

## ***Master of Arts Dance Performance***

### Programme Specification



<b>1. Programme title</b>	MA Dance Performance (Classical Ballet) MA Dance Performance (Contemporary Dance) MA Dance Performance (Jazz Dance) MA Dance Performance (Musical Theatre)
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3. Teaching institution</b>	London Studio Centre
<b>4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body</b>	n/a
<b>5. Final qualification(s) available</b>	Postgraduate Certificate in Dance Performance Postgraduate Diploma in Dance Performance (Classical Ballet) Postgraduate Diploma in Dance Performance (Contemporary Dance) Postgraduate Diploma in Dance Performance (Jazz Dance) Postgraduate Diploma in Dance Performance (Musical Theatre) MA Dance Performance (Classical Ballet) MA Dance Performance (Contemporary Dance) MA Dance Performance (Jazz Dance) MA Dance Performance (Musical Theatre)
<b>6. Year of validation / last review</b> <b>Year of amendment</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
<b>7. Language of study</b>	English
<b>8. Mode of study</b>	Full-time

<b>9. Criteria for admission to the programme</b>
London Studio Centre celebrates diversity of applicants to this MA programme by looking to recruit applicants from a range of diverse backgrounds, experiences, physical abilities/disabilities and genre of dance specialism. As

such LSC welcomes applicants from the profession who may not have traditional programme entry requirements but who may be able to demonstrate their ability to engage in postgraduate study through a diagnostic task upon application. Such measures open access to this programme and celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion while ensuring that those candidates have the ability to succeed in accordance with the QAA Quality Code for Higher Education.

The general entrance requirement for postgraduate study is a relevant UK Honours degree classified at 2:2 or above, usually in dance or a related field. Overseas qualifications equivalent to a UK Honours degree classified at a Lower Second Class or above, will be considered.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following through the application, audition and interview process:

- An advanced level of practical knowledge in dance
- Good communication skills, written and verbal
- A capacity to work at postgraduate level, e.g. engage with complex matters in the field; demonstrate creativity in the application of knowledge

Successful applicants must demonstrate, by audition, that they meet the requirements of one of LSC's performing companies:

Images Ballet Company,  
INTOTO Dance (contemporary dance),  
Jazz Co.  
Seedtime (musical theatre)

At the point of audition, applicants should state which company/area of specialism/pathway they wish to join. Successful auditionees will demonstrate their potential aptitude to benefit from rigorous performance training that mirrors the professional norms of current theatre dance companies specialising in Musical Theatre, Classical Ballet, Contemporary Dance and Jazz Dance. Thus the application process underscores the pedagogy on the programme.

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

When it is impossible for applicants to attend an audition, they may audition by video (DVD/YouTube link) in accordance with London Studio Centre's video application requirements. These are available on LSC's website:

[www.londonstudiocentre.org/admissions/how-to-apply/video-application](http://www.londonstudiocentre.org/admissions/how-to-apply/video-application)

They will also be required to attend a virtual interview with relevant admissions and programme staff.

### **English language requirements for international students**

Students must have competence in English language to study with us. The most commonly accepted evidence of English language ability is IELTS 6.5 (with minimum 6.0 in all four components). Visit Middlesex University's English

language requirements page for a full list of accepted English tests and qualifications: [www.mdx.ac.uk/study-with-us/international/entry-requirements-for-international-students/english-language-requirements-for-international-students](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/study-with-us/international/entry-requirements-for-international-students/english-language-requirements-for-international-students)

### **International Students**

Many international students will require a visa to study in the UK. These students must meet UK Visa and Immigrations requirements and the requirements of LSC to gain a CAS number. Further information can be found here: [www.mdx.ac.uk/study-with-us/international/apply-for-tier-4-visa](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/study-with-us/international/apply-for-tier-4-visa)

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.

