## BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance

# **Programme Specification**



1.	Programme title	<ul> <li>BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Ballet)</li> <li>BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Contemporary Dance)</li> <li>BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Jazz and Commercial Dance)</li> <li>BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Musical Theatre)</li> </ul>
2.	Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a	Teaching institution	London Studio Centre
3b	Language of study	English
4a	Valid intake dates	September
4b	Mode of study	Full Time
4c	Delivery method	⊠ On-campus/Blended
		Distance Education
5.	Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body	None
6.	Apprenticeship Standard	None
7.	Final qualification(s) available	<ul> <li>BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Ballet)</li> <li>BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Contemporary Dance)</li> <li>BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Jazz and Commercial Dance)</li> <li>BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Musical Theatre)</li> <li>BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance</li> <li>BA Professional Dance Performance</li> <li>DipHE Professional Dance Performance</li> <li>CertHE Professional Dance Performance</li> </ul>

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

- Normally 96 UCAS tariff points
- The aptitude for professionally orientated practical study of performance techniques and potential to benefit from dance training as judged through audition
- A physical aptitude necessary to safely and successfully study an intensive programme confirmed at a physical examination by a qualified practitioner such as a specialist physiotherapist.

We are unable to accept applications for deferred entry or defer offers for this programme as applicants must retain a high level of fitness prior to enrolment.

#### **GCSE** requirements or equivalents

Normally a minimum of grade 4 in English (Grade C if awarded prior to 2017), or the equivalent qualification, plus two other GCSEs.

#### **UCAS Tariff Points**

Normally, calculated from a minimum of 2 but a maximum of 3 A levels (or equivalents<sup>\*</sup>) either on their own or in combinations. AS qualifications (or equivalents) up to a maximum of one A level.

\*A-Level Equivalents: Normally, BTEC Level 3 qualifications, Access to HE Diploma, International Baccalaureate, Scottish Highers and Advanced Scottish Highers, Irish Leaving Certificate, Norwegian Vitnemål, German Abitur, Apolytirion et al.

For more information about entry requirements please see: <u>http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/help-with-your-application/undergraduate-application/entry-requirements</u>

#### Overseas Applicants - unable to attend an audition

When it is impossible for applicants to attend an audition, they may audition by video in accordance with London Studio Centre's video application requirements. These are available on LSC's website: <u>http://www.londonstudiocentre.org/admissions/how-to-apply/video-application</u>.

#### English language requirements for international students

You must have competence in English language to study with us. The most commonly accepted evidence of English language ability is IELTS 6.0 (with minimum 5.5 in all four

components). Visit Middlesex University's English language requirements page for a full list of accepted English tests and qualifications: <u>http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/help-with-your-application/postgraduate-application/english-language-requirements</u>

#### Entry with credit

Applicants holding academic, vocational or professional qualifications at an appropriate level may be admitted with specific credit, which will count towards the target qualification, to an appropriate point on a programme.

Students may <u>enter</u> directly into Level 4, Level 5 or Level 6 or be exempted from part of Level 4 or Level 5 with appropriate prior learning and/or experience in accordance with the University's regulations.

#### The assessment of prior learning

Applications from mature candidates without formal qualifications are welcomed provided they can demonstrate appropriate levels of relevant ability and experience.

Responsibility rests with the applicant for making a claim to have acquired knowledge and skill, and for supporting the claim with appropriate evidence. Assistance will normally be given by London Studio Centre in preparing an application to Middlesex University for the accreditation of prior learning.

- The learning derived from experience must be able to be identified in order to be assessed.
- Prior learning is identified through systematic reflection on experience, the writing of clear statements about what was actually learned and the collection and collation of evidence to support those statements.

Where it is proposed to allow entry with specific credit, the methods of assessment must be such that the Assessment Board can oversee the judgement made.

