

MA Dance (Re-Design from Sept 2021)

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)	MA
Intermediate awards available	PgCert, PgDip

Routes available	Single only
Duration of award	1 year full time, 2 years part time
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme ^[1]	Taught Postgraduate Framework
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	n/a
Route code (SITS)	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	There is no relevant Masters benchmark statement, but the BA honours Subject Benchmark Statement for Dance, Drama and Performance (2015) has provided some context.
Date of most recent approval	June 2021
Date specification last updated	June 2021

^[1]This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

Programme Overview

This MA Dance programme is designed to build your knowledge and skills of creative dance practices, and will appeal to entrepreneurial dance artists who are keen to develop their own practice. As part of the School of Music and Performing Arts the course sits within a dynamic, artistic community of learners and at the programme's heart is the creation and exploration of new work and creative ideas. There is an emphasis on supporting you to work with artists both within, and beyond the discipline, as well as working with different live and digital 'sites' as potential performance arenas. This approach aims to develop dance graduates who can be versatile and confident in managing a range of complex and dynamic scenarios.

The programme is delivered through a series of weekly practical workshops, lectures and seminars that allow you to explore your ideas and how these intersect with the ideas of others. Portfolio building forms an essential taught element of the course alongside individual enquiry into

self-selected areas of the profession. Developing an understanding of the demands and trends of the dance-related workplace is a key feature of the programme. The course is designed to support flexible, independent study, which allows those already working in the field to be able to continue with their practice.

Alongside your practical investigations you will also be given the opportunity to build your understanding of dance as a cultural, social and artistic phenomenon. The interplay between these conceptual ideas and your own creative outputs will be actively encouraged. You will develop skills in how to apply research and critical perspectives to different professional situations. The aim is to help prepare you for a range of career opportunities in the arts including, but not limited to, choreography, interdisciplinary performance practices, teaching and doctoral study.

Programme Aims

Throughout the course the programme aims to:

1. Provide a supportive and stimulating environment that facilitates the exploration of a range of creative dance practices
2. Promote an engagement with the discipline that encourages a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to dance making
3. Develop the critical thinking skills necessary to engage with dance as a cultural, social and artistic phenomenon
4. Examine approaches to research that encourage an understanding of the interplay between theory and practice
5. Provide an understanding of the demands and current trends of the professional dance arena
6. Develop versatile graduates who can deal with complex and diverse scenarios in a confident, creative and ethical manner

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)

A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

A1 The ability to apply a comprehensive understanding of practical techniques and knowledge to the exploration of creative ideas, processes and products

A2 Research skills in a range of practice-based methodologies that allow you to demonstrate how knowledge within the discipline can be created, evaluated and disseminated

A3 A comprehensive understanding of interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to dance making

A4 The ability to apply a systematic understanding and critical awareness of current debates within the field to your own practice and research interests

A5 The ability to demonstrate your knowledge of a range of professional skills necessary for employment in the dance sector and wider creative industries

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

B1 Critical and analytical skills necessary to be able to demonstrate a conceptual engagement with a range of issues and perspectives

B2 A systematic understanding of the discipline that shows that you have the ability to retrieve, generate and synthesize information from a variety of sources, and can apply that information in a range of different contexts

B3 Reflective learning skills necessary to be able to use both self-evaluation and critical feedback received from peers, tutors and the professional field to support your continuing professional development

B4 Problem solving skills that enable you to operate systematically and creatively in challenging situations, both independently and within a collaborative context

C Skills for Life and Work

C1 Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

C2 Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level

C3 Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically

C4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively

Intermediate awards

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

The flexible nature of the part time options through the programme means that there are 5 possible routes to the award of PgCert.

PgCert Option 1

A1, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, C4

PgCert Option 2

A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C3, C4

PgCert Option 3

A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, C4

PgCert Option 4

A1, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, C4

PgCert Option 5

A1, A3, A5, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, C4

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, C4

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

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

Subject offered as single and/or joint programme

MA Dance				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	DAN7001-30	Creative Practice 1	30	C	
7	DAN7002-15	Contemporary Issues and Perspectives	15	C	
7	DAN7003-15	Collaborative Engagement	15	C	
7	DAN7004-30	Creative Practice 2	30	C	
7	DAN7005-30	Professional Practice	30	C	
7	DAN7006-60	Final Major Project	60	C	

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in each module.

