

Programme Specification

KEY FACTS

Programme:	MFA Creative Practice
School:	Graduate School
Department:	Laban
Type of study:	Full time only
UK Credits:	260
ECTS:	130

OUTLINE

Summary description

An opportunity to develop your creative dance practice over two years alongside other dance practitioners.

This programme enables you to choose elements of your own study – to create your own programme - selecting from a range of available modules delivered at Laban’s splendid facility in South East London, and to spend a considerable period of time developing an analytical stance for your own work within a practice led research environment. It offers the opportunity to develop work in a rigorous yet supportive environment and to gain the intellectual, practical and interpersonal skills needed for a career as a dance artist or practitioner in a related field.

Studio practice is supported by reflective study and by the conceptual framework of research as practice. The Programme comprises a taught element of 4 modules plus an extended independent practice-based project in your second year. The Programme is presented to allow your skills to flourish within a community of artists and academics, while the taught elements provide a critical framework through which to examine your work.

The programme aims are:

- To provide professional development opportunities for you as a graduate of dance, performing arts or humanities programmes,
- To develop you as a reflective practitioner who is critically aware of the reciprocity of theory and practice, thereby promoting standards of excellence in your dance practice, and preparing you for employment.
- To enable you to explore and reflect upon dance practice in its many forms, taking account of the social, cultural, aesthetic and political contexts in which performance practice is located.
- To encourage you to make links across various approaches to and perspectives on practice
- To develop your ability to address complex issues creatively and systematically, as well as the ability to problem-solve in a variety of artistic contexts through the engagement in practice based research, including collaborative projects.
- To develop your potential for a range of practices in or associated with dance and research-based activity.

There is the possibility for three elective modules for this programme.

There is no option to upgrade from this programme to another.

There are no co/pre-requisite modules for undertaking this programme.

What will I be expected to achieve?

Knowledge and understanding

A1 Demonstrate critical awareness of techniques and methodologies for creating

performance work in order to support originality in scholarly practice including practice-based research.

A2 practice-based research.

A2 Evidence how to examine human movement systematically within the performance context, and to make appropriate judgements regarding context, aesthetic and meaning.

A3 Engage critically and practically with methods for creative practice, documentation and presentation

Skills

B1 Locate and inform your creative practice through an engagement with wider frameworks for artistic methods and practices.

B2 Propose, formulate and apply an individual method of practice.

B3 Articulate and debate creative practice within the public domain.

Values and attitudes

C1 Engage in practical research as a means to synthesise knowledge from complex, incomplete or contradictory perspectives embedded in arts practice.

C2 Demonstrate a professional and responsible attitude to your practice which includes an understanding of the mutually influential relationship between personal endeavour and collaborative enterprise.

C3 Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the role that art plays in shaping the socio-political context.

How will I learn?

Depending on the modules you select, learning will take place in a variety of different contexts including formal taught sessions or lectures, in workshops, seminars and in studio tutorials, and individual study and research. Some studio based modules encourage reflection and peer review within formative 'practice' presentations. Teaching embraces different learning styles, with some sessions being co-taught, and the less command-led types of delivery (e.g. workshops, seminars) allow for a flexibility of response to your needs and abilities, whilst the use of visiting lecturers exposes you to a variety of views and approaches current within the profession.

Depending on your choices of topic, you may be studying with another student or students, in a collaborative way (e.g. in choreographer and dancer working relationship), and you may have directorial or supervisory responsibilities for other (possibly undergraduate) students engaged in projects with you as performers, for example. The second year of the programme is devoted to independent learning via studio or practice-based activity – usually in the form of a project or series of projects which investigate particular aspects of dance practice that you have discussed with your supervisor and which have the potential to yield a substantial area of research. You will have pre-arranged tutorials with your supervisor, some of which will be in the studio/rehearsal room.

This programme assumes 2600 notional learning and teaching hours with average contact time of around 55 hours per module – of course this will vary depending on the selected modules, so you will need to examine each module's specification to determine the precise number of hours. Supervisory contact during the extended project will be arranged in conjunction with your project supervisor and is likely to be studio-based, located at pre-arranged key points in the development of your practice.

How will I be assessed?

Overview

Most modules are assessed within a practice-based format, most usually by performance or presentation with supporting documentation of how and why you arrived at your position.

