

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	Master of Fine Arts in Contemporary Performance Practices
Intermediate Awards Available	MA Contemporary Performance Practices PGDip Contemporary Performance Practices PGCert Contemporary Performance Practices
Teaching Institution(s)	UEL
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	N/A
UEL Academic School	School of Arts and Creative Industries
UCAS Code	N/A
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	N/A
Additional Versions of this Course	N/A
Date Specification Last Updated	06.10.21

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Develop an advanced innovative performance practice as practitioner, scholar or creative producer through experiential and practice-based learning.
- Develop wide-ranging and professional networks.
- Develop interdisciplinary connections across a wide range of performing arts disciplines and genres including:
 - Live art, interactive and immersive performance
 - Body-based performance and choreographic inquiries
 - Site-responsive and walking practices
 - Sound art and installation
 - Engaged participatory art
 - Multimedia and digital performance
 - Applied performance, theatre directing and acting

What you will learn:

Knowledge

- A grounding in a variety of conceptual and theoretical approaches to the study of performance as a cultural and social activity, through both critical and

creative engagement.

- An appropriate understanding of the interplay between theory and practice, and their mutual relationship and the interdependence of creative practice, critical theory, culture and production processes.
- An advanced understanding of the interdisciplinary context of performance practice, and its relation to the public and audiences.
- Innovative, challenging and informed methods and practices of making performance from the processes of writing, rehearsing, devising, staging and performing to that of promoting and marketing the work.

Thinking skills

- Critically reflect on theories, contexts and ideas that shape performance practices today.
- Embody through practice and apply through written work a critical understanding of current issues as they relate to performance.
- Critically evaluate your own work and those of others.
- Awareness of the power dynamics embedded in aesthetic production and representation, and, in particular, a deep understanding of the politics of the performing body and the ways in which culture, race, gender, sexuality, and nationality intersect to create meanings in performance.

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Ability to develop your own performance practice as practitioner, director, manager.
- Develop skills in both creative and technical aspects of performance as well as arts management and grant-writing.
- Support creative work with rigorous research, appropriate documentation, and conceptual consideration.
- Engage creatively and critically in appropriate independent research, whether investigating past or present performances or as part of the process of creating new performance.
- Develop innovative uses of performance vocabularies, techniques, structures and working methods as well as of new technologies to reach new audiences and venues.

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Ability to plan, produce, perform and evaluate work.
- Ability to articulate advance ideas and concepts.
- Critical thinking about ethical, social and cultural issues.
- Ability to work in groups, collaborate and develop creative solutions.
- Self-reflexivity and ability to exercise independent thinking and to demonstrate skills of problem solving and project planning.
- Enhanced communication skills both verbal and non-verbal and interpersonal personal skills.

Learning and Teaching

Knowledge is developed through

- Guided reading
- Practice-based activities with feedback
- Seminar / Online discussions and activities

Thinking skills are developed through

- Reflective activities with feedback
- Seminar / Online discussions and activities

Practical skills are developed through

- Studio practice activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Planning activities with feedback
- Project /performance work
- Practicum

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Coursework
- Essays
- Performance
- Portfolio completion

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Coursework
- Essays
- Performance
- Project work
- Portfolio completion

Practical skills are assessed by

- Performance
- Practical reports
- Project and Group work
- Portfolio completion

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Performance

- Project work
- Group work

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Work or Study Placements

Students will undertake a supervised practicum to give them professional experience which includes the possibility of leading workshops, facilitation, observing rehearsal process and performance that may take place in a broad range of settings, including arts centres, museums, theatres, community colleges and community organizations.

Course Structure

All courses 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 level 7, Equivalent in standard to a Master's degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
7	PX7410	Cultures of Performance	30	Core	N
7	PX7403	Contemporary Performance Making	30	Core	N
7	PX7411	Artistic Leadership	30	Core	N
7	PX7529	Research Methods in Creative Practice	30	Core	N

7	PX7010	Mental Wealth: Professional Life - Performance Praxis	30	Core	N
7	PX7002	Performance Platform	30	Core	N
7	PX7 7001	MFA Creative Practice	60	Core	N
7	PX7 000	MFA Professional Platform	60	Core	N

Additional detail about the course module structure:

A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 300 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

NA

Typical Duration

Home Students can attend either part-time or full-time. International students can attend only on a full-time basis.

It is possible for Home students to move from full-time to part-time 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.

The duration of this course is two calendar year full-time if enrolment is in September, and four calendar years part-time.

The time limit for completion of a course is five years after first enrolment on the course.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)

- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages
- Social Media (Course's page Facebook and Instagram)

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

Throughout the course students will be encouraged to attend live performances on their own. A couple of field trips to theatre performances may be embedded in some of the course assignments. Therefore, there might be a small additional cost to cover for the tickets (approximately £50 for two performances).

Alternative Locations of Delivery

None