#### **10.** Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Nurture a spirit of enquiry in you as a self-motivated, independent Professional Dance Performance artist, learner and researcher prepared for professional life and postgraduate studies
- Equip you with subject knowledge, critical and historical understanding, and practical and transferable skills to enable you to work effectively, collaboratively and constructively in your chosen profession
- Develop your potential as a creative artist through a multi-discipline Professional Dance Performance education in which you are able to demonstrate entrepreneurial skills, independent working and imaginative solutions to challenging

#### tasks in varying contexts

• Support you to be a self-reliant graduate, able to demonstrate performance qualities, critical and reflective skills applied to your own work in different contexts and media.

11. Programme outcomes*	
<b>A. Knowledge and understanding</b> On completion of this programme you will be able to:	<b>Teaching/learning methods</b> Students gain knowledge and understanding through practical skill development technique classes, workshops, lectures and
A1 Engage with the development of dance and musical theatre as performing arts and develop knowledge of them in their wider contexts.	seminars as outlined below. Technique classes allow you to put into practice the dance and/or musical theatre knowledge and understanding (A2, A2) you are developing, ask questions, and actively
A2 Employ technique and an integrated knowledge of dance science in its	engage in the feedback process.
development, as reflected in the performance of new and established repertoire and in the creation of new work.	Repertoire Performance is where your understanding of particular genre and a group process will be applied to its presentation to a 'live' audience.
A3 Determine how dance creatively relates to other arts forms, particularly visual media, music and design.	Workshops allow you to create and explore concepts both practically and theoretically, developing your knowledge and
A4 Demonstrate a critical understanding of aesthetics and how critical reflection and writing informs and shapes our response to dance and musical theatre.	understanding (A1, A4). These experiences introduce you to new ways of working collaboratively often with guest artists who are influential within the industry.
A5 Evidence knowledge of how practice is informed by research and scholarship at the forefront of the discipline.	Lectures provide you with opportunities to reflect on historical, analytical, and research frameworks to contextualise your practical learning. These sessions develop your subject knowledge and understanding (A1, A2, A3, A4).
	Seminars offer you the chance to delve deeper into concepts explored within lectures, ask questions, collaborate with others and prepare for summative assessments. These sessions develop your subject knowledge (A1-5).

	Assessment methods Your knowledge and understanding is assessed both formatively and summatively through a range of methods designed to allow you to achieve your best and stretch your abilities.
	Technique Assessments allow you to demonstrate your achievement in the techniques you are studying as a dance and/or musical theatre artist. You will be asked to perform your skills in the context of the regular technique classes that you take as part of your daily practice or in performance either as an individual or as part of a group.
	Performance assessments are crucial to your development as a creative artist. They are opportunities for you to blend technique with artistry and show off your knowledge and potential.
	Oral presentation assessments allow you to communicate and illustrate your knowledge and understanding of concepts and ideas explored within a module using digital technologies. You will be asked to present your learning and articulate your responses to a pre-identified audience.
	Portfolio assessments enable you to artistically illustrate your learning in a variety of creative outputs often drawing on digital technologies to produce your work. These assessments facilitate new and exciting ways of presenting your understanding of the learning outcomes.
<b>B. Skills</b> On completion of this programme you will be able to:	<b>Teaching/learning methods</b> You will develop your practical skills in technique classes, workshops, lectures and seminars as outlined below.
<ul><li>B1 Propose innovative and creative solutions to problem solving.</li><li>B2 Evaluate, analyse and reflect critically on performance and choreographic work, dramatic texts or musical scores in a way that will enable you to interpret them in a</li></ul>	Technique Classes allow you to put into practice the dance and/or musical theatre skills (B2, B3, B4) you are developing, ask questions, and actively engage in the feedback process.

