

BA (Hons) Dance

Programme specification document

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Overview

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath School of Music and Performing Arts
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Dance
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE
Routes available	Single

Professional Placement Year	Yes
Duration of award	3 years full-time, 4 years with Professional Placement Year
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	No
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	W500
Route code (SITS)	DANSIN
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Dance, Drama and Performance (2019)
Date of most recent approval	September 2022
Date specification last updated	May 2023

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the BSU Qualifications Credit Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Programme/Pathway	Regulations/Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date

Programme Overview

BA Dance is a physically and intellectually challenging programme that has a strong practical focus. You will immerse yourself in an exciting artistic environment that will support your development as a versatile and creative dance practitioner. The programme's focus on professional networking and placements will help ensure you are fully-equipped to explore the diverse range of employment options within the creative industries and beyond. The broad range of modules will give you regular opportunities to create and perform new work you have generated, to use dance to explore yourself and the world around you and to find your individual passion and focus.

Your physical training is an important feature of your programme and requires you to take part in daily technique and performance classes. There is a strong focus on developing an holistic understanding of safe and healthy dance practices in order to ensure that you can work in a sustainable and ethical manner. The majority of your training focuses on contemporary techniques; Cunningham, Release, Limon, somatic practices and contact improvisation are key elements and help to underpin your development as a versatile artist. The professional visiting artist classes give you a chance to experience a range of different styles and techniques to help broaden out your core skills in contemporary work.

Exploring creative ideas is central to the ethos of dance at Bath Spa and you will be encouraged to make work for both the live and digital arena. Modules in dance making and choreographic enquiry offer you the chance to create work for live performance both as an independent artist and working alongside others in a collaborative context. You will also have a chance to explore Screendance, different emerging digital technologies and how dance intersects with other art forms.

The course is designed to ensure that you consider from the outset how the skills you are developing will work within different professional contexts. You will work regularly with industry practitioners to develop a broad understanding of dance employment routes. By year 3 you will focus on developing a specialist area of study and preparing for the employment market. You can work on a professional performance project, complete a work-placement and undertake a substantial independent study.

BA Dance will support you to become increasingly sophisticated in your understand of the interplay between technical, creative and critical modes of enquiry in dance. On completion, you will have a flexible skillset that draws on the professional networks and approaches engendered by the programme, making you able to respond to the changing global landscape.

Programme Aims

1. Develop students' practical skills in performance and creative processes to enable them to engage in a diverse range of dance activities
2. Provide regular opportunities for interaction with the profession through engagement with different artists, companies and organisations
3. Foster the skills that are required to work both independently and in a range of collaborative and interdisciplinary contexts
4. Offer space to investigate a range of perspectives that develop a critical understanding of dance as an artistic and cultural phenomenon
5. Promote principles that aim to ensure that dance practices are safe, ethical and sustainable
6. Develop self-reflective, versatile and autonomous individuals who are prepared for the increasingly complex demands and challenges of a changing global landscape
7. Promote an awareness of the value of lifelong learning and an understanding of how subject specific skills can be applied to a range of employment scenarios

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	To critically engage with complex processes that enable you to analyse and refine movement material and/or ideas in a creative manner	To explore a range of creative processes that enable you to generate, structure and refine material and ideas in a creative manner	To explore a selection of choreographic devices that enable you to generate and structure material and ideas
A2	To articulate and experiment with skills in body knowledge and detailed technical competency in a range of movement practices	To apply core skills in body knowledge and technical competency across codified and non-codified movement practices	To acquire core skills in body knowledge across selected codified and non-codified movement practices
A3	To demonstrate the skills required to conceive, design, conduct and present materials for challenging and/or unpredictable scenarios	To exhibit a clear understanding of how to conduct and present projects for a range of different scenarios	To demonstrate an understanding of how to conduct and present a project for a specific dance activity
A4	To critically engage with theories and concepts that explore the relationship between the creation, presentation and/or reception of dance work	To apply your understanding of the relationship(s) between the creation, presentation and reception of dance work	To demonstrate comprehension of the connection between the creation, presentation and reception of dance work
A5	To evaluate how your skills and knowledge will enable you to operate as a professional in a range of dynamic employment markets	To identify how your skills and knowledge will enable you to operate within a range of employment markets	To identify how your skills and knowledge enable you to operate within the subject field
A6	To critically assess the ethical and sustainability implications and appropriateness of techniques to ensure that dance activities are undertaken in a safe environment for specific communities	To regularly engage and demonstrate key principles that promote safe, sustainable and ethical dance practices	To demonstrate an understanding of principles that promote safe dance practices
A7	To critically engage with theories and concepts that inform your dance practice.	To demonstrate an understanding and application of the theories and concepts that inform your dance practice.	To demonstrate comprehension of the theories and concepts that inform your dance practice.

