

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Dance [accelerated degree]
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	2 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Dance
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Dance CertHE Dance
Entry Requirements ⁴	Applicants need to meet the general admission requirements (112 UCAS points). They also require an audition and interview with the course leader and DanceEast coordinator.
Delivering Institutions	University of Suffolk in partnership with DanceEast
UCAS Code	W500

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Dance course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2020-21 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The impetus for this course arose out of a unique partnership between the University of Suffolk and DanceEast in which dance has been identified as one of the fastest-growing art forms, pioneering new forms of practice and increasingly recognised for its popularity and social, artistic and cultural relevance in contemporary society. At the same time, dance has an evolving infrastructure with consequential workforce shortages and emerging opportunities for academic investigation. The University of Suffolk recognised the opportunity to develop a distinctive and future-facing course which could contribute to academic knowledge and workforce skills.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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The BA (Hons) Dance will provide students with the necessary subject specific knowledge, skill and professional experience to work within the dance sector, whilst also preparing you for further vocational training or postgraduate study. Responding to growth in demand for dance artists working in health, education and community settings the course will prepare for a successful career within this context. From the outset students will be exposed to professional practice through opportunities to work with DanceEast, other local and national artists, companies, organisations, practitioners and visiting lecturers. Students will undertake an intensive placement which will enable them to further apply, explore, refine and reflect upon knowledge and skills acquired throughout the course. The course will offer graduate key skills and additional transferable skills in order to prepare graduates who are versatile practitioners, perceptive and critical thinkers and creative artists capable of seizing opportunities and developing an entrepreneurial spirit.

Course aims

Through the provision of a balanced and rigorous practical and theoretical programme of study, the course aims:

1. To offer a programme of study which conceives of dance as a professional, artistic and academic endeavour that generates individual, community and civic wellbeing;
2. To attain a level of academic rigour, subject specific knowledge and skill development expected of any undergraduate dance programme in line with QAA Subject Benchmarks (2015);
3. To interrogate the relationship between the complex processes of learning by privileging an embodied, experiential and reflective understanding of learning;
4. To develop your practical, technical and expressive dance skills in order to facilitate exciting, challenging and innovative applied and community dance practice;
5. To explore the intersections between key issues in dance research and scholarship and their manifestation in dance and arts settings, to develop your understanding of dance in theory and practice;
6. To prepare and provide opportunity for students to immerse themselves fully within the professional applied and community dance context through participation in the breadth of DanceEast's on-site and outreach programmes including a range of short-term work experiences and intensive placement;
7. To embed the development of professional skills across all modules within the course;
8. To develop critical skills through the consideration of analytical frameworks and the development of reflective practice;
9. To emphasise imagination, intuition and original thinking as key qualities that underpin the community dance artists' skills in communication, evaluation and strategy;
10. To integrate and develop the necessary research skills to investigate, interrogate and challenge all aspects of applied and community dance practice, performance making and research;
11. To develop an understanding of historical and contemporary contexts and the key theories, philosophies and perspectives which inform and challenge the practice and perception of applied and community dance;

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12. To integrate and develop key skills including personal and social skills, both explicitly and implicitly within the content of the programme;
13. To enable students to become a self-managed learner and practitioner capable of entering into the world of work or undertaking further studies, preparing you for employment expectations and demands.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Dance course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Level 4

By the end of Level 4, students will have developed:

- An embodied understanding of the way in which technical training underpins and informs performance practice and an ability to apply this knowledge to the learning of a dance technique;
- A good knowledge of the context from which dance training and performance practices evolved and the contexts in which they are sustained;
- An ability to employ a range of creative approaches to the generation and devising of movement material;
- A thorough understanding of the principles of learning and teaching with respect of the values of community dance practice;
- Assured ability to interrogate and problematize the dancing body within a specific performance work with reference to the social, cultural and artistic context that produces and sustains it;
- An understanding of the intersection between critical and creative modes of enquiry;
- An ability to reflect critically upon your own work and that of your peers in order to set targets for improvement and strategies by which to achieve these;
- A good knowledge of the requirements of specific roles within community dance practice;
- An ability to work productively in a group/ team to negotiate targets and to ensure that specific tasks are fulfilled.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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Level 5

