

# Programme Specification for

## *BA Dance Studies*



<b>1. Programme title</b>	BA Dance Studies
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3. Teaching institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body</b>	
<b>5. Final qualification</b>	BA (Honours)
<b>6. Year of validation</b> <b>Year of amendment</b>	
<b>7. Language of study</b>	English
<b>8. Mode of study</b>	Full-time

### **9. Criteria for admission to the programme**

Criteria for admission rest upon the principles that the applicant has prior experience in dance and is able to demonstrate their potential for (i) benefiting from an education in dance and (ii) contributing to the development of the subject both within Middlesex University and in the wider professional and community context.

A balance is sought between knowledge and skills in the technical, expressive, creative and critical aspects of dance study. A good academic record is required, including an examination profile with the standard UCAS tariff (normally) of 280 points with a minimum of 140 points from two 6 - unit awards, or their equivalent in other standard qualifications, though these may be waived in the case of mature students. Applicants who hold, or who are expected to gain these academic qualifications and have revealed their commitment to dance in their initial application, are given the opportunity to demonstrate their technical and performance skills in an audition class.

You must have competence in the English language and we normally require Grade C GCSE or an equivalent qualification. The most common English Language requirements for international students are IELTS 6.0 (with minimum 5.5 in all four components) or TOEFL Internet based 72 (with at least 17 in listening & writing, 20 in speaking and 18 in reading).

## 10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- disseminate knowledge and skills in the central activities of creating, performing and critically appraising dance;
- nurture understanding and application in practice of the inter-relationship between these elements, thus enabling the student to appreciate the significance of a balanced and holistic approach to the study of dance;
- offer the student opportunities to choose specialist areas of interest for study in depth;
- promote the acquisition of knowledge of selected historical, contemporary and diverse cultural contexts within which dance is produced, circulated and received;
- provide sufficient and appropriate subject knowledge and transferable skills for entry into a variety of vocational fields and work opportunities, particularly in postgraduate study;
- facilitate the acquisition of research skills pertinent to vocational work and to further study;

The programme is delivered through tutor-led and self-directed methods of learning. The emphasis moves from the former to the latter in order to equip students with the capacity for life-long autonomous learning. Peer assessment is also used as a learning strategy.

## 11. Programme outcomes

### A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. The key principles of dance composition and the choreographic art.
2. The key principles related to the craft of performing, dance technique, artistic interpretation, fitness and the health and safety of the dancer.
3. The key practitioners and writers who have contributed to the development of dance through theoretical debate

### Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- lectures, which focus on tutor-led introduction and exploration of new material and analytical approaches;
- seminars and workshops provide the opportunity for student discussion groups to address issues covered by lectures;
- skills-based classes provide specific focused knowledge of the dance and performance skills being studied;
- independent study and research, which require students to broaden their knowledge;

<p>and practical activity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Pertinent critical and cultural issues and perspectives, which enhance the appreciation of dance and the ability to contribute to those debates through informed opinion.</li> <li>5. Historical and contemporary contexts for dance such as the artistic, social, educational and institutional.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• performance viewing, which allows students to consider ideas about dance performance and dance making in the context of practice;</li> <li>• tutorials and feedback, which provide the opportunity for students to seek clarification of understanding and for the two-way feedback process to be reinforced.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• essays;</li> <li>• seminar presentations;</li> <li>• short answer questions;</li> <li>• reflective journal/portfolios.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Synthesise, analyse, evaluate and interpret, as appropriate, practical and theoretical knowledge and the inter-relationship between the two.</li> <li>2. Select and critically evaluate source material and a variety of types of information and evidence.</li> <li>3. Utilise problem solving skills and creative thinking.</li> <li>4. Apply practical and theoretical knowledge in appropriate contexts.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures, which model processes for articulating and presenting ideas clearly;</li> <li>• seminars, which allow students to develop their own skills in articulation and debate as ways of developing their thinking and testing their ideas;</li> <li>• workshops and practical exploration, in which students apply interpretations and make critical judgements in relation to Dance;</li> <li>• independent study and research, through which students encounter a wide range of ideas and critical strategies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• essays;</li> <li>• seminar presentation;</li> <li>• short critical reviews;</li> <li>• assessment may also occur in an independent or collaborative context.</li> </ul>

