

Dance: Urban Practice

The joint and minor routes of this programme are no longer being recruited to however the single honours and major routes continue to recruit. Please refer to the specification of the same name for information regarding the routes that are continuing to recruit.

Final award	BA
Intermediate awards available	Cert HE, Dip HE
UCAS code	W590 - Level 1 entry (3 Year full time route) W501 - Level 0 entry (Extended 4 year full time route)
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Dance, Drama & Performance
Date specification last up-dated	July 2011

Profile

The summary - UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

The BA Dance: Urban Practice degree offers a unique role to develop individual dance practice through the development of a range of technical, theoretical and choreographic skills and a critical examination of dance practice within a contemporary setting.

Building on the diversity of East London, the programme offers an approach to creativity, technical development, historical knowledge and performance in contemporary and street dance styles.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum requirements for entry for Level 1 entry is 200 UCAS tariff points from: A/AS level (Including 2 A2 passes), GNVQ, AVCE, Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate, BTEC / SCOTEC Diploma, Relevant Access Course or successful completion of the Level 0. Other qualifications, including overseas, may be considered.

Applicants who do not fulfil the admission requirements for Level 1 may be considered for entry into Level 0. Applicants should have 40 UCAS tariff points from GCE A2 or equivalent.

Students applying to this programme will be expected to demonstrate a specific interest in this area of study and should have a commitment to engaging in a study of a variety of dance styles. Applicants will be invited for interview and will be asked to participate in a dance workshop with other candidates.

We also welcome applicants from mature students who do not have formal qualifications but may have relevant experience. Students applying to this programme will be expected to demonstrate a specific interest in this area of study and should have a commitment to engaging with the subject. Applicants will be invited for interview.

Overseas Qualifications

The number of overseas qualifications which are accepted for entry are too numerous to list, but you can get advice from the British Council or our admissions unit on 020 8223 2835. You must be able to understand and express yourself in both written and spoken English and some evidence e.g. For level 1 entry a TOEFL score of 550 or an IELTS score of 6.0 (no skill level below 5) and for Level 0 entry an IELTS score of 5.5 (no skill level below 5) would be required.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is BA (Hons) Dance?

With UEL's new *BA (Hons) Dance* degree students will gain the necessary skills to be dance performers, researchers, teachers & choreographers alongside skills to develop and deliver dance projects/workshops for communities & dance companies.

Dance students will get the opportunity to study contemporary and street dance styles including street dance, hip-hop, as well experiencing more contemporary and world dance techniques. Throughout the degree there are a number of opportunities to focus on choreography in a range of contexts including theatre, site specific dance and dance & media and opportunities to develop your own research projects.

The programme also includes a compulsory placement module giving students the opportunity to work with dance companies and dance development agencies across London.

BA (Hons) Dance at UEL

Dance students will get the opportunity to study:

- Street and Hip-Hop
- Contemporary
- Capoeira and West African
- Indian styles like Kathak, Bharatanatyam

As well as the opportunity to focus on choreography within a range of contexts, including:

- Contemporary and Hip-Hop Choreography
- Fusing dance and arts
- Dance and media
- Site specific dance
- Facilitating dance within community settings

Programme structure

Degrees at the University of East London are modular. Full time dance students will study three modules each semester (or term) and there are 2 semester per year. Part time students will study up to four 20 credit modules per year. The *BA (Hons) Dance* is a 3 year full time programme & 5 years part time. Dance students will have the opportunity to transfer to linked programmes and flexibility in module choices.

Learning environment

Modules for the *BA (Hons) Dance* programme are balanced between practical and theoretical studies. Delivered through studio & workshop environments with plenty of opportunities to develop skills and work with local dance organisations and companies across London. The programme will also give students opportunities to work on dance projects with dance companies/artists/choreographers and arts organisations. East London is a rich source of dance and seeing productions locally and in the centre of London forms an essential part of study.

The programme is taught at the Docklands Campus and Stratford Circus, a working arts venue. Students have access to the excellent facilities at the Docklands Campus including a newly converted docklands Theatre, the fully equipped Multimedia Production Centre with three digital recording studios, specialist Macintosh labs and Learning Resource Centre.

Stratford Circus has three high quality performance and rehearsal spaces and is a major regional centre for dance, music, theatre and multi-media of all kinds. All sites are fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Visiting dance practitioners & professional dance companies are an integral part of the programme delivery.

Assessment

The programme is assessed through practical performances, rehearsals and dance technical developments. Theoretical work is assessed through essays, workbooks and journals reflecting on progression and performance. Second & third year modules contribute to final degree award classification.

In the final year the programme contains a compulsory written dissertation and a placement with a dance organisation or company. A wide range of assessment methods have been incorporated to meet all student needs. The programme is assessed in a production/performance mode, to include performance activity, presentations and individual contributions to group projects. Critical and evaluative skills are assessed through essays, journals, portfolios of work and presentations.