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

The programme aims to:

- Extend and refine specialist practical dance skills applicable to aspirant professional-level performers
- Enhance conceptual and embodied knowledge of healthy dance practices that are necessary to sustain a professional dance/musical theatre career
- Deepen understanding of the application of technical competences to the imaginative process of collaboratively creating performance
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the responsibilities required to develop and sustain performance within a professional and collegial setting
- Develop a critical understanding of research in the area of dance and/or musical theatre performance informed by advanced scholarship at the forefront of the discipline
- Broaden the ability to use autonomy, self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems
- Enhance transferable skills in digital literacy and communication

## **11. Programme outcomes\***

### **A. Knowledge and understanding**

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

1. The imaginative application of embodied knowledge to the creative process
2. The rigorous requirement to interpret and perform particular styles, roles and specific genre
3. The conceptual connections between theory and practice in critically informed dance performance with a critical awareness of advanced

### **Teaching/learning methods**

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- Engagement with creative practitioners and peers in the creation of new or the staging of established repertoire
- Being coached directed, and undertaking independent research in the sustained performance of new or established repertoire
- The professional management of oneself in the context of a performing company in the studio and on tour

<p>scholarship at the forefront of the discipline</p> <p>4. Critical awareness of professional development within dance, musical theatre and more broadly the creative industries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection on practice through group tutorials, seminars, one to one tutorials and guided reading</li> <li>• The opportunity to conduct extensive research engaging with scholarly sources within the specialist area of interest</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In performances the demonstration of a comprehensive command of dance practice and theory informed by current best practice and recent scholarship</li> <li>• Studio-based prepared technique classes in which reflection on practice demonstrates innovative and imaginative strategies for developing skills and problem solving</li> <li>• Individual creative and research-based assignments and presentations</li> <li>• The communication of research findings which are demonstrated through various modes and means of dissemination</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. 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. Demonstrate a comprehensive level of achievement in specialist techniques in dance and musical theatre</li> <li>2. Contribute imaginatively and appropriately to the creative process both individually and collaboratively</li> <li>3. Conduct rigorous research in specialist subjects, managing a body of evidence/newly created material</li> <li>4. Critically communicate such evidence/new material arising from the research process into coherent and persuasive outcomes</li> <li>5. Self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An iterative process of daily and weekly technique classes taught by established professionals in their field</li> <li>• Engagement in a collaborative process of creating, rehearsing, refining and disseminating in performance new and established repertoire</li> <li>• Conducting individual research projects employing a range of technologies to support the research process</li> <li>• The active participation in seminars and individual and group tutorials designed to support the research process</li> <li>• The deliberate, critical and systematic reflection on one's own progress as a practitioner</li> </ul>

autonomously and implementing tasks at a professional level	<p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation and skilled presentation of performance material and the interpretation of new and established repertoire in the context of public performances</li> <li>• Studio-based prepared technique classes that provide evidence of skills directly relevant to high levels of achievement in performance</li> <li>• Individual creative and researched-based assignments</li> <li>• Rigorous research and the communication of research findings through various modes of communication</li> </ul>
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## 12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

### 12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

The MA Dance Performance is a one year full-time taught postgraduate Master's degree programme specialising in four separate professional pathways: classical ballet, contemporary dance, jazz dance or musical theatre. By offering students the choice and experience of working within one of the four pathways, it offers a diverse and unique experience to students which cannot be obtained elsewhere. The choice of pathway students wish to belong to is made at audition to the programme and will lead to working in one of LSC's four companies Images (Classical Ballet), INTOTO Dance (Contemporary Dance), Jazz Co. (Jazz Dance) and Seedtime (Musical Theatre).

The programme is studied across four terms and comprises of two 30 credit modules and two 60 credit modules for a total of 180 credits which are levelled at the Framework for Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) Level 7. Completion of this will achieve the MA Dance Performance.

Completion of 60 credits will achieve the PGCert in Dance Performance as an unbracketed award. The modules that must be completed are: M711: Technique and Performance and M713 Planning and Professional Development and would be awarded after term 3. Completion of 120 credits will achieve the PGDip as a bracketed award. The modules that must be completed are: M711: Technique and Performance, M712 Performance Practice and Creative Process and M713 Planning and Professional Development and would be awarded after term 3.

Each module is intended to address key requirements for putative dance professionals: technical excellence in a specific genre (M711), performance experience in the context of a company (M712), entrepreneurship and professional development (M713), and the ability to conduct and present the outcome of creative research at Masters level (M714).

The aims of the MA Dance Performance (Section 10) underpin the Programme Outcomes (Section 11) and individual Module Learning Outcomes. As such, module assessments are driven by the evaluation of these learning outcomes. This ensures the integrity of the programme.