<p><b>C. Practical skills</b></p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Choreograph dance works.</li> <li>2. Apply technical and expressive skills of dance performance.</li> <li>3. Engage with diverse processes of dance making e.g. collaborative, choreographer directed.</li> <li>4. Apply production skills.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate inter-personal and collaborative skills.</li> <li>6. Identify and apply appropriate research skills.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• skills based classes, to provide the specific physical expertise required;</li> <li>• workshops, rehearsals both tutor led and independent study, performances, which give students the structure to apply skills and ideas to performance and the making of new choreographic work helping to also develop the students' inter-personal and collaborative skills alongside their physical dexterity;</li> <li>• lectures to provide a deeper understanding of the components involved;</li> <li>• tutorials to provide opportunity for students to seek clarification of their accomplishments attained at a given point and to feed-forward into future work.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• practical assessment class;</li> <li>• assessment of choreography;</li> <li>• assessment of performance;</li> <li>• evaluative writing;</li> <li>• reflective journal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. Graduate skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means.</li> <li>2. Evaluate individual academic and practical performance.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures and seminars, which focus on raising awareness of essential skills and the way they contribute to effective working practices;</li> <li>• workshops, rehearsals, performances, collaborative work which enable students to explore and practise skills in complex and</li> </ul>

<p>3. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations.</p> <p>4. Manage time and prioritise workloads.</p>	<p>multifaceted situations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• independent study and reflective practice, emphasising the individual's ability to identify their own strengths and development needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' graduate skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• theoretical, practical and oral assignments;</li> <li>• attendance and punctuality;</li> <li>• adhering to deadlines.</li> </ul>
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## 12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

### 12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The programme is studied over three years full-time. Study is generally undertaken at three levels (one for each year of study). There are 30 study weeks in each year. The programme structure is divided into study units called modules. Modules have credit values of 30 or 60 credits according to the subject and nature of learning. Core Dance modules are generally 30/60 credits. Each 30 credit module represents approximately 300 hours of student learning, endeavour and assessment, with the number of teaching hours appropriate to the nature of the subject. Each level has an equivalent of 120 credits.

All students on the BA (Hons) Dance Studies programme explore the artistic, expressive and creative aspects of performance as well as the technique that is required for the dancer. Knowledge of anatomy and an appreciation of augmentative training methods, which improve dance performance are an essential part of the programme.

**Year 1** provides students with a basis in terms of Performance – the doing; Choreography – the making; Critical and Contextual Studies – the critical appraisal and appreciation of dance as an artistic, cultural and vocational activity. The knowledge and skills acquired during this year will set up the learning for second and third year.

Dance Practices 1 engages with the fundamental principles involved in dance technique, dance performance, choreography and participatory arts (community dance).

Dance Studies 1, which incorporates anatomy and dance history alongside Learning in Context, sets an academic framework for research, library study, essay writing and critical thinking.

**Year 2** develops knowledge, understanding and performance practice through dance techniques, choreography and supplementary dance training. Theoretical knowledge is deepened through dance analysis, critical studies and science of movement, where

students will employ their learning from the previous year to engage with further debates in the discipline.

**Year 3** extends and applies theoretical and practical knowledge within a professional practice context. The Independent Research Projects utilise all prior skills of research, writing and argumentation.

Dance artistry builds on prior technique and performance skills embedded within years one and two to attain qualitative physical articulation.

Choreography builds on prior compositional skill to find the 'artist's voice' and foster creative collaborations.

Dance Studies students have the option to exit with the award title BA (Hons) Dance Studies (Choreography) if the requisite Modules **DAN3051**, **DAN3061** and **DAN3830** have been taken.

12.2 Levels and modules – BA (Hons) Dance Studies		
Level 4 (1)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following:  <b>DAN1001</b>  <b>DAN1002</b>  <b>DAN1100</b>		Completion of 120 credits.
Level 5 (2)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following:  <b>DAN2010</b>  <b>DAN2110</b>	Students must also choose <b>one</b> from the following:  <b>DAN2211</b>  <b>DAN2212</b>  <b>DAN2213</b>	Completion of 240 credits (normally).
Level 6 (3)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

<p>Students must take <b>one</b> of the following pairs of modules:</p> <p><b>DAN3100/ DAN3200</b></p> <p>or</p> <p><b>DAN3051/ DAN3061</b></p> <p>Students must also take:</p> <p><b>DAN3710</b></p> <p>Plus either:</p> <p><b>DAN3810</b></p> <p>or</p> <p><b>DAN3820</b></p>	<p><b>DAN3710</b> – Optional components:</p> <p>A) Placement</p> <p>B) Teaching dance technique</p> <p>C) Dance Criticism</p>	<p>Completion of 360 credits.</p>
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12.2 Levels and modules – BA (Hons) Dance Studies (Choreography)		
Level 4 (1)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p><b>DAN1001</b></p> <p><b>DAN1002</b></p> <p><b>DAN1100</b></p>		<p>Completion of 120 credits.</p>
Level 5 (2)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must take all of the following: <b>DAN2010</b> <b>DAN2110</b>	Students must also choose <b>one</b> from the following: <b>DAN2211</b> <b>DAN2212</b> <b>DAN2213</b>	Completion of 240 credits (normally).
Level 6 (3)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: <b>DAN3051</b> <b>DAN3061</b> <b>DAN3710</b> Plus <b>DAN3830</b>	<b>DAN3710</b> – Optional components: A) Placement B) Teaching dance technique C) Dance Criticism	Completion of 360 credits.

