

COURSE SPECIFICATION BA (Hons) DANCE 2024-25

Course Aim and Title	BA (Hons) Dance
Intermediate Awards Available	Cert HE, Dip HE
Teaching Institution(s)	Italia Conti (partner only)
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	n/a
UEL Academic School	Arts and Creative Industries
UCAS Code	W414 (for entry in 2024) ICW5 (for entry in 2025 onwards)
Professional Body Accreditation	CDMT <i>Affiliated Federation of Drama Schools (FDS)</i>
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Dance, Drama and Performance (2024)
Additional Versions of this Course	n/a
Date Specification Last Updated	September 2024

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

You will study a three-year, full-time course, leading to a BA Dance with honours qualification after the successful completion of your study. Italia Conti's BA (Hons) Dance course is designed to nurture and develop you as an innovative and individual dancer, who can apply specialist skills and techniques supported by grounded knowledge of industry practices, contexts, and current and emerging requirements. Upon completion of the course, you will graduate with the skills for a sustainable career in dance and the performing arts.

The course will fully prepare you for a performance career as a dancer developing your practice and integrated knowledge, skills and understanding for entry into the dance profession. The course aims to provide you with the necessary technical and creative skills paired with critical thinking and appreciation to provide you with expertise applicable to a variety of careers in the field of dance.

Through training in different dance styles (Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary), developing aerial and acrobatic skills, creative skills in choreography, as well as supporting skills in acting, singing and tap dance you will gain a full and rounded preparation for the dance industry. In contextualising your training in the study of Contextual Practices you will develop the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to develop as professional dance artist and dance scholar.

What you will learn:



Level 4 (Fundamental Skills)

As a student dancer, you will acquire a firm understanding of the core principles of dance styles and techniques, which support you as a versatile performer. The 1st year introduces you to the principles of professional training in Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary dance styles, as well as providing you with a grounding in choreographic principles and practices. Through dance improvisation and developing skills in a range of practitioner approaches you will acquire the tools and knowledge necessary to create sound choreography which communicates meaning to an audience.

You will also be introduced to the fundamentals of a range of aerial skills, such as hoops, silks and acrobatic skills. Such skills will allow you to develop as a versatile performer. Fundamentals in supporting skills, will allow you to develop further performance skills in acting, singing and tap dance.

Interpretive, reflection and analytical skills are developed through contextual practice, in which you are encouraged to develop sound research skills, reflect on your practice as well as that of others and develop written skills at undergraduate level, including academic integrity and absence of plagiarism.

The assessment structure will allow you to develop your skills under the supervision of your teachers in cumulative practice. In performance presentation assessment tasks you are encouraged to showcase your skills and collaborate in small groups. Such project work encourages you to integrate the skills you have learned in each of the disciplines. This encourages you to develop as a versatile dancer and performer in a variety of styles and arts mediums (acting, singing, aerial and acrobatic skills). You will also develop the necessary rehearsal techniques and skills necessary for the profession.

Level 5 (Advanced Skills)

Having acquired the core skills associated with the fundamentals of professional dance training, the 2nd year introduces you to advanced skills in Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary dance styles and techniques. You will consolidate existing skills and develop a wider range of styles within the dance genres as well as deepening your technical and expressive abilities.

You will develop your choreographic skills and produce your own short pieces of choreography, thus demonstrating your ability to achieve advancement in creative, expressive and communication skills. Advanced supporting skills (acting, singing) will support you in the further development of your wider performance skills.

A Dance Performance module provides you with the opportunity to develop your skills in tap dance and choreography as well as developing your collaborative, creative, rehearsal and performance skills in two Dance Projects.



You will further develop your interpretive, reflective and analytical skills through advanced contextual practice, where you will be encouraged to develop advanced research skills leading on your own interests regarding dance practitioners and your own developing practice-as-research in preparation for Level 6.

Level 6 (Professional Preparation and Performance)

The third year sees the focus of the training develop to encompass:

- professional preparation and employability for industry
- extended performance in directed dance performance and independent performance contexts.

This final year bridges the gap between your professional training and the professional dance world. The priority for this year is to develop your capacity to engage with the profession in multiple ways, maximising your employability and innovative skills in readiness for entry into the dance profession.

Both transferable and employability skills will be embedded into your learning through structured collaborative practice and reflective thinking, and the increasing execution of your technical expertise. You will gradually build your self-awareness and skills to be able to work towards your ambitions and to confidently engage with industry opportunities and challenges. This will ensure that you enter the workplace or further postgraduate study competitively.