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1	To demonstrate the critical and self-reflective skills necessary to consider and articulate a range of complex issues and ideas	To demonstrate the critical skills necessary to consider and articulate a range of issues and ideas	To demonstrate the analytical skills necessary to explore key concepts within the discipline
B2	To recognise dance as an artistic and cultural phenomenon in order to be able to engage critically with the theoretical frameworks and debates that surround the discipline	To engage with debates and principles associated with the discipline that recognise dance as an artistic and cultural activity	To recognise dance as an artistic and cultural activity
B3	To demonstrate the ability needed to collect, synthesise, analyse and evaluate data from a range of different sources	The ability needed to collect, synthesise, analyse and evaluate information	An understanding of how information can be collected, analysed and evaluated
B4	To identify and engage in practical research processes that allow the interplay between theory and practice to be explored	An understanding of how different processes can allow you to explore the interplay between theory and practice	An understanding of the relationship between theory and practice

C Skills for Life and Work

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
C1	Autonomous learning[3] (including time management) that shows the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and enables decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility.
C2	Team working skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making for effective work with others such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility for effective work with others.

C3	Communication skills that ensure information, ideas, problems and solutions are communicated effectively and clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	Communication skills commensurate with the effective communication of information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences in which key techniques of the discipline are deployed effectively.	Communication skills that demonstrate an ability to communicate outcomes accurately and reliably and with structured and coherent arguments.
C4	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate core competences and are commensurate with an ability to work at the interface of creativity and new technologies.	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the development of existing skills and the acquisition of new competences.	IT skills and digital literacy that provide a platform from which further training can be undertaken to enable development of new skills within a structured and managed environment.

[3] i.e. the ability to review, direct and manage one's own workload

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single

DANCE				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
4	DAN4101-20	Body in Training 1: The Healthy Dancer	20	C	
4	DAN4102-20	Dance Making 1	20	C	
4	DAN4103-20	Exploring Screendance	20	C	
4	DAN4104-20	Body in Training 2: The Mindful Dancer	20	C	
4	DAN4105-20	Dance Making 2	20	C	
4	DAN4106-20	Performance Project 1	20	C	
5	DAN5201-20	Body in Training 3: The Responsive Dancer	20	C	
5	DAN5202-20	Creative Worlds	20	C	
5	DAN5203-20	Performance Project 2	20	O	

5	DAN5204-20	Applied Techniques	20	C	
5	DAN5205-20	Performing Self	20	C	
5	DAN5206-20	Creative Lab	20	O	
6	DAN6205-20	The Company	20	O	
6	DAN6206 -20	Somatics for Performance, Health and Wellbeing	20	O	
6	DAN6202-20	Dancing Knowledge	20	O/R*	
6	DAN6201-40	Professional Practice	40	C	
6	DAN6203-20	Independent Project 20 credits	20	R*	
6	DAN6204-40	Independent Project 40 credits	40	R*	

Assessment methods

A wide range of different formative and summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. The rich diet of assessment tasks is designed to simulate professional work scenarios; this helps to ensure that the assessment strategy is preparing you for the workplace and beyond.