Work experience/placement opportunities

All students will undertake a work placement in the third year of the degree. In addition to this, there are numerous opportunities for students to work with professional artists and in professional settings throughout the programme. Through our links with partner organisations we are able to broker placements and internships with a wide range of organisations.

Project work

Project work forms an important part of the programme. Many of the modules are practical in nature and the teaching takes the form of practical studio based workshops, lecture and seminar activities. Students are expected to engage in a wide range of research-based personal assignments. Students are also expected to attend intensive dance projects with professional dance artists/companies throughout their studies.

Added value

The Dance programme draws on the strong relationships with partners working in the profession such as East London Dance, Robert Hylton Urban Classicism and the Southbank Centre. Students not only benefit from the input of arts practitioners on the programme but also from studying dance in a working venue - Stratford Circus.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in...

- Developing contemporary and street dance styles
- Making dance for & in a range of performance genres/venues/collaborations
- Developing theoretical and analytical skills
- Developing skills as community artists and researchers
- Taking a placement with a London dance company/arts organisation
- Studying in one of the global centres of the cultural industries
- Working in diverse community context
- Developing excellent performance skills in a diverse and demanding urban setting

If you enjoy...

- A range of dance styles
- Dancing and developing your technical skills in urban dance
- Approaching dance in new ways
- Developing dance locally & internationally
- Exploring new ways of thinking about and making dance
- Choreographing, producing and rehearsing new performances

If you want...

- New approaches to dance and building a range of technical styles in urban dance
- Performance skills to be developed
- Knowledge of making dance
- Community Dance, sharpen your skills as a dance practitioner
- To develop your knowledge and understanding of different cultures through study of dance
- To study in a lively community of students

Your future career

Dance graduates go on to employment in careers such as teaching, dancing, advertising, marketing, technical work, design, arts administration, choreographers, dance artists, dance

practitioners, workshop deliverers, collaborative dance artists or further training in dance-related fields

How we support you

All students are allocated a personal tutor throughout the programme. Our university also provides extensive support for students through residential/student finance advice/careers advice/study skills development and IT/learning resources. A wide variety of professional artists will be involved in the delivery of the programme. Skills labs and study support are available on the Docklands campus. Students in receipt of Disabled Students' allowance are allocated a specialist Learning Support assistant and additional ICT support dependent upon an assessment of their needs. The programme is connected to a network of professional artists, working theatres & organisations.

Bonus factors

- Module delivery from artists
- Guest lecturers from professional dancers, dance companies & dance organisations
- Tutors are practicing professional in their fields
- Small student cohort; individual attention
- Location: modern campus based in east London, classes delivered at a working arts venue.

Outcomes

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- To provide students with knowledge of the role and functions of urban dance and the urban theatrical & its commercial form
- Provide students with an understanding of the leading theories and principle techniques within Urban Dance Practice
- Provide students with understanding of choreographic devices and how to implement them within their own choreography as an urban artist/dancer/choreographer
- Provide students with an overview of 'urban dance' in a global context
- Complete independent research projects in 'dance'
- Gain skills in delivering dance
- Be able to network with organization, dance companies, theatres and professional dance artists
- Provide the opportunity to undertake a 'professional' work placement in dance or dance-related institution or company

What will you learn?

Knowledge and understanding

- Detailed knowledge of dance through building practical technical skills
- Historical & intercultural understanding of the evolution of Urban Dance
- Detailed knowledge of choreography through a range of approaches (theatre, video, internet, site-specific, with community groups)

'Thinking' skills

- Creative approaches to dance & choreography through a range of styles
- Critical reflection skills through self, peer and group evaluation

Subject-Based Practical skills

- A high level of skills achievement in technique, performance, choreography and in workshops
- A high level of skills in the communication of dance ideas and concepts across different media, live and recorded

Skills for life and work

- Intellectual curiosity and the potential for the continuing artistic and creative development
- The ability to work independently and in combination with other artist/art forms. Demonstrating skills in leadership, negotiation, listening, critical self awareness, teamwork, organisation of self and others, decision making & creativity

Structure

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is 3 years when attended in full-time mode or 5 years in part-time mode. It is possible to move from a full-time mode of study to a part-time mode of study and vice-versa, to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June. A student, normally registering for 6 modules in one year (3 modules in each Semester) would do so in a full-time attendance mode of study and a student registering for up to 4 modules in one year (2 modules in each Semester) would do so in part-time attendance mode of study.

What you will study when

This programme is part of a modular degree scheme. A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take six 20 credit modules per year. An honours degree student will complete six modules at level one, six at level 2 and six at level 3.