Skills training continues through year three as you begin to develop a deeper understanding and practice of Dance Performance styles and forms. You will participate in two professional shows, working with outside industry choreographers / directors. Agents, casting directors and other industry professionals are invited to performances to facilitate your representation and exposure.

The Professional Preparation and Employability module enables you to develop your skills in professional audition techniques, a live or digital performance and a written portfolio. At Level 6 p, you will also complete a practical Independent Performance Project (dissertation) in the third term where you will present your own dance performance, encouraging independent and professional working practices in the development of your own work.

Course aims:

The course aims to ensure that successful graduates:

- Acquire the knowledge and skills to perform as a dancer to professional industry standards
- Acquire specialised skills in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary dance styles,



- Acquire acting, singing and tap dance as well as aerial and acrobatic skills to develop their palette as versatile performers and are able to synthesise these in professional performance practice and engage creatively and critically with the skills and processes of performance and production.
- Operate as a dancer in a professional environment, whether in musical theatre, contemporary dance, theatre, film, TV or any of the emerging media industries
- Possess transferable skills, especially in communication and self-presentation, teamwork, independent research, critical analysis and reflection on action which will allow them to operate successfully in a variety of fields
- Are proactive in the creation of employment opportunities
- Contextualise the historical, cultural framework of dance performance, techniques and practice to facilitate intelligent engagement with critical and theoretical perspectives
- Approach all genres, styles and forms of dance and performance with an open-minded approach

On graduating from the course, students will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge

- Demonstrate a range of performance practices and practitioner approaches in dance performance and choreography.
- Understand key methods and concepts of dance theory (including histories, practitioner approaches) and their practical contemporary application in professional performance practice.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, socio-cultural contexts of dance histories across the Western canon and global dance histories.
- Investigate hybrid and innovative forms of dance in by current practitioners and the impact of hybridity on the development of dance as an art form
- Understand different and emerging dance forms: screen dance, site dance, physical theatre
- Understand vocal and physical anatomy, safe and healthy practice, including nutrition and apply knowledge in practice
- Understand the historical and cultural context of dance practitioners and/or performances
- Understand and use correct technical dance vocabulary, terminology employed within the field of professional performance development and production
- Demonstrate current knowledge of the dance industry and entry level requirements

Thinking skills

- Reason critically
- Critically reflect



- Analyse and interpret
- Apply theoretical and conceptual concepts
- Identify and solve problems
- Reflect, draw conclusions, and make plans
- Synthesise information from various sources
- Formulate and test ideas
- Research, assimilate information, create sound argumentation in essays and report research findings

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Create and communicate performance and choreography for professional live or recorded media using different dance and/or movement styles, improvisation, choreography, text, sound, movement or other ideational material
- Apply key methods, techniques and approaches drawn from dance theory and practice through a personal performance preparation process to realise professional performances
- Identify and investigate practically the expressive potential of performance and choreography to underpin coherent interpretive choices in the creation of performances
- Use and synthesise a range of expressive technical skills to realise and communicate interpretive choices for professional performance
- Respond with professional creative awareness of other performers, space, audience and productions teams in rehearsal and performance
- Use the body safely as an expressive, technical and creative tool, identifying physical, qualitative and emotional shifts that underpin embodied expression in performance
- Use the voice safely (in acting and singing) as an expressive, technical and creative tool, identify sound shifts which underpin accent and dialect acquisition and vocal expression in performance through acting and song
- Gather, sift, synthesise, and organise professional and creative material independently

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Balance and organise personal and professional issues through self-evaluation, management and in meeting deadlines
- Communicate effectively both verbally and in the written word
- Work effectively, collaboratively and creatively as part of a team, negotiating and pursuing goals with others, as well as working independently
- Identify goals, reflect and plan independently for strategic and ongoing personal development of skills and competencies
- Use information media such as libraries, archives, online platforms and the internet
- Use basic word-processing skills
- Create effective presentations



- Use advanced verbal and physical communication skills, including the use and analysis of body language
- Demonstrate self-promotion, self-presentation and self-marketing skills

All learning outcomes are covered in the course's single honours route.