	Montral and allow way to another and available
variety of communication modes. B3 Integrate different critical theories and perspectives in the analysis and learning of established repertoire or new dance work and examine the strengths or weaknesses of received opinions and	Workshops allow you to create and explore concepts both practically and theoretically, developing your skills (B1, B5). These experiences introduce you to new ways of working collaboratively often with guest artists who are influential within the industry.
arguments. B4 Communicate effectively with a range of	Repertoire Performance of new and established repertoire in a range of venues will enhance your ability to adapt, to work
specialist and non-specialist audiences. B5 Acquire technique and performance skills	constructively and collaboratively with colleagues, directors and choreographers, and to problem solve through the application
and generate and interrogate new movement ideas appropriate to your chosen dance genre - in ballet, contemporary dance,	of your technical knowledge.
jazz and commercial dance, or musical theatre.	reflect on historical, analytical, and research frameworks to contextualise your practical learning. These sessions develop the
B6 Work effectively independently and in a team context.	application of your knowledge and skills (B1, B2, B3)
	Seminars offer you the chance to delve deeper into concepts explored within lectures, ask questions, collaborate with others and prepare for summative assessments. These sessions develop your skills (B1-5)
	Assessment methods Your skills are assessed both formatively and summatively through a range of methods designed to allow you to achieve your best and stretch your abilities.
	Technique assessments allow you to demonstrate your achievement in the techniques you are studying as a dance and/or musical theatre artists. You will be asked to perform your skills in the context of the regular technique classes that you take as part of your daily practice or in performance either as an individual or as part of a group.
	Performance assessments are crucial to your development as a creative artist. They are opportunities for you to blend technique with artistry and show off skills and your potential.

Oral presentation assessments allow you to communicate and illustrate the application of concepts and ideas explored within a module using digital technologies. You will be asked to use your communication and presentation skills to articulate your responses to a pre-identified audience.
Portfolio assessments enable you to demonstrate your skills in a variety of creative outputs often drawing on digital technologies to produce your work. These assessments facilitate new and challenging ways of meeting the learning outcomes.

# 12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

#### **12.1** Structure of the programme

The BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance maintains four complementary, interlocking strands in dance and musical theatre pedagogy: technique, performance, creation and contextual studies.

It is studied full-time over 3 years and has no part-time mode. The programme is offered at 3 levels. The BA (Hons) degree award requires the achievement of 360 credits consisting of 120 credits at FHEQ levels 4, 5 and 6. The ordinary BA degree requires the achievement of 300 credits at FHEQ level 4 or above, including 150 credits at FHEQ level 5 or above and 60 credits at FHEQ level 6 and above.

All 12 modules are compulsory. However, you are able to specialise in either ballet, contemporary dance, jazz and commercial dance or musical theatre at all three levels and this will affect the balance of subjects in your timetable in the following modules: M402, M403, M501, M502, M503, M601, M602 and M603.

Introductory talks, tutorial guidance from subject specialists, taster classes and a formal selection procedure will support and guide your choices within the programme.

At the beginning of Level 4 (as agreed at registration prior to enrolment), you are obliged to choose one of four possible professional pathways: namely ballet, contemporary dance, jazz and commercial dance, or musical theatre. The expectation is that you choose the specialism identified through the audition process.

At Level 4, M402 Focused Performance Practice is the only module taught in four separate pathways: ballet, contemporary dance, jazz and commercial dance or musical theatre. It focuses on the development of performance skills and repertoire in your emerging specialism.

Normally, you will progress onto the same pathway at Level 5 in M502 Specialist Performance Practice, which is, again, the only module taught in the four pathways. Increased taught sessions are

devoted to developing specialist techniques, performance skills and repertoire in your chosen field.

There are procedures in place to enable you to change your focus at appropriate points during Levels 4 and 5 should you wish to do so: namely, at the end of the first term and at the end of the year. It is still possible for you to apply to transfer from one pathway to another during the first term of Level 5, up to the beginning of second term but not after it. Any change of pathway after that date forfeits the bracketed award at the end of the programme. Any change of pathway request must be supported by the evidence of sufficient engagement and ability in the new pathway, this could be demonstrated through summatively assessed achievement in M401, M403, M501, M503 and/or a targeted pathway audition. In addition, it should be supported by relevant tutor/Head of Department statements. You must assume responsibility for ensuring that you meet the requirements of the specific discipline to which you aspire.