The programme modules are as follows:

<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Core or option</b>
M711	7	30	Technique for Performance	Core
M712	7	60	Performance Practice and Creative Process	Core
M713	7	30	Planning and Professional Development	Core
M714	7	60	Independent Research Project	Core

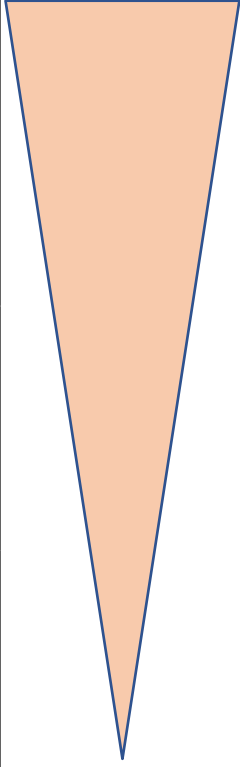
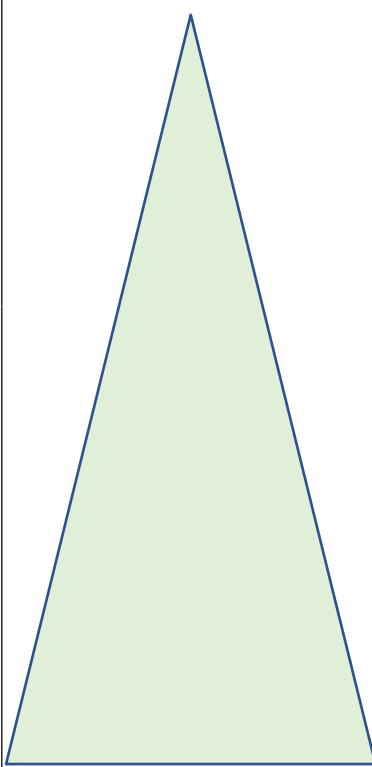
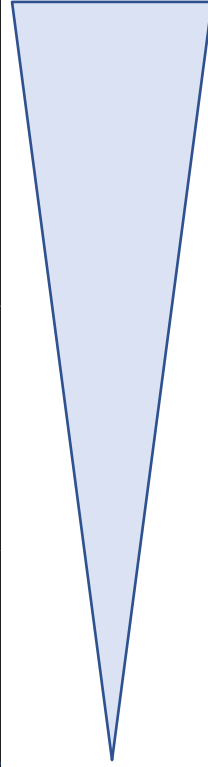
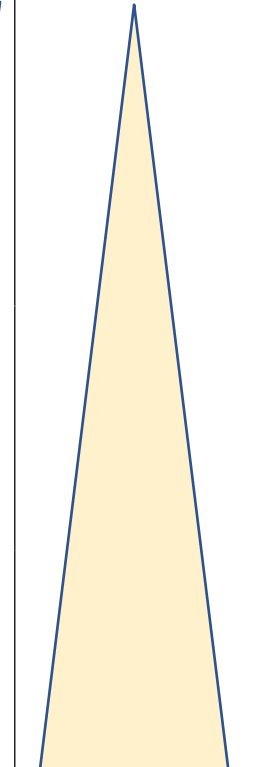

Each module is Core to the programme, meaning that students will be required to undertake all 180 credits in order to successfully complete the programme. The final mark for each module is the weighted average of the assessment results within the module.

Module Learning Outcomes are directly linked to the Programme Aims and Programme Learning Outcomes. Assessments for each Module are designed to ensure that the assessment criteria link directly to Module Learning Outcomes, which will be measured and are identified clearly in the assessment briefs for students. Such clear links between the Programme Aims, Module Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria offer students clearly connected programme structure and content.