Learning and Teaching

The course is designed to develop you as the aspiring dance-artist, with emphasis on technical training, critical thinking and learning by doing and through practice. Our aim is to produce thinking, skilled, creative performers who can frame, manage, and professionally facilitate their own practice. We promote the combination of conservatoire-style training with the benefits of a multi-disciplinary arts university education. As a conservatoire-style training relies upon expert-led training and activity, you will have high contact teaching activities with staff. You will also be required to further your learning through guided independent study, for example, reading, rehearsal, practice, body conditioning, academic research, writing draft essays and planning for performances and presentations, as the course demands. As this course, and indeed the profession, requires intensive physical training and practice, you will be encouraged to maintain healthy nutrition, develop physical conditioning, technique and protective practices, and most importantly to monitor your mental and physical wellbeing as a performer through ongoing reflective practice.

Knowledge is developed through:

- Practical class work, masterclasses and studio workshops with feedback
- Research, background reading, drafting a variety of written tasks including essays, reflective writing and portfolios
- Observation and critique of performance and choreography
- Independent and guided research/ analysis tasks with feedback
- Self-evaluation and reflection tasks with feedback
- Essays and other written tasks with feedback
- Seminar/class discussion and preparation activities with feedback
- Small group and 1:1 tutorials with tailored advice and feedback
- Rehearsal and performance with feedback

Thinking skills are developed through:

- Practical class work, masterclasses and studio workshops with feedback
- Research, background reading, drafting a variety of written tasks
- Observation and critique of performance and choreography
- Independent and guided research/ analysis tasks with feedback
- Self-evaluation and development tasks with feedback
- Essays and other written tasks with feedback
- Seminar/class discussion and preparation activities with feedback
- Small group and 1:1 tutorials with tailored advice and feedback
- Rehearsal and performance with feedback

Practical skills are developed through:

- Practical class work, masterclasses and studio workshops with feedback
- Observation and critique of performance and choreography
- Independent and guided research tasks with feedback
- Independent and guided analysis tasks with feedback



- Self-evaluation and development tasks with feedback
- Seminar/class Discussion and preparation activities with feedback
- Small group and 1:1 tutorials with tailored advice and feedback
- Rehearsal and performance with feedback

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Meeting deadlines / self-management
- The demands of the study medium and industry expectations (e.g. high contact hours, professional environment etc.)
- Use of ICT to research, create and submit materials for assessments
- Self-evaluation and reflective tasks with feedback
- Practical class work, masterclasses and studio workshops
- Practice auditions and interviews with feedback
- Research, reading, drafting and editing
- Observation and critique of performance and choreography
- Independent and guided research / analysis tasks
- Essays and other written tasks with feedback
- Individual and group Presentations
- Seminar/class discussion and preparation activities
- Tutorial and feedback
- Rehearsal and performance

Assessment

You will also receive a detailed briefing sheet or scheme of work at the beginning of each term, which will outline the specific content of each class series within each module, and the learning outcomes and assessments within each of these.

In general you will be assessed on the learning outcomes (as per the Module Specifications) pertaining to; knowledge, thinking skills, practical skills and skills for life and work, via the following methods:

Knowledge is assessed by:

- Cumulative practice
- Essays
- Reflective/Evaluative Portfolios
- Performances
- Choreography
- Presentations
- Projects

Thinking skills are assessed by:

- Cumulative practice
- Essays
- Reflective/Evaluative Portfolios



- Performance
- Choreography
- Presentations
- Projects

Practical skills are assessed by:

- Cumulative practice
- Reflective/Evaluative Portfolios
- Performance
- Choreography
- Presentations
- Projects

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by:

- Cumulative practice
- Reflective/Evaluative Portfolios
- Performance
- Presentations
- Choreography
- Projects
- Essays

Cumulative practice in this context is defined as follows:

You are assessed on an ongoing basis in practical classwork in the studio, skills acquisition in the modules, progress and development towards the learning outcomes and your process of engaging with the work and feedback as directed. Classwork will also include incremental tasks that are prepared week by week such as learning and preparing material, practice of performance work in progress, sharing of work and presentations, and may also include written or presented research, analysis and self-reflective and evaluative tasks.

Summative assessment in each module occurs primarily at the end of term 3 at each level in order to allow you to have the maximum amount of time to achieve the learning outcomes.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss how the assessments can be tailored to their needs with the Course Leader and Learning Support Coordinator to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessments within the programme. Reasonable adjustments may be made on a case-by-case basis as appropriate.

Work or Study Placements



N/A

There is no compulsory and/or optional work/study placement(s) within this course.

