

MA Choreography

Course Information

Overview

This is a flexible course designed for professional choreographers who wish to develop their choreographic profile and professional skills. The course has been developed to allow you to combine critical reflection and research linked to the making of choreography, with ongoing work as either a freelance dance practitioner or a dance company member.

You will have opportunity to define your own unique qualities and develop your creative voice. Collaborative work with other artists such as composers, designers, film makers and theatre professionals may feature.

The course is unique in providing postgraduate study within a professional ballet training context. Central School of Ballet is renowned for its well established association to many areas of the dance industry, including leading dance companies. The MA in Choreography is validated by the University of Kent and Central School of Ballet is an affiliate of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama.

Key purpose and feature of the course

Aims of the MA/PgDip Choreography Programme which is designed:

- To develop an in depth awareness and critical appreciation of a range of influences, values and attitudes informing past and current choreographic practice within the ballet sector.
- To develop an understanding, in both depth and breadth, of the processes involved in creating, preparing and rehearsing choreography for public performance.
- To develop advanced, practical and conceptual research skills resulting in choreography work based on a mastery of complex and specialised knowledge of ballet and, as appropriate, contemporary dance and other movement forms.
- To equip students to explore, challenge and develop their own individual choreographic practice through sustained personal, critical reflection and intensive engagement with creative processes at the highest level.
- To develop choreographers who are able to synthesise technical expertise, specialised knowledge, creative originality, and who are able to demonstrate professional choreographic competencies appropriate to postgraduate level.
- To encourage advanced, independent learners and articulate, reflective practitioners prepared for employment, with the ability to take full responsibility for furthering their own artistic and personal development.
- To develop choreographers who, through sophisticated research and exploratory practice, can make a distinctive contribution to the dance profession at the highest level.

Course Highlights

The making of choreography is at the centre of all of the work of the MA. The majority of the work is studio based, leading to performances. You will have the opportunity to explore, challenge and develop your own individual choreographic practice.

You will become more aware of the range of influences informing your work and the processes involved in creating, preparing and rehearsing choreography for public performance.

Critical reflection and research underpins all aspects of the work. The overall aim is to develop choreographers who, through sophisticated research and exploratory practice, can make a distinctive contribution to the dance profession at the highest level.

Course Content

There are five modules on the MA and all the modules are compulsory. There is the scope to complete modules in a timeframe that works around other professional commitments and individual projects.

Modules:

CSB 401 Choreography: Practice and Principles

CSB 402 Choreography: Theory and Practice

CSB 403 Choreography for Performance

CSB 404 The Choreographer in the Professional Context

Each of the above modules is weighted at 30 credits

CSB Professional Performance Project, weighted at 60 credits. This leads to a total of 180 credits for the award of the MA Choreography.

There is an option to enrol for the PgDip in Choreography which is a 120 credit qualification comprising modules CSB 401, 402, 403 & 404.

Module Details

CSB 401 Choreography: Practice and Principles - Number of Credits: 30

This introductory module allows opportunity to identify, interrogate and challenge current choreographic practice in relation to traditional and present ballet choreography. You will engage in detailed research and studio-based exploration, drawing on a wide range of sources and influences. Critical reflection and evaluation is central to the practical exploration and creative processes. Research will include theatre visits, use of DVD and written sources, observation of the working methods of professional practitioners, and focus on the work of a range of established choreographers.

Assessment in term one will be through a studio presentation (70%) and a verbal presentation considering the processes involved in the creation of the work (30%).

CSB 402 Choreography: Theory and Practice - Number of Credits: 30

The second module focuses on exploring a range of values, attitudes and contexts influencing past and current choreographic practice. You will define your own topic for investigation and carry out conceptual and practice-based research, synthesising information from a range of sources.

The findings of the research is presented for assessment in term three in a workshop series or lecture demonstration (70%), with a critical written evaluation of 2000 – 2500 words (30%).

CSB 403 Choreography for Performance - Number of Credits: 30

The third module develops from research and exploratory work in term one and two for modules CSB 401 and CSB 402 and involves the creation and modification of choreographic work for studio based or public performance. You will have opportunity to define your own unique qualities and develop your creative voice. Collaborative work with other artists such as composers, designers and theatre professionals may feature, and reflective evaluation and feedback will be used to develop the dance work in readiness for performance.

The assessment of this module is through studio or theatre based performance (100%) in either term two or three.

CSB 404 The Choreographer in the Professional Context - Number of Credits: 30

The work for this module relates to employment and vocational development. You will define your developmental needs, which includes setting goals and reflecting on your progress to make plans for the future. This module encourages independent research including interviews and placements in industry settings, the development of IT skills as part of self-representation, proposals for funding applications or commissioned work, and documentation of mentor meetings and collaborative work with others.