The offer of a place is subject to the availability of a place in the new pathway. Students failing pathway assessments or who have failed to meet attendance requirements would not normally be permitted to change pathway.

At Level 6, modules M601 The Professional Practitioner and M602 Creation, Production & Performance are taught in four separate professional pathways: ballet, contemporary dance, jazz and commercial dance or musical theatre, building on the extensive specialisation in the pathways at Level 5. Please note: it is not normally possible to change pathways at the end of Level 5, because you would not be adequately prepared for the demands of the specialised work that takes place in Level 6.

This specialisation in one of the four professional pathways is articulated in the brackets following the title of the award: BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Ballet), BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Contemporary Dance), BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Jazz and Commercial Dance), or BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance (Musical Theatre).

#### Exit Award

You may exit with a CertHE Professional Dance Performance after successfully completing Level 4 or exit with a DipHE Professional Dance Performance, after successfully completing Level 5.

You may exit with an ordinary BA Professional Dance Performance degree after successfully completing 300 credits at Level 4 and above, of which 150 credits must be at Level 5 and above, and 60 credits must be at Level 6.

You may exit BA Hons Professional Dance Performance as an unbracketed award following a change of pathway after the first term in Level 5.

Compulsory modules are those that must be taken, i.e., the award cannot be made unless these modules have been successfully completed. Each of these modules does not necessarily *uniquely* measure achievement of programme learning outcomes.

#### All the modules that comprise the degree programme are compulsory.

#### **Curriculum Structure**

The curriculum for each level of study is represented by triangular shapes below. While all modules run across three terms, the wide base of each triangle indicates where students will spend the majority of their contact time or assessment time and where the triangle reaches its tip is where students may receive fewer contact hours or are preparing less for assessments.

	M401: Foundation Studies in Dance Practice (40 credits)	M402: Focused Performance Practice (20 credits)	M403: Skills for Versatility (20 credits)	M404: Understanding Performance and Creative Practices (40 credits)
Term 1				
Term 2				
Term 3				

At this point students can exit with a CertHE Professional Dance Performance

	M501: Professional Dance Practice	M502: Specialist Performance Practice	M503: Personal & Professional Development	M504: Exploring Performance and Creative Practice
	(20 credits)	(40 credits)	(20 credits)	(40 credits)
Term 1				
Term 2				
Term 3				
	V V		ļ V	
-	ν nts can exit with a I	DipHE Professional	Dance Performanc	:e
-	M601: The Professional Practitioner	M602: Creation, Performance & Production	M603: Employability in Practice	M604: Independent Creative Research
-	M601: The Professional	M602: Creation, Performance &	M603: Employability in	M604:
evel 6	M601: The Professional Practitioner	M602: Creation, Performance & Production	M603: Employability in Practice	M604: Independent Creative Research Project
At this point stude .evel 6 Term 1	M601: The Professional Practitioner	M602: Creation, Performance & Production	M603: Employability in Practice	M604: Independent Creative Research Project

## 12.2 Levels and modules

Optional	Progression requirements
There are no optional modules	All four modules must be completed to progress
	There are no optional

### Level 5

Eevel o		
Compulsory	Optional	Progression requirements
Students must take all of the following:	There are no optional modules	All four modules must be completed to progress
M501: Professional Dance Practice (20 credits)		
M502: Specialist Performance Practice (40 credits)		
M503: Personal & Professional Development (20 credits)		
M504: Exploring Performance and Creative Practice (40 credits)		
Level 6		
Compulsory	Optional	Progression requirements
Students must take all of the following:	There are no optional modules	All four modules must be completed to receive their award.
M601: The Professional Practitioner (20 credits)		

http://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/academic-quality/handbook/

M602: Creation, Performance & Production (40 credits)	
M603: Employability in Practice (20 credits)	
M604: Independent Creative Research Project (40 credits)	

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
Level 5	M502
	M504
Level 6	M602
	M604

#### 13. Information about assessment regulations

See the University's regulations, which can be found at <u>https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies</u>. London Studio Centre uses a 0-100 marking scheme for assessed work, which is explained in the BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance handbook.

