence to communicate their ideas clearly and creatively to a range of different audiences **(Communication)**

To foster a capacity for substantial and in-depth independent research over an extended period **(Criticality)**

Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

LO1 - Situate and reflect on your practice as performer/maker within a systematic and comprehensive understanding of different processes, practices and enquiries within the field of dance performance, both established and emerging. **(Contextualisation)**

LO2 - Locate and resource your practice within appropriate theoretical frameworks and research methodologies. **(Contextualisation)**

LO3 - Employ a sophisticated level of reflective awareness and critical engagement, both of your own practice and that of others, understanding your positionality within the field. **(Criticality)**

Skills

LO4 - Demonstrate a sophisticated capacity to synthesise and apply embodied technical and creative techniques and understandings within your practice as performer/maker. **(Craft)**

LO5 - Articulate ideas confidently and clearly to audiences and collaborators, demonstrating an appreciation of different perspectives, understandings and interpretations. **(Communication)**

LO6 - Demonstrate sophisticated levels of innovation and originality in developing new insights and ideas. **(Creativity)**

LO7 - Engage meaningfully in collaborative processes, understanding the complexities of collective endeavours and multiple experiences/perspectives. **(Collaboration)**

Values and attitudes

LO8 - Engage in practice and research as means to interrogate complex, unpredictable or contradictory perspectives embedded in arts practice. **(Contextualisation)**

LO9 - Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the role that art plays in shaping socio-political, environmental and cultural contexts, and how you might situate your practice within this wider framework. **(Contextualisation)**

LO10- Adopt a professional, reflective, responsible, ethical and sustainable attitude to your own creative and performance practice. **(Criticality)**

LO11 - Cultivate a professional, respectful and compassionate approach in the way in which you work with others. **(Collaboration)**

LO12 - Develop as a resourceful independent, self-critical and investigative researcher **(Criticality)**

Curriculum

Module Title	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Performance Making	30	Core	Yes	7
Performance Practice	40	Core	No	7
Performance Research and Reflection	20	Core	Yes	7
Research Lab	30	Core	No	7
Extended Project	140	Core	No	7

Key Progression Points

Students need to have completed the 120-credit taught programme and passed the Research Lab module to be able to progress onto Extended Project

Learning and Teaching

Total contact hours: 640 (approx)

Please note that the following figures are indicative/estimated and may vary slightly from year to year depending on activities:

Group Studio Practice (Embodied/technique classes)	185
Group Studio Practice (Creative workshops/processes/rehearsals)	305
Group sharings of work in progress	10
Production/Performance Activity	15
Seminars/Lectures	90
Field trips	5
Tutorials/Supervision	30

Total self-directed study hours: 1,960 (approx)

Total learning hours: 2,600

Learning and teaching methods

Group Studio activity (technique classes, creative processes)
Group Production and Performance activity
Group workshops/seminars
Group field trips
Individual tutorials and supervision

Assessment

A range of different assessment modes are employed throughout the programme including:

Performance
Observed assessment of process and performance (continuous)
Reflective document (including self-assessment)
Self-interview (with reference list)
Research Proposal
Annotated Bibliography
Ethics Submission
Q&A
Contextualising document (written)
Contextualising documentation (negotiated - could include podcasts, artist statement, verbal presentation/Q&A, video essay, zine article, academic dissertation, sketchbooks, reflective journal)

What do I have to do to pass?

You must achieve a pass mark of at least 50% in each module 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 40 credits), provided that a mark of no less than 45% has been achieved in the module to be compensated. Where this is the case it will be stated in the module specification. Compensation is not permitted for the Project or Research Lab modules. Rules applying to compensation can be found in the Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes

Awards

Master of Fine Arts	7	260
Master of Arts	7	180

With Distinction	70

Postgraduate Diploma	7	120
Postgraduate Certificate	7	60

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 will need to demonstrate a level of dance performance practice, either at an admissions workshop or through video application, that is commensurate with study at master's level.

Admissions workshops will include a mixture of taught materials with creative tasks and improvisation, alongside opportunities for group discussion and individual interviews with the Programme Leader.

Online applicants submit a video portfolio which includes the following:

- Show-reel (max 5 mins)
- Physical response to creative task (1 minute)
- Personal statement and verbal commentary on creative task (2 minutes)

In addition, for the MFA, applicants should upload a proposal, outlining:

- The reasons you wish to carry out an independent project over a full academic year.
- Your suitability for extended independent research in the context of an MFA course.
- The nature of your intended research and a draft project timeline with indicated research outputs (which is understandably subject to change).

Selected applicants will then be invited for an online interview.

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.

Students who have registered on the MA Dance Performance will have the opportunity to apply to transfer to the MFA Dance Performance for yearlong independent research in the Extended Project Module. Transfer is subject to application (i.e., MFA proposal, as instructed in the MFA application) and approval by the Programme Leader.

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.