It is possible to bring together modules from one field with modules from another to produce a combined programme. Subjects are offered in a variety of combinations:

Single 120 credits at levels one, two and three

Major 80 credits at levels one, two and three

Joint 60 credits at levels one, two and three

Minor 40 credits at levels one, two and three

Modules are defined as:

Core Must be taken

Option Select from a range of identified module within the field

University Wide Option Select from a wide range of university wide options

The following are the core and optional requirements for the single, major, joint and minor routes for this programme

The following are the core and optional requirements for the single and major routes for this programme

Extended Route (Level 0 entry)

LEVEL	TITLE	CREDITS	STATUS
--------------	--------------	----------------	---------------

			SINGLE
--	--	--	---------------

0	Studying in Higher Education	40	Core
0	Understanding the Media and Cultural Industries	20	Core
0	Creative Production	20	Option
0	Writing Practices	20	Option
0	Introduction to New Media	20	Option
0	Introduction to Film and Video Studies	20	Option
0	Understanding Cities and Communities	20	Option
0	Understanding the IPOD Generation	20	Option
0	Globalisation and Social Movements	20	Option
0	Reading and Writing for Academic Studies	20	Option
0	Multimedia Advocacy	20	Option

120 credits from Level 0 Modules (including all cores) must be passed in order to progress to level 1

Level 1 Entry

LEVEL	TITLE	CREDITS	STATUS SINGLE	STATUS MAJOR	STATUS JOINT	STATUS MINOR
1a	Study skills	20	Core	Core	Core *	
1ab	Urban Dance	40	Core	Core	Core	Core
1a	Performance Lab	20	Core			
1b	Interdisciplinary Project	20	Core	Option	Option	
1b	Dance & Health	20	Core	Option	Option	
2ab	Global Dance	40	Core	Core	Core	Core
2a	Contemporary Performance: Dance	20	Core		Option	
2a	Arts Management	20	Core	Core	Option	
2b	Dance Making: Fusing Arts	20	Core	Core		
2b	Network	20	Core			
3ab	Dissertation (research skill) 20 credits for joint route	40	Core	Core	Core *	
3ab	Artistic practice	40	Option		Option	
3a	Community Dance Practitioner	20	Core	Core	Option	Option
3b	Placement (employability skill)	20	Core	Core	Core *	
3a	Dance Technique	20	Option		Option	Option
3b	Solo Dance performance	20	Option		Option	Option

*Core if not taken in other joint/major/minor

Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge and understanding is developed through

- Demonstration of the core principle techniques in predominately various dance styles
- Exploration of the creative possibilities in choreography and performance
- The learning of historical developments of various styles of dance
- Acquiring dance vocabulary to use in written work, discussion, reflection and evaluation

'Thinking' skills are developed through

- Applying appropriate choreographic devices in making work
- Reflection and evaluation of own and peer's technique and choreography
- Critical reflection and analysis of historical dance developments

Practical skills are developed through

- Acquiring and developing knowledge of principle urban dance styles
- Demonstration of choreographic ideas using a range of devices and dance styles
- Devising and implementing strategies in delivering dance

General skills are developed through

- Researching into urban historical developments
- Implementing ideas by producing both practical and theoretical work
- Expressing technical & creative development of skills
- Identifying and solving problems with peers and through group discussion
- Demonstrating both verbal & non verbal ways of communicating ideas
- Developing confidence in discussion, technique and performance

Assessment

Knowledge and understanding is assessed by

- Research projects
- Performances
- Presentations
- Essays & critical reflection (journals)

'Thinking' skills are assessed by

- Reflection in journals
- Practical process to performance
- Evaluations
- Essay & presentations

Practical skills are assessed by

- Developments of dance techniques
- Developing the use of choreographic devices and range of dance styles
- Teaching & facilitation skills

General skills are assessed by

- Producing essays
- Devising and implementing presentations
- Reflection in journals
- Facilitating skills

Quality

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

- Before this programme started, the following was checked:
- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

- The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:
- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by our Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees
- Student/Staff consultative committee

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- a newsletter published three times a year
- providing details on the programme notice board

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Annual student satisfaction questionnaire
- Regular staff meetings at programme level
- regular meetings at Field level

Further Information

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

Programme Leader for Dance
 Institute of Performing Arts Development
 University of East London
 4-5 University Way
 Docklands Campus

- The Institute for Performing Arts Development web site <http://www.uel.ac.uk/ipad>
- UEL Manual of General Regulations and Policies <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- UEL Guide to Undergraduate Programmes
<http://www.uel.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/index.htm>
- School web pages <http://www.uel.ac.uk/hss/index.htm>
- East London Dance www.eastlondondance.org
- Visit our gallery of student work
 here: <http://www.uel.ac.uk/adi/showcase/studentwork/>