

Bachelor Of Arts (Honours) Dance

Course Synopsis

The BA (Hons) Dance develops students in three areas of learning and practice that will enhance their employability in the arts industries after graduation: Performance, Creative and Research. Intended for students in their final undergraduate year, the course serves to consolidate the students' learning and focus on guiding students through their self-directed learning.

The students will be guided to develop their professional repertoire by building their performative and choreographic skills, so as to allow them to demonstrate their acquisition of industry-standard skills, such as embodiment and conviction in performance, an assured and matured approach to dance conceptualisation, as well as other conceptual considerations.

Alongside such practical elements, students will also attend lessons and participate in discussions to gain an in-depth and reflexive understanding of the dance discipline, such as exploring the relationship between global socio-cultural issues and its influence of the development of dance. The expansive appreciation of dance literature will enable students to develop their analytical and critical abilities, which will enhance their career prospects as they enter the professional working environment.

Through a combination of workshops and seminars, complemented by enrichment opportunities, students are given the opportunity to not only develop into informed practitioner of the dance discipline and fulfil their academic potential, but also gain transferable industry relevant skills, such as effective communication, and management of creative processes. Dance professionals and visiting artists form the teaching core to not only impart knowledge but also mentor students to ensure that they are ready for the industry. Enrichment opportunities serve to further augment the students' learning experience by providing a platform for students to apply their knowledge in a carefully managed environment to develop their industry readiness. Additional public events and performance management will also be available to students to complement their core curriculum.

These engagements relate to the three strands of the curriculum and serve to structure the students' learning clearly and meaningfully. The course aims to nurture students into matured and assured dance practitioners who are well placed to take advantage of the opportunities available for the ever expanding and diversifying industry. The holistic development of the student through the course would also place them as prime candidates for further post-graduate studies.

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Module Synopsis

Performance Practice – Stage

20 Credits

This practical module focuses on enhancing students' dance proficiency in stage-related genres. Emphasizing professional-level mastery, students explore movement vocabulary from various styles, including ballet, improvisation, Chinese classical dance, Indian classical dance, Malay stage dance, Postmodern, and Contemporary techniques. The module prompts students to critically evaluate their choices and consider the context of dance forms, examining the interplay between global socio-cultural issues and the evolution of stage dance. Additionally, students learn to integrate diverse movement genres effectively into their creative work, fostering a comprehensive understanding of stage performance.

Performance Practice – Street

20 Credits

This practical module offers students a hands-on experience to grasp the technique and movement vocabulary of diverse street and popular dance styles. Through technique classes, workshops, and academic lectures, students delve into the history of ethnic folk dances, jazz dance, and various street dance genres. The module includes exploration of specific dance practitioners and the philosophies behind their works. Encouraging critical evaluation, students examine the contexts of dance genres, focusing on the interplay between global socio-cultural issues and the evolution of street and folk-dance styles. The module also guides students in effectively incorporating a range of movement genres into their creative work, fostering a holistic understanding of street performance.

Advanced Choreography

20 Credits

The Advanced Choreography module focuses on exploring professional Chinese, East Asian, and Southeast Asian choreographers and their work in various performance mediums. Emphasizing key issues, trends, and policies in choreography, students develop their creative skills and engage in critical analysis. Through research and investigation, students create fully realized dance concepts, gaining a professional understanding of choreographic principles. The module includes weekly seminars and practical sessions for discussions and idea communication. Students also experience dance composition and structural design, culminating in the creation of a professional choreographic performance, managed from inception to showcase.

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Pedagogical Immersion

20 Credits

The Pedagogical Immersion module provides students with insights into various dance pedagogies, focusing on key issues, debates, trends, and policies in dance education. Students engage critically with the preparation of teaching sessions, emphasizing relevant pedagogical insights and methodologies. Weekly seminars and workshops facilitate discussions and idea communication, allowing students to deepen their understanding. Through lesson observations, students immerse themselves in scholarship and practices related to dance education, reflecting on pedagogical approaches in lesson delivery. These activities foster a comparative and critical understanding of the discipline, broadening appreciation for diverse pedagogical principles and methodologies. The module concludes with a teaching demonstration in a peer support setting.

Practice as Research

40 Credits

This module serves as the final project for the BA Dance course, allowing students to concentrate on a specialized area of interest through an in-depth study. As a self-directed module, students have the flexibility to determine the scope and content of their projects with guidance from assigned supervisors. Emphasis is placed on selecting a topic closely related to the dance discipline, aligning with their career pathway and personal development. Supervisors facilitate students in creating a cohesive plan, integrating practical technical skills and academic knowledge. The module underscores the intersection of theory and practice, requiring students to employ analytical techniques alongside practical experimentation and interrogation. The project combines elements of business, performance, and academic skills within a real-world context.