The final assessment of this module will be through the submission of a portfolio of up to 5000 words, which will be typically reflective and analytical but may also include visual, illustrative material.

CSB 405 Professional Performance Project - Number of Credits: 60

This module culminates research and findings from other modules, and involves the staging and performance of a piece of choreographic work for theatre based performance. You will work with dancers on all stages of the choreographic process, collaborating with other artists such as composers, designers or theatre professionals, and responding to evaluation and feedback in readiness for public performance.

The assessment is through the performance of the work in term four (80%) supported by a written evaluation (20%) of 5000 words (or equivalent).

Teaching Methods

Places are restricted to no more than 2 students in one cohort to ensure students gain close access to individual, bespoke mentor support and opportunities to rehearse and stage work. Enrolment for the MA and PgDip is in January and the course typically runs for four terms.

Within all modules you will engage in both academic and practice-based research. You are expected to carry out independent study, managing workloads and meeting deadlines, although there is on-going mentoring and tutor supervision from members of staff or visiting professionals.

There is flexibility to arrange study around professional dance work, although sufficient time must be allocated to carry out necessary research and preparation.

Assessment

Assessment will be through a mixture of studio presentation, public performance, verbal presentation and written submission.

Feedback is given through tutorials and one to one discussions. For each module students receive a written summary of the feedback, usually around 500 words per module, with the marks. We aim to give verbal feedback within 10 days of an individual assessment and the written feedback is provided once the whole module is complete.

The following marking bands are used for both the PgDip and MA:

Distinction	70 and above
Merit	60 - 69
Pass	50 - 59
Fail	Below pass mark

All modules are compulsory:

Code	Title	Credits	Assessment Mode	Assessment Weighting			
				Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
CSB 401	Choreography: Practice and Principles	30	Summative studio based performance	70%	-	-	-
			Summative verbal presentation	30%	-	-	-
CSB 402	Choreography: Theories and Practice	30	Summative: workshop or lecture demonstration	-	→	70%	-
			Summative: written submission	-	→	30%	-
CSB 403		30					-

	Choreography for Performance		Summative: performance	-	→	100%	-
CSB 404	The Choreographer in the Professional Context	30	Portfolio submission	-	-	100% Pg Dip	100% MA
CSB 405	Professional Performance Project	60	Summative: Theatre Performance	-	-	-	80%
			Summative: reflective written submission	-	-	-	20%

Entry Requirements

The MA and PgDip in Choreography is aimed at professional dancers and emerging choreographers with an existing choreographic portfolio, such as mid-career dance artists from a classical or contemporary dance background. You will be skilled in dance performance and will possess a BA (Hons) degree in an appropriate subject, such as dance from a professional training course.

If you do not hold a BA (Hons) you will be able to apply for accreditation of prior experiential or credited learning (APECL). You will be required to demonstrate you possess the experience and understanding of a comparable level gained in a professional dance company or vocational school. Candidates must submit examples of their choreographic work on DVD or weblinks and attend an interview.

Progression from the PgDip to the MA is dependent on passing Modules CSB 401, CSB 402, CSB 403 and CSB 404.

If English is not your first language, you will be asked to show a level of language competence, providing English scores (IELTS) in accordance with the regulations of the University of Kent.

How to apply

Applications are by submission of a CV, evidence of a choreographic portfolio by web links or film footage (full pieces to be submitted with original sound used for performance, not clips or parts of pieces), and a statement outlining choreographic interests. This should include the reasons for wanting to undertake the MA, and how it will support professional development at this career stage.

Before the application is submitted, there are opportunities to request information about the course, arrange a meeting or send emails with questions for the attention of the Director of Higher Education Programmes.

The deadline for applications is the end of September, with interviews and offers taking place in October. The course is full-time over four terms, with each enrolment point being January.

For applicants based outside of London or abroad, it may be possible to arrange a telephone or Skype interview, although a face to face meeting at some point before an offer is made is essential.

Please see the Central School of Ballet Admission Policy for more details about offers and enrolment.

Fees and Funding

Full information about fees can be requested from the Senior School Manager. There could be opportunity during the application process to apply for funding towards fees, although to be eligible for Leverhulme funding, applicants need to show proof of UK citizenship.

Careers

On successful completion of the course you will have an internationally recognised qualification awarded by the University of Kent. You will have developed a range of complex practical and theoretical skills and will have increased your choreographic portfolio. Many of our students have gone on to further develop their careers within the dance profession, taking up leadership roles and contributing to the artistic development of UK and international dance companies.