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

From time-to-time final year students are offered professional engagements. Provided the nature of the work meets the requirements for assessments of the learning outcomes it may be possible to undertake such employment provided it is equivalent to the assessed performances for the module M602 Creation, Production & Performance at Level 6. Normally, only professional work equivalent to a full evening performance underwritten by a professional contract is considered.

London Studio Centre will make arrangements for first and second markers to assess the student in that context and to arrange for a video recording of the work to be available to external examiners. The decision to do so is entirely at LSC's discretion and the arrangements must meet its reasonable demands. Applications must be made in accordance with agreed procedures set out on the Application Form. Details of the arrangements are available on DIVA.

#### 15. Future careers / progression

LSC supports students' career development in a number of ways. The development of transferable skills and professional attitudes are embedded in all the modules. Relevant employability skills include communication, self-motivation, collaborative working, openness, curiosity, commitment to personal development and challenge, time management and problem solving.

You will receive help and guidance about compiling an appropriate CV and a portfolio of employability materials such as showreels and self-tapes. Your ability to make the most of every opportunity is a matter of being well prepared. Informal careers advice is always available from tutors at LSC.

Talks with industry professionals, Q&As and workshops in M603 under the general title of **Professional Development and Careers Guidance** will provide you with practical guidance about working life in the professional field. For example:

- Auditions, show reels, self-tapes, websites, CVs & headshots
- Working with or without an agent Unions & professional organisations: Equity, Spotlight, One Dance UK
- "Castability" workshop A sustainable career: transitions & professional development
- Working freelance, financial management, tax & contracts
- Networking & social media
- Dance facilitation & community dance practice
- Arts management, funding & programming

**Work Experience:** The opportunity to perform in a range of disciplines is an essential feature of the course. In addition to the four touring 'companies', you will find that large and small-scale performing opportunities are scheduled at different points throughout the academic year for both Levels 4 and 5. In Level 6 the professional pathways are designed deliberately to provide a model that mirrors working practices in the professional field.

In order to help you find work when you graduate, London Studio Centre maintains extensive contacts with casting directors, choreographers, directors, producers and agents by inviting them to specific performances or agent weeks, which act as a valuable showcase for you.

**Auditions:** You will benefit from audition practice in preparation for your professional future, across the curriculum. Companies and musical theatre directors and choreographers contact LSC in order to recruit directly through a private audition. On occasion, arrangements are made for students to audition with leading UK and overseas companies.

**Professional Engagements:** See Item 15 of the Programme Specification above, which provides details of specific arrangements when it may be possible to offer professional work in lieu of scheduled assessments for M602. Otherwise, professional engagements should be undertaken in your own time to avoid a conflict with taught sessions during term time. Work undertaken in term time is entirely your responsibility and is never a reason to miss scheduled classes or assessments at London Studio Centre without prior consent. You

are registered on the degree course, and you must take into account the attendance regulations, which require you to be present for all scheduled classes.

By the time you graduate, you will have both an in-depth knowledge of the professional field and the enterprising and entrepreneurial skills needed to navigate the field successfully to achieve a rewarding and sustainable career in dance, performance and the arts.

The library and LSC's VLE hold a range of resources on careers advice and help you build up a useful portfolio of relevant information.

#### 16. Particular support for learning

London Studio Centre welcomes students with disabilities, learning differences, long-term illness, injury and neurodivergent conditions. If applicable, and supported by evidence, reasonable adjustments will be negotiated to support your learning and assessments.