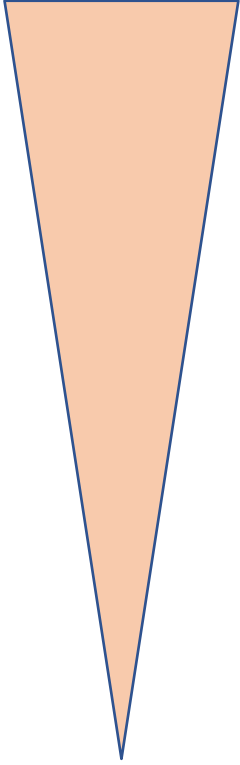
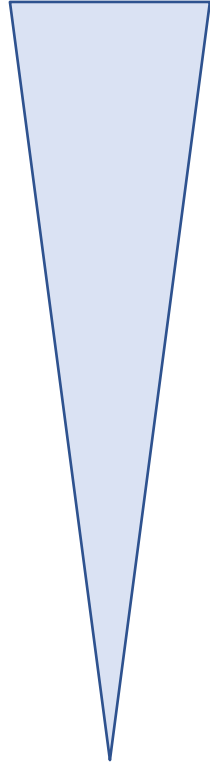
All learning outcomes are mapped against FHEQ level descriptors for Level 7 as well as the Quality Assurance Agency Masters' Degree Characteristics Statement (2020) and the subject benchmark statement for Dance, Drama and Performance (2019).

The course map can be seen on the page below.

## MA Dance Performance

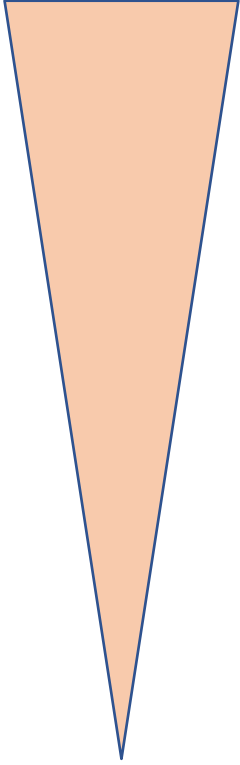
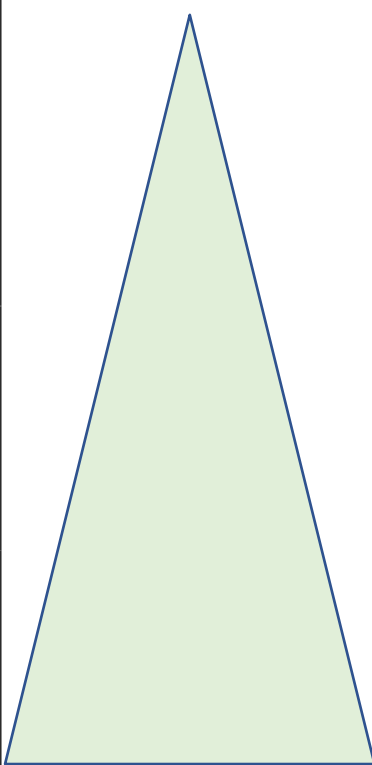
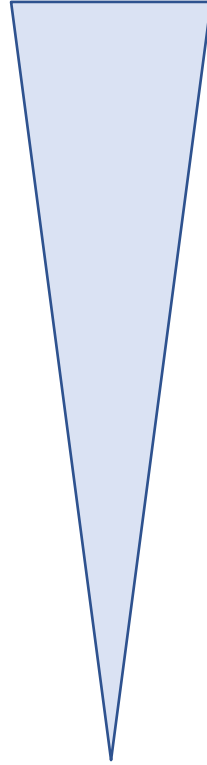
Code	M711	M712	M713	M714
	Techniques for Performance 30 Credits	Performance Practice and Creative Processes 60 Credits	Planning and Professional Development 30 Credits	Independent Research Project 60 Credits
Term 1				
Term 2				
Term 3				
Term 4				

## PGCert in Dance Performance

Code	M711	M713
	Techniques for Performance 30 Credits	Planning and Professional Development 30 Credits
Term 1		
Term 2		
Term 3		
Term 4		



## PGDip in Dance Performance (Bracketed Award)

Code	M711	M712	M713
	Techniques for Performance 30 Credits	Performance Practice and Creative Processes 60 Credits	Planning and Professional Development 30 Credits
Term 1			
Term 2			
Term 3			
Term 4			

12.2 Levels and modules	
Level 7	
COMPULSORY	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: M711 Techniques for Performance M712 Performance Practice and Creative Processes M713 Planning and Professional Development M714 Independent Research Project	None

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
Level 7	M712
Level 7	M714

13. Information about assessment regulations
See the University's regulations, which can be found at <a href="https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies">https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies</a> . London Studio Centre uses a 0-100 marking scheme for assessed work, which is explained in the MA Dance Performance handbook.

