TRINITY LABAN

MFA Dance Science Programme Specification

Programme	MFA Dance Science
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban Conservatoire
Location of study	Year 1: Laban Building, Year 2: Laban Building or Online
Mode and duration	2 years 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 wholistic 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 professional practice 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 dance 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. Students may choose to complete the second year online or in person.

Programme Aims:

- To enable students to develop an advanced theoretical knowledge of key areas of dance and performance science and to apply that knowledge effectively into practice.

- To provide an in-depth understanding of scientific theories, research methods, and their application across a variety of dance contexts.

- To cultivate students' ability to critically analyse and evaluate complex, incomplete or contradictory areas of knowledge.

- To promote interdisciplinary examination of dance practice and performance, integrating perspectives from multiple disciplines.

- To foster students' ability to apply scientific knowledge to enhance individual and contextual dimensions of dance practice and performance.

- To encourage appreciation and critical reflection on the complexities of integrating embodied and scientific practices.

- To provide students with advanced research, professional, and applied dance science experiences in both laboratory and field-based settings.

- To produce graduates to design, lead, and disseminate innovative research and professional projects, actively engaging and contributing to the advancement of dance science research and application.

- To create a learning environment that foster professional engagement and leadership, innovation and creativity, 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 demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

1. Demonstrate extended knowledge and critical understanding of theoretical, empirical, and professional developments across the key disciplines of dance science. (Contextualisation)

2. Demonstrate critical awareness and advanced knowledge of research paradigms, methodologies, methods, and measurement techniques relevant to dance science research. (Contextualisation)

3. Synthesise, interpret, and interrogate complex ideas from a variety of perspectives. (Criticality)

4. Critically evaluate the subjectivity and complexity of embodied and experiential knowledge within dance science research. (Criticality)

5. Critically reflect on how research-informed principles can enhance individual and contextual dimensions of dance practice and performance. (Criticality)

6. Understand the dynamic and changing nature of careers in dance and performance, considering the global challenges of dancers and institutions. (Contextualisation)

Skills

7. Apply and integrate multi- and interdisciplinary approaches to examine and enhance dance practice and performance across diverse contexts and populations. (Craft)

8. Demonstrate advanced technical and methodological competencies in research design, data collection, and analysis using laboratory, field-based, and digital tools. (Craft)

9. Work independently and collaboratively with faculty, peers and others in both in-person and digital contexts, demonstrating initiative and leadership. (Collaboration)

10. Analyse and responds to complex scenarios both systematically and creatively, demonstrating autonomy, critical judgements, and initiative in planning and implementing solutions. (Creativity)

11. Propose, design, and implement well justified, robust independent research, with ethical awareness and clear consideration of appropriate implementation and dissemination in dance contexts. (Craft)

12. Communicate and disseminate knowledge and research to specialist and general audiences following scholarly and professional standards. (Communication)

Values and attitudes

13. Demonstrate initiative, flexibility, and personal responsibility in self-directed and shared academic, research, and professional contexts. (Collaboration)

14. Develop as a resourceful, self-directed, reflective, and independent learner and researcher. (Craft)

15. Demonstrate openness and initiative in advancing their knowledge and understanding and in developing new skills to a high level. (Craft)

16. Demonstrate integrity in upholding ethical considerations in dance science research and practice, including respect for codes of conduct and practice, standards, rules, and responsibilities. (Collaboration)

17. Value and appreciate contextual and individual factors of equality, diversity, accessibility, and sustainability within in professional practice. (Contextualisation)

18. Critically engage with the process of research and professional development arising from independent inquiry. (Criticality)

Curriculum

Module Title	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Research Methods in Dance Science	30	Core	No	7
Foundations in Dance Science	30	Core	No	7
Research Practice 1: Quantitative Methods	15	Core	Yes	7
Research Practice 2: Qualitative and Mixed Methods	15	Core	Yes	7
Applications in Dance Science	30	Core	Yes	7
Extended Project	140	Core	No	7

Key Progression Points

The MFA programme consists of two parts: the five modules in the taught programme and the Extended Project. Students are normally required to pass all taught modules in the programme in order to progress to Extended Project. 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 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).

Elective Components – Applications in Dance Science

The Applications in Dance Science module allows students to tailor their studies by electing two (2) components aligned with their specialist interests and career goals. These components deepen disciplinary knowledge and applied understanding in chosen areas. Students may also audit additional components, supporting broader engagement across the field of dance science. If an insufficient number of students choose a component, this may not be offered. If a component is not be offered, you will be advised as soon as possible and given help to choose an alternative.

Applications in Dance Science Components
Strength & Conditioning in Dance
Movement & Technique Analysis
Performance Psychology
Dance Training & Education

Pre and Co-requisites

Full time MFA Students complete modules in the chronological sequence over two years. The order of study must be maintained as follows:

- Research Practice 1: Quantitative Methods and Research Practice: Qualitative Methods can only be taken after Research Methods in Dance Science.

- Applications in Dance Science can only be taken after Foundations in Dance Science.