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help students to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything students do, for example lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Master's degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
4	PA4112	Fundamentals of Ballet	20	Core	N
4	PA4113	Fundamentals of Contemporary & Creative Skills	20	Core	N
4	PA4114	Fundamentals of Jazz	20	Core	N
4	PA4115	Fundamentals of Aerial and Acrobatic skills	20	Core	N
4	PA4116	Fundamentals of Supporting skills	20	Core	N

4	PA4117	Fundamentals of Contextual Practice	20	Core	N
5	PA5091	Advanced Dance skills	40	Core	N
5	PA5092	Advanced Supporting Skills	20	Core	N
5	PA5093	Advanced Dance Performance & Choreography	40	Core	N
5	PA5094	Advanced Contextual Practice (Dance)	20	Core	N
6	PA6100	Professional Technical Skills in Dance & Aerial	20	Core	N
6	PA6101	Professional Preparation & Employability	40	Core	N
6	PA6102	Professional Dance Performance & Choreography	40	Core	N
6	PA6103	Independent Performance Project	20	Core	N

All modules are core module, which you must have passed (i.e., been awarded credit) in order to achieve the BA (Hons) Dance award. There are no optional modules for this course.

Please note that this course includes workshops and classes which deliver complimentary skills. These classes may be compulsory sessions, but are not assessed within the course, and may vary from year to year.

Additional detail about the course module structure:

A core module for a course is a module which you must have passed (i.e., been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award.

All modules on the course are core and there are no optional modules. All modules at each level must be passed in order to progress to the next level of study or to proceed to an award.

All modules run across the full academic year, with teaching, learning and assessment occurring in all the three terms.

All modules at each level must be studied concurrently within the course (co-requisite). All modules at the previous level of study must be passed in order to

progress (pre-requisite). No modules may be taken in conjunction with those offered by any other course. No AEL or ACL processes will permit a student to join the course at levels 5 or 6.

Summative assessment in each module occurs primarily at the end of term 3 in order to allow students the maximum amount of time to achieve the learning outcomes.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit accumulated. Further information can be found in the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

You are expected to maintain a 90% attendance rate in order to progress effectively through the levels of study and achieve the learning outcomes.

Attendance is compulsory on an intensive timetable. Annual contact hours are 900 per year, typically this will average out at approximately 27.5 contact hours per week, with further hours allocated through additional self-led study hours.

Attendance of less than 90% may be considered a disciplinary matter (professional conduct) and may after due process lead to termination of studies on the course.

The course runs according to specific academic regulations and policies which may diverge from standard UEL frameworks in order to uphold the professional vocational standards expected and to ensure the principles of holism, integrated skills development and embodied learning are fully supported.

Typical Duration

The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-time at the Italia Conti site, typically between Monday to Saturday. It is not possible to switch to a part time learning mode, and there are no distance learning options.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The Italia Conti web site (www.italiaconti.com)
- The Course Handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

- Audition fee for selection onto the programme (£45)
- Studio and rehearsal wear are compulsory (A full kit list is sent on enrolment). This includes correct shoes and practice skirts. Costs vary considerably according to student preference. A typical student on the Italia Conti Dance courses will go through multiple pairs of ballet shoes and pointe shoes per year
- Purchasing of relevant books/play-texts (approx. £20 per term)
- Books, stationery or computer/laptop or similar to carry out word processing, research and watch audio-visual recorded performance work.
- Incidental props and costume on a voluntary basis (Levels 4 and 5)
- Theatre Visits (on a voluntary basis)
- Residence and living costs as there is no on-site campus accommodation
- Optional hire of locker (an annual fee).
- Costume and prop deposit(s) for the use of Italia Conti loaned production resources.
- Stationery and printing, photocopier credit (approx. £20 per term)
- At the end of the Level 5, students should expect to pay for professional headshots for personal professional marketing purposes.

At Level 6 (3rd Year) you should expect to pay for personal professional marketing materials and professional body registrations (e.g., further headshots, entry into Spotlight directory, Equity membership) These costs can be considerable, but vary annually and considerably according to your preference (e.g. selection of photographers at a various range of costs). Costs typically are in the region of £500 upwards.

You should expect to travel to external venues for sessions and performances.

At Level 5 you can also opt to take additional external exams in Dance, according to personal preference. Classes and exam fees are in the region of £150.

Alternative Locations of Delivery

This programme is run primarily at the Italia Conti Site

Location of delivery:

ITALIA CONTI
2 HENRY PLAZA
VICTORIA WAY
WOKING
SURREY
GU21 6BU



From time to time some sessions may be run at Italia Conti e.g., local movement studios or in external performance venues (typically at Level 6 for the Agent Showcase/Industry Days etc.) when specialist spaces are required.