### 12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

Module level	Module code
Level 4	DAN1001
Level 5	DAN2010, DAN2110
Level 6	DAN3051, DAN3061, DAN3100, DAN3200, DAN3710, DAN3810, DAN3820, DAN3830

### 13. Curriculum map

See attached.

### 14. Information about assessment regulations

The Programme conforms to Middlesex University Regulations. In view of the developmental and collaborative nature of the work on this programme, there is 100%



attendance requirement. Self-deferral of assessments is not permitted.

#### **15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)**

All students have the opportunity to undertake a work placement in their final year of study.

This optional component (part of **DAN3710**) is supported by both the module leader and the University's Employability and Careers service

#### **16. Future careers (if applicable)**

The future personal and professional achievements of graduates will rely on the acquisition of a wide range of knowledge, skills, attributes and abilities. Common destinations for current graduates include the professional arts, the entertainment industries, applied arts, education, the health and fitness industry, arts administration, scholarship, postgraduate study and the media industries.

#### **17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)**

Students on this programme have access as needed to specialist studio and performance space and equipment, workshops, and tutors.

#### **18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)**

135W501

#### **19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)**

Dance, drama and performance

#### **20. Reference points**

The following reference points were used in designing the Programme:

- Professional dance practice and intellectual debate, the inter-relationship of which sustains the dynamic development of the discipline. Reports from national dance umbrella bodies;
- QAA Subject Benchmark and Qualifications Level Descriptors;
- QAA Explaining contact hours – Guidance for institutions;
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications;
- Middlesex University Corporate Plan;

- Middlesex University Learning and Teaching policies and strategy;
- Middlesex University Regulations.

## **21. Other information**

- Opportunity for Study abroad;
- Performance opportunities on campus and at Arts Depot in Year 3;
- Links to independent Choreographic Platforms;
- Guest lecturers / choreographers from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds;
- Lively Performing Arts Campus with students from Theatre Arts, Music and a multitude of other disciplines;
- Insight into performance production through engagement with front of house, lighting and costume aspects of theatre production.

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

## Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

### Curriculum map for BA Dance Studies

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

#### Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	The key principles of dance composition and the choreographic art.	C1	Choreograph dance works.
A2	The key principles related to the craft of performing, dance technique, artistic interpretation, fitness and the health and safety of the dancer.	C2	Apply technical and expressive skills of dance performance.
A3	The key practitioners and writers who have contributed to the development of dance through theoretical debate and practical activity.	C3	Engage with diverse processes of dance making/performing e.g. collaborative, choreographer directed.
A4	Pertinent critical and cultural issues and perspectives, which enhance the appreciation of dance and the ability to contribute to those debates through informed opinion.	C4	Apply production skills.
A5	Historical and contemporary contexts for dance such as the artistic, social, educational and institutional.	C5	Demonstrate inter-personal and collaborative skills.
		C6	Identify and apply appropriate research skills.
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Synthesise, analyse, evaluate, interpret, as appropriate, practical and theoretical knowledge and the inter-relationship between the two.	D1	Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means.
B2	Select and critically evaluate source material and a variety of types of information and evidence.	D2	Evaluate her/his own academic and practical performance.
B3	Utilise problem solving skills and creative thinking.	D3	Utilise problem- solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations.

B4	Apply practical and theoretical knowledge in appropriate contexts.	D4	Manage time and prioritise workloads.
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Programme outcomes																		
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4
Highest level achieved by all graduates																		
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

Module Title	Module Code by Level	Programme outcomes																			
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	
Dance Practices 1	DAN1001	X	X						X	X	X	X	X		X				X		
Dance Studies 1	DAN1002			X		X		X							X					X	
Dance: Learning in Context	DAN1100				X			X						X		X	X			X	
Dance Practices 2	DAN2010	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
Dance Studies 2	DAN2110			X	X	X		X							X	X	X			X	
Jazz Dance	DAN2211		X									X						X			
Improvisation	DAN2212		X							X		X						X			
Repertoire	DAN2213		X									X						X			
Choreography 1	DAN3051	X					X		X		X			X					X	X	
Choreography 2	DAN3061	X					X		X		X		X	X	X				X	X	
Dance Technique	DAN3100		X							X		X			X		X				
Dance Performance	DAN3200		X				X		X		X	X						X		X	
Applied Professional Practice	DAN3710			X	X	X		X	X					X	X	X		X	X		
Independent Research Project	DAN3810							X							X					X	
Dance Science Research Project	DAN3820			X		X	X	X							X					X	

Choreography Research Project	DAN3830							X							X				X
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