LSC endeavours to provide accessible and inclusive education for all students. When additional support needs are identified for an individual student, reasonable adjustments may address any specific differences that are creating barriers to learning. Additional support might include extra tutorials, study skills guidance, and/or assessment adjustments, as well as specific advice for understanding learning and processing differences.

Your learning needs can be discussed and possibly recorded as a Learning Support Agreement (LSA). An LSA outlines reasonable adjustments, notes about any specific barriers to learning, and offers advice for you and the teaching and assessment staff to ensure that your needs are being met to facilitate your academic progression.

If you suspect a learning difference (such as dyslexia), or a neurodivergent condition (such as Autism or ADHD), but lack a diagnosis or assessment, LSC will support you on a caseby-case basis in accordance with Government legislation.

During induction week your strength, flexibility and biomechanics, will be assessed to support your dance training. Throughout our Independent Professional Development and Dance Science classes, you will learn how to independently manage your physical well-being, and address any weaknesses identified during your physical tests.

During the first term, you will be invited to a health and wellbeing 1:1 to support your individual progression through the programme.

You will also benefit from the Physical Support Scheme at London Studio Centre, which, in the event of an injury, will help to support you through treatment and rehabilitation to optimise your recovery.

17. HECos code(s)
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100068

18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s) Dance, Drama and Performance (2019)

#### **19.** Reference points

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications QAA The UK Quality Code for Higher Education OfS Regulatory Framework Middlesex University Regulations Middlesex University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook London Studio Centre's policies, procedures and strategies

#### 20. Other information

London Studio Centre is an accredited member of the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT). The CDMT provide the industry benchmark of quality assurance for professional dance and musical theatre training in the UK.

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.

#### 21. Curriculum map for BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance

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.

The ability to conduct research and employ a range of sources to gather information on a given subject

#### Programme learning outcomes

Knov	vledge and understanding
A1	Engage with the development of dance and musical theatre as performing arts and develop knowledge of them in their wider contexts.
A2	Employ technique and an integrated knowledge of dance science in its development, as reflected in the performance of new and established repertoire and in the creation of new work.
A3	Determine how dance creatively relates to other arts forms, particularly visual media, music and design.
A4	Develop a critical understanding of aesthetics and how critical reflection and writing informs and shapes our response to dance and musical theatre.
A5	Evidence knowledge of how practice is informed by research and scholarship at the forefront of the discipline.
Skills	
B1	Propose innovative and creative solutions to problem solving
B2	Evaluate, analyse and reflect critically on performance and choreographic work, dramatic texts or musical scores in a way that will enable you to interpret them in a variety of communication modes.
В3	Integrate different critical theories and perspectives in the analysis and learning of established repertoire or new dance work and examine the strengths or weaknesses of received opinions and arguments.
B4	Communicate effectively with a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences.
B5	Acquire technique and performance skills and generate and interrogate new movement ideas appropriate to your chosen dance genre - in ballet, contemporary dance, jazz and commercial dance, or musical theatre.
B6	Work effectively independently and in a team context.

A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6
6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

Module Title	Module Code											
	by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6
Foundation Studies in Dance Practice	M401	x								х	х	
Focused Performance Practice	M402		х						х	х	х	х
Skills for Versatility	M403					х	х					
Understanding Performance and Creative Practices	M404	х	x	x	x	х		х	х	х		
Professional Dance Practice	M501	х								х	х	
Specialist Performance Practice	M502		х						х	х	х	х
Personal & Professional Development	M503					х	х					
Exploring Performance and Creative Practice	M504	x		x	x	х			х	х		х
The Professional Practitioner	M601	х							х		х	x
Creation, Performance & Production	M602		x				х	x	x	x	x	х
Employability in Practice	M603	х				х						х
Independent Creative Research Project	M604	x		x	х	х	х	х		x		х