

COURSE SPECIFICATION 2024-25

Course Aim and Title	CertHE Introduction to Dance
Intermediate Awards Available	n/a
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	W415 (for entry in 2024) W51C (for entry in 2025 onwards)
Professional Body Accreditation	CDMT <i>Affiliated to the 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 one-year, full-time course, leading to a Certificate of Higher Education in Dance after successful completion of study. Italia Conti's Cert HE Dance course is designed to give you a clear understanding of what professional dance training and the work of a professional dancer entails and you will begin to develop the skills that form the foundation of a dancer's professional training.

On this course you will be introduced to the basic principles of dance training, delivered through the following modules:

- **Dance Skills**
You will train in Ballet, Jazz and Aerial dance and movement forms. The basis of the work is to provide you with the basic foundational skills in each of the dance styles as well as embedding key skills such as safe practice, anatomy of the body and expressive skills.
- **Dance Audition Practice**
You will experience the requirements of a professional audition through a variety of workshops, masterclasses, and projects to prepare you for auditions at dance conservatoires and institutions. This module is essential for preparing you as reflective and self-evaluative artist for further dance study.
- **Rehearsal & Performance (Dance)**



This module focuses on the development of your performance skills, your ability to implement and synthesise dance skills and develop your jazz dance, contemporary dance and choreographic skills. The module follows the process of rehearsal through to the sharing of dance work and Dance performance.

- **Contextual Practice**

This module prepares you as critical, reflective and informed student in the wider field of dance study. The module prepares you for the written requirements of the application process in dance conservatoire training as well as developing critical reflection skills, through essay writing and presentations.

Our approach to dance training is rooted in the variety of dance styles and movement approaches in Ballet, Jazz dance and aerial skills. This approach develops you as a versatile dancer and performer. Furthermore, the Italia Conti approach is one of developing your skills to become an autonomous and reflective learners. You will construct a personal way of working, which you can continue to develop at other dance conservatoires, institutions or other learning environments.

On completing the CertHE Introduction to Dance you will have knowledge of the skills necessary to develop as a dancer entering professional training and you will have the capacity to apply them.

The overall aims of the course are:

- Provide an introduction to conservatoire-style dancer training, as well as an understanding of the requirements of the professional dance industry.
- Develop knowledge of professional dance training and the dance industry to make an informed decisions about further professional training as a dancer or other creative pursuits.
- Develop an understanding, practical engagement and implementation of necessary dance performance skills in a variety of dance styles.
- Create an intellectual, critically reflective and practical foundation in dance and performance
- Prepare for dance conservatoire or HE institution auditions focusing on the basic requirements of dance skills, performance, improvisation, choreography and interview preparation.
- Develop skills such as confidence, communication, technique and expression as a dance performer.



- Develop the necessary research, written and presentation skills to communicate effectively both verbally and in the written word commensurate with Level 4 undergraduate study and industry requirements.
- Foster and develop the necessary collaborative and communication skills and create an open-minded approach to training and working with others, ready for entry into conservatoire style dance training and beyond.

The Cert HE Dance course aims to develop the following:

Knowledge

- Recognise, understand and employ the core principles, theories, styles, techniques and approaches which embody expressive dance practice.
- Recognise, understand and explain the expectations required within audition scenarios and appropriate communication and presentation skills.
- Identify and use a coherent process to develop and explore a dance role.
- Understand and use some of the language employed in a variety of dance settings.

Thinking skills

- Analyse and evaluate dance and movement disciplines to identify stylistic and technical detail.
- Identify research methodologies for reflective portfolio, essay and presentation tasks.
- Develop strategic and research approaches to sourcing appropriate audition materials.
- Explore and identify appropriate courses that would suit the student's desired career path.
- Develop cognitive responses to an audition process.
- Identify the appropriate expressive and interpretative skills which supports different emotional, character or expression of dance performance.

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Understand and demonstrate preparation for class (warm-up & cool down), and performance in safe and effective practice.
- Demonstrate and show development of core principles, theories, styles, techniques and approaches which identify expressive dance practice in a variety of styles.



- Prepare and rehearse independently for required for the audition processes.
- Apply the level of professional etiquette expected within a professional audition process.
- Work actively as a generous and supportive member of a dance company.
- Create and explore on-stage relationships that are appropriate to the needs of a particular dance piece.

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Balance and organise personal and professional requirements through self-evaluation and 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 word-processing skills
- Create effective verbal and performative presentations
- Use verbal and physical communication skills
- Demonstrate self-promotion, self-presentation and self-marketing skills
- Work independently, set goals and manage workloads

Learning and Teaching

The course is designed for you 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, reading and drafting written work
- Observation and critique of performance and choreography
- Independent and guided research and/or analysis tasks with feedback
- Self-evaluation and reflection tasks with feedback
- Essays and 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, reading, drafting
- Observation and critique of performance and choreography
- Independent and guided research and/or analysis tasks with feedback
- Self-evaluation and development tasks with feedback
- Essays and 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 and 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
- 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 and/or analysis tasks
- Essays and written tasks with feedback
- Seminar/class discussion and preparation activities
- Tutorial and feedback
- Rehearsal and performance

Assessment

You will 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:

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

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 dance 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 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 (within this course).

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you 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 you do e.g. 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 Masters degree.

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

The module structure of this course is as follows:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by
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					Distance Learning? Y/N
4	PA4118	Dance skills	40	Core	N
4	PA4119	Dance Audition Practice	40	Core	N
4	PA4120	Rehearsal and Performance (Dance)	20	Core	N
4	PA4121	Contextual Practice- C (Dance)	20	Core	N

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

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.

Most modules run across the full academic year, with teaching, learning and assessment occurring in all three terms. The exception is Dance Audition Practice, which takes place over the first two terms. This is to facilitate your attendance in dance auditions at conservatoires and in HE institutions where auditions typically take place between December and March in an academic year.

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.

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

The overall credit-rating of this course is 120 credits. Students can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

You 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 which runs for a minimum of 900 hours over the academic year and typically more, with 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. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure that timetables are as student friendly as possible, scheduled teaching can take place on any day of the week.

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 1 year 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.

Please note that while we make every effort to ensure that timetables are as student friendly as possible, scheduled teaching can take place on any day of the week.

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
- Purchasing of relevant books/play-texts (approx. £20 per term)
- Basic costume, props or rehearsal materials (varies 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.

- Stationery and printing (approx. £20 per term)
- Travel between sites for sessions and performances – variable
- Theatre visits

A kit and book list is sent to you prior to enrolment detailing appropriate studio/rehearsal wear. Costs vary considerably according to student preference, but app £50.

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

Texts, course equipment, and studio/ rehearsal wear (incl. correct shoes, practice skirts) are compulsory, and a kit list is sent to you prior to enrolment, when you accept your place. You are advised to procure a computer, laptop or similar to carry out word processing, research and to watch audio-visual recorded performance work.

Alternative Locations of Delivery

This programme is run primarily at 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 or in external performance venues when specialist spaces are required.