

Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

Programme Title:	
BA (Hons) Dance and Performance (Top-up)	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	BS6DAP1
UCAS Code:	
Name of Final Award:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours, BA (Hons)
Level of Qualification:	Level 6
Regime of Delivery:	Attendance
Mode(s) of Delivery:	Full Time
Typical Length of Study (Years):	1
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	N/A

Brief Description of the Programme

This course is designed to develop professional skills and techniques across a range of dance forms. We'll enhance students' previous dance and performance training by providing a broad understanding of the dance industry and the ability to manage a successful career in this exciting field. The course aims to encourage thinking practitioners of dance and spend time looking at performance development through dance science, considering performance optimisation techniques and current research. This dynamic top-up degree programme will also give students the opportunity to work with professional dance artists and choreographers in masterclasses and industry events.

This top up degree, is aimed at students who have completed a level 5 foundation degree/diploma but who now wish to progress their qualification into a full honour's degree. Whether this choice is made directly after graduation or following a professional career in the performance industry, this course offers them the chance to consolidate and develop their knowledge and understanding with a balance of practical and theoretical content. This course offers students the continuation of regular practical dance technique classes in jazz, ballet and conditioning whilst focusing on developing entrepreneurial and creative skills to help them create their own portfolio career in the dance industry. The programme also helps nurture their research skills to enable them to continue on to postgraduate study, a key factor if they wish to teach dance in schools/colleges or universities. The programme places a strong emphasis on self- and career-management and market placement and equips students with business and employability skills to support either an employed or self-employed career path. Ensuring longevity in the dance industry is also a key component so the course aims to nurture resilient dance graduates who have developed effective practical skills in looking after their own bodies, creating their own career opportunities and adapting effectively to new challenges.

Programme Aims

1	Prepare students for a career in the dance industry
2	Enhance students' performance skills and professional practice in a range of dance styles and contexts
3	Provide students with a conceptual understanding of the wider dance industry
4	Provide students with a working understanding of anatomy, physiology and psychology in relation to performance optimisation
5	Provide students with the necessary self-management skills to meet the demands of employment or self-employment

Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:	
Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)	
K1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key subject areas: Anatomical concepts, dance teaching and curriculum, jazz technique and theoretical concepts underpinning the structure of the dance industry
K2	Show advanced understanding of the interplay between practice and theory within a range of dance contexts
K3	Evaluate appropriate interdisciplinary elements of dance and related industries and apply knowledge, practices, concepts and skills from other disciplines
K4	Apply knowledge and critically engage with practices, concepts and skills from a range of disciplines
K5	Evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of their study.
K6	Interpret and apply knowledge of human structure and function within their individual area of dance practice.
Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)	
C1	Demonstrate skills in developing ideas and constructing arguments and the capacity to present them in appropriate ways
C2	Apply creativity in the management of personal and interpersonal issues
C3	Work collaboratively within a large group including appropriate distribution of work to produce a full show / performance.
Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)	
S1	Analyse and critique the cultural, social and/or historical contexts associated with a chosen research project
S2	Understand and apply knowledge of ethics in relation to research

S3	Demonstrate social awareness and responsibility in the development of a performance work for groups within the local community
S4	Critically analyse roles and accepted norms within the dance industry
Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)	
L1	Work collaboratively within a large group including appropriate distribution of work to produce a full show / performance
L2	Demonstrate effective planning and prioritisation in the management of personal workloads to meet deadlines
L3	Effectively source and synthesise information and data independently having utilised the most appropriate information retrieval skills
L4	Plan, design, manage and execute practical activities using appropriate techniques and procedures whilst demonstrating high levels of relevant skills

Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to sector developments.

Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
DP601	Dance Industry Technique and Performance	30	Core	Yes
DP602	Applied Injury Prevention and Performance Optimisation	30	Core	Yes
DP606	Collaborative Performance Project and Professional Practice	30	Core	Yes
DP603	Independent Project: Written Thesis	30	Option	No
DP604	Independent Project: Practical	30	Option	No

Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

Teaching and learning on the programme will help facilitate students' creative development, enabling them to integrate practice and theory with experiential learning as a key principle. A variety of teaching and learning methods will be employed during the programme and will include:

- **Lectures and Seminars**

Formal lectures will be used for the delivery of theoretical, sociological and historical aspects of dance, and for theoretical aspects of human physiology. Sessions may be formal class-based teaching or seminar workshops.

- **Laboratory and Performance work**

Students will have the opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the lectures into a practical setting through the use of specially designed activities during seminars and practical sessions in the Human Performance Laboratory or in the studio. Practical sessions have been designed to allow students to gain 'hands on' experience of using equipment, testing procedures and field-based assessments. Theoretical and practical use of research methods has been built into the modules allowing the student to analyse data when it is collected to enhance understanding and utilisation of statistical methods.

- **Masterclasses**

Masterclasses will be scheduled throughout the year where dance professionals will be invited to deliver workshops. These will help expand students' knowledge of the variety of dance forms and equip them with additional skills.