Inevitably there is an expectation that you will be able to demonstrate a high level of communication as the subject matter with which you are dealing is normally very complex, and you will probably have to articulate such issues orally and in writing.

Usually, following a practical assessment task, there will be an opportunity to discuss the outcome with tutors and this is normally led by the tutors but also includes opportunities for peer involvement. The lead assessor will examine the submitted supporting documentation as part of the assessment. Tasks will be assessed according to your ability to meet the learning outcomes for the module, and against any specific criteria that may have been negotiated where this is permitted.

What do I have to do to pass?

To pass you need to satisfactorily PASS (50%) each of the modules that constitute the Programme, which effectively means you must achieve a grade of C- or above, as defined by the M-level Generic Grade Descriptors. The proposed grade will reflect, in the view of the assessment panel, the extent to which the project has met both the general and module-specific assessment criteria. There are provisions to apply compensation for a 'missed' pass under certain defined circumstances, and similarly there are provisions to retrieve a failure: please see further details about these in your handbook and on-line.

What award can I get?

This Programme of study can lead to one of two awards:

the Postgraduate Diploma Dance Practice; this award require you to pass 4 modules (excluding M-508) and which must include M-502: (120 credits)

Or

the Master of Fine Arts Dance Practice, which requires you to pass 5 modules, including M-502 and M-508. (240 credits)

The minimum percentage in the overall aggregate for recommendation for the award shall normally be:

- With Distinction minimum 70%
- With Merit minimum 60%
- Without classification minimum 50%

The Postgraduate Diploma award shall be decided on the overall aggregate of four modules, all of which have equal weighting.

The Master of Arts award shall be decided on the aggregate of five modules, with M-508 weighted at 60%, and the remainder weighted equally at 40%.

Where a student fails up to 35 credits for either award at a first valid attempt, the Assessment Board may consider the application of compensation.

CONTENT

Structure of the Year

The programme is spread over two years, commencing in September until June for the first year when you will undertake the three modules that you select plus the Research Methods module which you must take. You will have time towards the end of this first year to propose and have tutorial support on your topic for the second year's work, (M508 Extended Project module) starting again in September and continuing until the performance outcome is presented in April/May, with a period for reflection and writing up supporting documentation in June. (18 months)

Passing the year

To pass the year you must attain a C- or better for each module. Please see above and the generic grade descriptors for further information on where compensation may be available for an unsatisfactory mark, and for grade thresholds that allow re-submission of assessment tasks for a pass mark.

Core (compulsory) Modules

M-502	Research Methods	30 credits
M-508	Project	140 credits

Elective Modules

You must select three modules from the 'module menu' listed below, noting that not all modules may be offered in any one year (shown as greyed out) and there may be scheduling conflicts which may render some choices 'unavailable'

M-506	Self-Directed/Placement	30 credits
M-512	Synergies & Transformations	30 credits
M-521	Advanced Technical Practice	30 credits
M-532	Histories of the Body	30 credits
M-546	Dance and Design	30 credits
M-547	Performance Technologies	30 credits
M-548	Performance Making	30 credits
M-567	Performance Psychology	30 credits
M-568	Performance Enhancement	30 credits
M-571	Choreological Practice	30 credits
M-572	Dance & the Moving Image	30 credits
M-573	Writing the Body	30 credits

Structure

Three taught modules in term 1 and 2 and one taught module in term 2 and 3, with assessments at the end of each module, typically in February, April, and July: the fifth module (M-508 Extended Project) work commences in the middle of Term 3, and is developed in the following summer, confirmed in early September and then pursued over the following 2 terms months, completing practice submissions in April, and supportive reflective documentation in June.

CAREERS

It is anticipated that graduates from this programme will develop their career based on their module selections and their Project topic. Students from a previous version of this type of programme have gone on to perform, to choreograph, to design, to write and to teach in schools, colleges and universities.

Careers website link <http://www.laban.org/alumni.phtml> (under review)

STUDY ABROAD / WORK PLACEMENTS

Study Abroad options

This activity is not available.

Placement options

This activity is only available under M-506 Self-directed study/Placement module.

ACCREDITATION

The programme is not accredited by any external body.

<i>Version Date</i>	<i>Version Path/Filename</i>	<i>Last updated by</i>
01/07/2010 11:06:00	G:\Review 2009\Modules current\MADP MFA\MFA Dance Programme Specification.doc	Ross Cameron