Practical assessment tasks help you to demonstrate your understanding of the creative and technical demands of the course. You will take part in live performances, practical improvisations and processed based tasks which will enable you to apply your skills to different scenarios. In addition essays, presentations, vivas and journals allow you to demonstrate your critical understanding of key issues within the discipline.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

BA Dance provides both simulated work experience and work placement opportunities to help to prepare you for a range of employment scenarios. Levels 4 and 5 begin to prepare you for employment by providing you with assessment tasks that align with the professional demands of the discipline. For example, you will regularly produce and present work for public performance. In addition, you will have an opportunity in each year to undertake an intensive week with a visiting professional artist or company and to connect with external artists regularly through the creative and performance modules.

The programme can also be taken as a 'Sandwich' degree, which is studied over 4 years and includes a year-long work placement in a sector of your choice. The placement year is completed between years 2 and 3 of your degree and counts for 120 Level 5 credits. During this time you will be able to utilise knowledge gained as part of your studies in a real work environment to gain 'hands on' experience. The University has a dedicated Careers & Employability team to help you find and prepare for a placement. Following your placement year, you will return to University to complete your final year of study.

Level 6 modules offer increased flexibility and allow you to focus on developing a specialist area to support your transition to the workplace or further study. In semester 1, you can opt to take part in a large scale professional performance project with a visiting guest company. During this project, you are assessed on a variety of roles that match your career aspirations. All students are required to take the Professional Practice module; this will require you to complete a work placement with a professional dance organisation and to make a detailed plan to support your career development. You will also undertake a substantial independent study in a topic area of your choosing that you will design, execute and manage to completion.

Additional Costs Table

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost
DAN6201-40 Professional Practice	Other	Travel costs to work placement, approximately £50 - £75
DAN6203-20 Independent Project	Other	This will be determined by the nature of your study
DAN6204-40 Independent Project	Other	This will be determined by the nature of your study

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Dance, we enable this...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	By creating a learning environment that aligns with the professional demands of the discipline. You will gain experience working in a range of collaborative contexts and build the skills and confidence you need to be able to work with and lead others.
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	By providing you with regular opportunities to create and present work in a diverse range of contexts. As you progress through the programme you will be asked to apply your existing skills in new and complex ways; this will allow you to develop strategies for managing diversity and change.
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	By developing you into a confident, reflective and articulate dance artist who has the confidence to engage successfully across disciplines. Creativity is at the heart of our ethos and you will be immersed in a learning environment that you will allow us to nurture your skills in this area.

4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	By providing you with the technical and creative skills needed to produce work for the digital arena. Our focus on digital exploration is specifically designed to allow you to explore the interface between dance and technology.
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	By asking you to work across cultural divisions with practitioners and colleagues who offer global perspectives. You will be encouraged to explore the study abroad programme and will also work alongside incoming students from the international exchange programme.
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	By engaging you in regular opportunities to design, execute and manage creative projects. The programme is specifically focused on allowing you to develop your artistic voice through the exploration of original ideas. To help you develop these skills you will be responsible for producing new creative work that becomes increasingly challenging as the programme progresses.
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	By encouraging you to demonstrate your understanding of dance as a cultural and artistic activity in order to engage critically with the theoretical frameworks of the discipline. You will develop an appreciation of yourself as a 'thinking body' and be confident to express this knowledge through both your own practice and written and oral forms.
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	By ensuring you develop a professional understanding of safe and sustainable working practices for the discipline. The collaborative nature of the programme will encourage you to work across cultural divisions, with practitioners and artists who offer global perspectives on the ethical concerns of our time.

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
All module codes updated		2023-24

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – Dance

Required: Blue Optional: Yellow Required*: Purple(see explanatory notes on page 2)