Where modules encourage an active interplay between theory and practice it is possible for you to negotiate a portfolio form of assessment that is appropriate for your investigation. A portfolio would normally contain a range of creative materials (e.g., live performance work, film etc.) and supporting documentation that provides evidence of articulation and evaluation of the process and, where applicable, the final product.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Work experience and placement opportunities

This programme has been designed to allow you to create work within specialist spaces that replicates a professional working environment. In this respect, the teaching and learning strategy is designed to provide you with regular opportunities to engage in proto-professional experiences. Your engagement on the programme may also be determined by your current professional activities; where appropriate these may form a key focus for your investigations. In addition, there may be opportunities for you to undertake a placement as part of the learning on the Professional Practice module if you wish to do so. You would have individual responsibility for arranging the placement directly with the organisation or individual in question, with the support of the module leader.

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In dance, this means...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	Gaining an understanding of how your skills will allow you to operate flexibly in a range of employment contexts in the creative industries and beyond. The different creative projects you undertake will give you the evidence you need to demonstrate how you can function effectively, both working independently and within a collaborative context.
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	You will build a portfolio of work that will provide examples of how you have undertaken complex, creative projects and can be adaptable and flexible with your practice.
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	Developing a distinctive artistic voice that reflects your individual research interests. In addition, you will be able to operate within an interdisciplinary and collaborative context with a range of practitioners from the field of dance and beyond, and be able to show how you can use these skills within your chosen profession
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Having the technical skills and understanding necessary to be able to employ different digital tools in a highly creative manner.
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	You will have the opportunity to study alongside students from different backgrounds in an environment that actively promotes the exchange of different cultural ideas.
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	Producing an original body of work that demonstrates your capacity for making/thinking about dance as a creative medium. You will be encouraged to seek ways to disseminate your work beyond BSU into the field(s) connected with your distinct areas of investigation.
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Having the confidence to synthesize your own ideas with key debates in the discourse and the skills necessary to communicate these in discussion and written forms.
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	You will have a clear knowledge of the professional responsibilities that are required within your chosen area of practice. You will be able to articulate an approach to your practice which demonstrates a sensitivity to the ethical concerns of both the discipline and beyond.

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

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 – MA Dance

MA Dance - Full Time Mode		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Creative Practice 1 (30 credits)	Creative Practice 2 (30 credits)	Final Major Project (60 credits)
Contemporary Issues and Perspectives (15 credits)	Professional Practice (30 credits)	
Collaborative Engagement (15 credits)		

MA Dance - Part Time Mode - Year 1	
Trimester 1	Trimester 2
Creative Practice 1 (30 credits)	Creative Practice 2 (30 credits)
Or	Or
Contemporary Issues and Perspectives (15 credits) AND Collaborative Engagement (15 credits)	Professional Practice (30 credits)

MA Dance - Part Time Mode - Year 2		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Creative Practice 1 (30 credits)	Creative Practice 2 (30 credits)	Final Major Project (60 credits)
Or	Or	
Contemporary Issues and Perspectives (15 credits) AND Collaborative Engagement (15 credits)	Professional Practice (30 credits)	

PG Diploma Dance	
<i>120 credits</i>	
Trimester 1	Trimester 2
Creative Practice 1 (30 credits)	Creative Practice 2 (30 credits)
Contemporary Issues and Perspectives (15 credits)	Professional Practice (30 credits)
Collaborative Engagement (15 credits)	

PG Cert Dance	
<i>Any 60 credits from the following modules</i>	
Trimester 1	Trimester 2
Creative Practice 1 (30 credits)	Creative Practice 2 (30 credits)
Contemporary Issues and Perspectives (15 credits)	Professional Practice (30 credits)
Collaborative Engagement (15 credits)	

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[4]	Intended Learning Outcomes												
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge					Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	DAN7001-30	Creative Practice 1	C	x		x					x	x	x		x	x
7	DAN7002-15	Contemporary Issues and Perspectives	C				x		x	x					x	x
7	DAN7003-15	Collaborative Engagement	C	x		x					x	x		x	x	
7	DAN7004-30	Creative Practice 2	C	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	
7	DAN7005-30	Professional Practice	C					x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	DAN7006-60	Final Major Project	C		x			x	x	x		x	x		x	

[4] 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) [5]	Assessment method								
				Coursework				Practical		Written Examination		
				Essay	Reflective Journal	Portfolio	Viva	Practical Creative Work	Presentation	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
7	DAN7001-30	Creative Practice 1	C		X			X				
7	DAN7002-15	Critical Perspectives	C						X			
7	DAN7003-15	Collaborative Engagement	O						X			
7	DAN7004-30	Creative Practice 2	C			X						
7	DAN7005-30	Professional Practice	O				X		X			
7	DAN7006-60	Final Major Project *	C	X	X	X	X	X	X			

**Please note that the precise nature of this submission will be determined by the nature of your investigation*

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