- **Personal Tutorials**

These are major teaching tools, which underpin the student learning experience particularly within their dissertation research project.

- **Virtual Learning Environment**

'Blackboard' is the University's choice of computer software for our virtual learning environment (VLE). It supports online teaching and learning and can be accessed by registered students and staff via the University's intranet system or by the internet from any location. Blackboard has become a key learning support tool whereby staff and student can communicate through text and image. Resources available within the 'environment' include, course information, module materials that can comprise of anything from lecture notes to video clips, discussion forums for communication between staff and students, administrative information such as calendars, and the setting and marking of online assessment. Blackboard will be used to support all modules on the programme.

- **Work-Based Learning**

This is embedded coherently into the programme of study across all modules. The recording of the skills development is demanded by assessment from the outset. Through formative and summative assessment, students will be encouraged to develop areas of interest through their chosen projects. This will enable students to complete the course with a level of expertise and support them to apply for suitable employment upon graduation.

- **Guided Independent Study**

This is an important aspect of this level 6 course to help prepare students for future employment. Activities will include pre and post session readings, wider reading to inform critical understanding, completing a performance journal documenting learning and setting personal goals, personal practise time in the dance studios to work on technique and performance aspects of practice.

Additional Course Costs

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.

- **Books / Journals**
£50-£100 for any additional books or journal articles that may be needed for the research project.
- **Printing**
Up to £50 per year for printing costs.
- **Performances/Practical Classes**
Up to £100 for costumes/ dance wear/ dance shoes
- **Graduation**
Graduation costs of £100 - £200. This is an optional cost as attending graduation is not a requirement in order to have a degree conferred.

Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad / Work Based Learning (Hours)
Year One	308	892	0

Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

The following assessment activities are used on this programme:

- **Practical Skills Assessment**
- **Group Performances**
- **Reflective written assignments**
- **Reports**
- **Dissertation research project**
- **Ongoing attendance and engagement**

The overall aim is to use innovative teaching and learning methods to guide students towards becoming more independent learners by the end of the programme, and to allow them to explore issues fully in the context of their work. Formative assessment creates a point from which

students and lecturers can appraise development, consolidate learning and plan ahead. Summative assessment allows recognition for progression to further study, informs those involved of the level of achievement, and validates the learning process.

Classification

Calculation of final award:	Level 6 – 100%
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For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

This top-up qualification is for students who have completed an HND, FdA or other equivalent qualification in a relevant dance-related subject and who wish to progress further to achieve an Honours degree. Applications are welcomed from dancers with any dance background, including both traditional and non-traditional forms, but the programme focuses primarily on jazz technique and is therefore aimed at those students with an interest in the commercial dance industry.

Applicants will be assessed through a recruitment process that includes a dance audition (on campus or via video submission if a campus visit is not possible), review of a piece of academic written work and an interview to assess their practical dance skills, academic writing skills and ability to benefit from the course. All students applying to the programme will be expected to demonstrate a specific interest in this area of study and should have a commitment to engaging with the subject.

Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?	No
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Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

The programme places emphasis on self- and career-management and market placement and equips students with business and employability skills to support either an employed or self-employed career path. We would envision graduates to go into roles such as teachers, performers (if they have not already entered the course from this career route), entertainers, exercise instructors, managers, dance artists and onto further postgraduate study (PGCEs to enable dance teaching in schools/ Masters degrees for example).

Recognition of Prior Learning

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules. Please refer to our [Credit Accumulation webpages](#) for further guidance.

Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

Appendices

Quality Assurance

Awarding Body:	Buckinghamshire New University
Language of Study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):	Dance, Drama and Performance
Assessment Regulations:	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice)
Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?	No
Ethics Sub-committee	Dance
Date Published / Updated:	December 2021
Date programme re-approval required:	December 2027

Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

Please refer to the *Academic Qualifications Framework* for Exit Qualifications recognised by the University and credit and module requirements.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Ordinary Degree
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	BA Dance and Performance
Credits requirements:	60 Credits
Module requirements:	Two of the following Level 6 modules: (excluding the Dissertation – DP603 or DP604) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP601 (30 credits) • DP602 (30 credits) • DP606 (30 credits)
Learning Outcome	
K1. Knowledge and understanding of jazz technique, anatomical concepts and theoretical concepts underpinning the structure of the dance industry	
K2. Understanding of the group and collective processes and the interplay between the performers' conscious and subconscious resources in the realisation of performance	
K3. Understanding of appropriate interdisciplinary elements of dance and related industries and how to apply knowledge, practices, concepts and skills from other disciplines	
C1. Demonstrate skills in developing ideas and constructing arguments and the capacity to present them in appropriate ways	
C3. Work within a group to plan, create and present a practice-based work	
L2. Demonstrate effective planning and prioritisation in the management of personal workloads to meet deadlines	

L3. Have acquired information retrieval skills needed to effectively source and synthesise information and data independently

L4. Be able to plan, design, manage and execute practical activities using appropriate techniques and procedures whilst demonstrating high levels of relevant skills