- Extended Project can only be taken after all preceding modules were completed.

Programme Structure

MFA Full Time

Year 1:

- Research Methods in Dance Science
- Foundations in Dance Science
- Research Practice 1: Quantitative Methods
- Research Practice 2: Qualitative and Mixed Methods
- Applications in Dance Science

Year 2:

- Extended Project (in person or online)

Learning and Teaching

Total contact hours [281 Hours]

With an emphasis on digitally enhanced learning, indicative contact hours include in-person learning, alongside synchronous and asynchronous online learning, and individual and group tutorials.

Total self-directed study hours [2319 hours]

Total learning hours [2600 hours]

Learning and teaching methods

Learning and teaching are delivered through in-person and digital environments. Students engage in lectures, seminars, symposia, practical and laboratory workshops, and tutor- and peer-led discussions. These sessions are complemented by one-to-one and group tutorials, as well as Skills Workshops with Academic Support staff. Learning progressively integrates theory and practice, encouraging critical reflection and independent inquiry. Students will participate in collaborative and practice-based activities within and beyond the conservatoire, fostering professional and crossdisciplinary engagement. Self-directed study underpins all modules, supported by access to the Dance Science Laboratory, digital learning resources, and academic

guidance that promote autonomy and applied understanding across diverse learning contexts.

The second year of the MFA is the Extended Project, which can be taken in person or online. Alongside yearlong in-depth independent research, MFA students extend their learning through a range of professional practice activities within and beyond Trinity Laban. These may include auditing additional module components, undertaking placements or internships, attending research seminars and conferences (e.g. One Dance UK, IADMS), and contributing to knowledge exchange projects and research activities, such as CoLab and staff research. Students are encouraged to engage in performances, sharings, and collaborative research to extend their knowledge, enhance their professional portfolios and networks, and develop transferable skills relevant to careers in dance science. There are two mandatory MFA Sharings in the second year, where both in-person and online students come together to share their research progress (see Extended Project module specifications). With support from the Programme Leader, each student designs a personalised plan of enrichment and professional development activities that align with their individual interests and career goals.

Placements and Exchanges

Optional placement and/or study abroad opportunities are available each year, subject to application and eligibility. While not required for programme completion, these can form part of students' professional practice. Placements and exchange experiences provide valuable opportunities for additional learning, professional engagement, and skill development. Information about available options and how to apply will be communicated by the Programme Leader.

Assessment

Assessment methods promote critical thinking, synthesis of knowledge, and application of scientific principles to dance practice, with a particular emphasis on fostering transferable and employable skills relevant to careers in dance science. Students are evaluated through a range of written, oral, and practical tasks such as research proposals, multidisciplinary portfolios, group lab reports and poster presentations, workshop design and delivery, culminating in a journal-style research article and academic presentation. Assessments reflect professional and academic expectations within dance science, with both individual and group work in digital and in-person formats. Formative assessment is embedded throughout including progressive tasks, tutorials, feedback on drafts, in-class presentations, and peer discussions; all guided to support reflection, skill development, and progressive achievement of module and programme learning outcomes.

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 Research Methods in Dance Science, Foundations in Dance Science and the Project.

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. Students who successfully complete the taught programme but not the 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

Applicants will normally hold a UK undergraduate degree 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). Alternatives English language qualifications may be considered and are listed on our website.

For the MFA Dance Science Programme, all applicants will be asked to submit a Dance Science Writing Supplement. The Writing Supplement includes a Personal Statement and Academic Writing. If you are only applying to Dance Science programmes, the Personal Statement may be the same as your UCAS Personal Statement. Applicants applying to more than one programme on UCAS may use the Personal Statement in the Writing Supplement to expand on their interest in Dance Science specifically. For

the Academic Writing, applicants are asked to choose and answer to three questions (300 words each) from a list of Dance Science related topics.

MFA applicants must also submit a Project Proposal (max 2 pages), outlining the following:

- The motivations to take on an independent extended project over one academic year (their second year of study)
- Their preparedness for extended independent research, including relevant academic, professional, or practical experience, and how this supports their proposed MFA project.
- The nature of their intended research and a draft projected timeline (which is understandably subject to change)

Applicants to the MFA will be invited to attend an online interview. The interview focuses on the applicant's motivation and preparedness to undertake an independent research project, as well as a discussion of the feasibility and relevance of the research proposal.

Applicants seeking direct entry into the second year of the MFA may be considered, following completion of the standard MFA application and providing evidence for recognition of prior learning.

Selection is by scrutiny of the applicant's written application and interview.

Students who have registered on the MSc Dance Science will have the opportunity to apply to transfer to the MFA Dance Science for yearlong independent research in the Extended Project Module. Extended Project may be taken in person or online. 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 in order to minimise possible disruption to their studies owing to visa restrictions. Applicants must specify at the time of application if they are seeking to complete the second year of MFA study in-person or online. International students applying for the second year online will proceed with a 1-year visa application for the first year of in-person study.