Single Honours	
Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core Modules	
DAN4101-20 Body in Training 1: The Healthy Dancer DAN4102-20 Dance Making 1 DAN4103-20 Exploring Screendance	DAN4104-20 Body in Training 2: The Mindful Dancer DAN4105-20 Dance Making 2 DAN4106-20 Performance Project 1
Rule Notes: N/A	
Level 5	
Core Modules	
DAN5201-20 Body in Training 3: The Responsive Dancer DAN5202-20 Creative Worlds or (see rule note below) DAN5205 Performing Self	DAN5204-20 Applied Techniques DAN5205-20 Performing Self or (see rule note below) DAN5202-20 Creative Worlds
Optional Modules	
DAN5203-20 Performance Project 2 or (see rule note below) DAN5206-20 Creative Lab	DAN5206-20 Creative Lab or (see rule note below) DAN5203 Performance Project 2
Rule Notes: The semester sequencing for DAN5203-20 and DAN5206-20, and for DAN5205-20 and DAN5202-20 are decided on an annual basis. Students are expected to take a minimum of 100 credits of Dance modules.	
Optional Professional Placement Year 120 credits	
Level 6	
Core Modules	

Single Honours	
DAN6201-40 Professional Practice (year long module)	
Required* Modules	
DAN6202-20 Dancing Knowledge	DAN6203-20 Independent Project
	DAN6204-40 Independent Project
Optional Modules	
DAN6205-20 The Company	
DAN6206-20 Somatics for Performance, Health and Wellbeing	
Rule Notes: Students are expected to take a minimum of 100 credits of Dance modules. Students must take a minimum of 40 credits from the Required* module selection	

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)	Intended Learning Outcomes															
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge							Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	
4	DAN4101-20	Body in Training 1: The Healthy Dancer	C		x				x	x				x	x		x	x	
4	DAN4102-20	Dance Making 1	C	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
4	DAN4103-20	Exploring Screendance	C	x			x				x	x	x		x		x	x	
4	DAN4104-20	Body in Training 2: The Mindful Dancer	C		x				x	x	x		x	x	x		x		
4	DAN4105-20	Dance Making 2	C	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
4	DAN4106-20	Performance Project 1	C		x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	
5	DAN5201-20	Body in Training 3: The Responsive Dancer	C		x	x			x	x					x	x	x		
5	DAN5202-20	Creative Worlds	C	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
5	DAN5203-20	Performance Project 2	O		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
5	DAN5204-20	Applied Techniques	C		x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		
5	DAN5205-20	Performing Self	C	x			x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
5	DAN5206-20	Creative Lab	O	x		x		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	

6	DAN6205-20	The Company	O	x	x	x	x	x					x		x	x	x	x
6	DAN6206 -20	Somatics for Performance, Health and Wellbeing	O	x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x
6	DAN6202-20	Dancing Knowledge	O/R*			x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
6	DAN6201-40	Professional Practice	C	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
6	DAN6203-20	Independent Project 20 credits	R*			x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
6	DAN6204-40	Independent Project 40 credits	R*			x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x

[1] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R, R*,O) ^[1]	Assessment method												
				Coursework				Practical						Written Examination		
				Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Performance	Practical Project	Improvisations	Presentation	Skills	Assessment	Viva	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)
4	DAN410 1-20	The Body in Training 1: The Healthy Dancer	C								x	x				
4	DAN410 2-20	Dance Making 1	C		x				x							
4	DAN410 3-20	Exploring Screendance	C						x		x					
4	DAN410 4-20	Body in Training 2: The Mindful Dancer	C		x							x				
4	DAN410 5-20	Dance Making 2	C		x				x							
4	DAN410 6-20	Performance Project 1	C					x					x			
5	DAN520 1-20	Body in Training 3: The Responsive Dancer	C							x		x				
5	DAN520 2-20	Creative Worlds	C		x				x							
5	DAN520 3-20	Performance Project 2	O					x			x					
5	DAN520 4-20	Applied Techniques	C				x					x				
5	DAN520 5-20	Performing Self	C		x			x								

5	DAN520 6-20	Creative Lab	O				x									
6	DAN620 5-20	The Company	O						x				x			
6	DAN620 6 -20	Somatics for Performance, Health and Wellbeing	O		x					x						
6	DAN620 2-20	Dancing Knowledge	O/R*				x									
6	DAN620 1-20	Professional Practice	C								x	x				
6	DAN620 3-20	Independent Project 20 credits	R*	x												
6	DAN620 4-40	Independent Project 40 credits	R*	x												

[1] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional