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support
N/A

15. Future careers / progression
<p>The aim of the programme is to support students determined to pursue performing careers in dance and musical theatre. As such, in addition to the daily pursuit of technical excellence in a specialist discipline, students will be gaining real-life performance experience through the creative and developmental process of devising a substantial performance, the rehearsal and staging experience and then participating in the intricacies of a touring company in the pathway of their choice. Such practical experience corresponds with all aspects of a performing career, from honing technique to creative collaboration, culminating in opportunities to perform. It facilitates future career progression from the onset of the programme until its conclusion.</p> <p>The creative exploration of patterns of career development in each of the genre is linked to the construction of a relevant database of possible opportunities for professional work (M713). This component of the programme is consciously designed to promote career opportunities and professional development. In undertaking an Independent Research Project (M714), students will be engaging with the creative output of academic study that would also facilitate further higher degrees.</p>

#### 16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

LSC has a dedicated Head of Learning Support (HoLS), who can offer additional assistance to students (in conjunction with other members of staff) relating to vocational/technique classes, academic/research skills, and matters relating to Specific Learning Differences (SpLDs). Students with SpLDs are encouraged to discuss their barriers to learning with the HoLS, and if necessary be directed to an assessment, or assistance with DSA. Reasonable adjustments are made, where possible, for students with a range of conditions, through negotiation with LSC.

The Student Welfare Department provides both counselling and fitness services, on a drop-in basis at specified times, or by appointment.

LSC operates an open-door policy, whereby admin and other staff are willing to discuss matters with students to provide quick answers or problem-solving. This includes a messaging service in the LSC VLE (DIVA) or email access.

The Librarian is available to assist students in researching and using the library systems, including online catalogues and International Bibliography of Theatre and Dance, which provides access to articles about the performing arts.

#### 17. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

W550 (HECoS 100712)

#### 18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

Dance, Drama and Performance (2019)

#### 19. Reference points

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

QAA The UK Quality Code for Higher Education

QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement

Middlesex University Regulations

Middlesex University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook

#### 20. Other information

LSC was awarded a Gold TEF award in 2019, for the second year in a row, with the panel noting that LSC 'delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK.'

In 2017, LSC underwent a Higher Education Review by the QAA meeting all expectations and gained a commended result, in 'the quality of student learning opportunities'. The recent QAA monitoring report in May 2019 noted that LSC 'is making commendable progress with continuing to monitor, review and enhance its higher education provision.'

LSC is accredited by the Council of Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT), gaining reaccreditation in 2018 fully meeting all requirements. The CDMT provide the industry benchmark of quality assurance for professional dance and musical theatre training in the UK.

These reports are supported by outstanding results in national surveys with overall student satisfaction sitting at 95% for 2018/19 in the National Student Survey.

LSC has excellent employability, with its current Higher Education provision showing that 97% of students had entered work or further study 6 months after leaving the programme, according to the most recent Destination of Leavers of Higher Education (DLHE) survey.

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.

## Curriculum map for MA 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.

### Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	The imaginative application of embodied knowledge to the creative process
A2	The rigorous requirement to interpret and perform particular styles, roles and specific genre
A3	The conceptual connections between theory and practice in critically informed dance performance with a critical awareness of advanced scholarship at the forefront of the discipline
A4	Critical awareness of professional development within dance, musical theatre and more broadly the creative industries
Skills	
B1	Demonstrate a comprehensive level of achievement in specialist techniques in dance and musical theatre
B2	Contribute imaginatively and appropriately to the creative process both individually and collaboratively
B3	Conduct rigorous research in specialist subjects, managing a body of evidence/newly created material
B4	Critically communicate such evidence/new material arising from the research process into coherent and persuasive outcomes
B5	Self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems autonomously and implementing tasks at a professional level

Programme outcomes														
A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5						
Highest level achieved by all graduates														
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7						

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
		Technique for Performance	M711	X	X	X		X	X	
Performance Practice and Creative Process	M712	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Planning and Professional Development	M713			X	X				X	X
Independent Research Project	M714			X	X			X	X	X