By the end of Level 5, students will have developed:

- A heightened somatic understanding of the way in which technical training supports performance practice and an ability to apply this knowledge to the learning of challenging dance material;
- Proficient performance skills and confident employment of the technical and expressive qualities necessary for the performance of complex taught and devised material;
- An advanced knowledge and application of choreographic skills and devices, and a creative capacity to apply knowledge, concepts and skills from other disciplines including the use of technical equipment and a range of media in the creative process;
- An intelligent and creative understanding of performance environments in relation to space, place and site;
- A creative capacity to apply a range of documentation methods to practice-based research;
- An in depth understanding of 'health' in relation to a range of different bodies through the study of key theoretical perspectives which shape and define them;
- Competent ability to apply this understanding to the facilitation of work with different bodies and needs in community dance contexts;
- Sound knowledge of a range of contraindications which apply to specific participants and an ability to accommodate these in the facilitation of sessions;
- An advanced ability to interrogate the relationship between the learning and teaching processes and apply examples of good practice to your own learning and teaching;
- The ability to employ, evaluate, critique and revise recognised models employed to measure the efficacy of different learning and teaching situation;
- A critical ability to apply sophisticated reflective skills to the performance and development of a community dance initiative during all stages of the process;
- An advanced ability to apply a praxis based approach to the exploration, presentation and evaluation of theoretical ideas;
- Competence in selecting and employing key skills of researching, organizing, communicating, collaborating and reflecting in a manner that is appropriate to and respectful of a community context.

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Level 6

By the end of Level 6, students will have developed:

- A creative and sophisticated engagement with the processes by which performance is created, shared, managed and documented for a community dance context;
- Highly instinctive performance skills in the performance of original work which are appropriate to the choreographic intention, movement style and community context;
- A confident ability to facilitate safe, environmentally safe and ethical working practices;
- A perceptive ability to identify the physical, social and emotional needs of a participant group in light of current research in relevant fields;
- A high level of confidence and skill in employing this knowledge in the planning, devising and facilitating of work within diverse community dance contexts;
- In depth knowledge of a range of contraindications which apply to specific participants and an ability to incorporate this knowledge in planning and facilitating sessions which target specific health issues;
- A perceptive ability to interrogate a range of learning and teaching processes from without and within and contribute examples of good practice as a means by which to foster positive learning and teaching experiences for others;
- The knowledge and ability to devise robust, creative evaluative models to measure the efficacy of specific learning and teaching situations;
- An ability to seize the initiative, identify what tasks need to be fulfilled and complete them to a high standard without supervision;
- Advanced ability to select and apply appropriate research methodologies and methods to the exploration, development and evaluation of a complex idea in an extended piece of work exploring an aspect of community dance practice;
- An advanced ability to identify, select, critique and employ key skills of researching, organizing, communicating, collaborating and reflecting in a manner that is responsive to and inclusive of a community context.

Course Design

The proposed degree delivers on the subject benchmark statements, which 'describe the nature of study and the academic standards expected of graduates in specific subject areas' (Subject Benchmark Statement, UK Quality Code for Higher Education, July 2015), and are reviewed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). The relationship with a leading professional organisation and its wider networks delivers the common features (3.2) and threshold standard (7). With a particular focus on enabling diverse student interests to flourish in a professional context, the course builds subject-specific and generic skills as a foundation for work in a range of destinations (3.4) The philosophy and aims of the BA (Hons) Dance are informed by the statement below, taken from benchmark 2:2 in the QAA Defining Characteristics of Dance, Drama and Performance (2015).

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'2.2 The practical and conceptual bases of the performing arts are, therefore, discrete, diverse and interrelated. While these disciplines embrace bodies of knowledge generated through (and beyond) performance making activities, they are not constrained by a fixed set of knowledge and skills but are characterised by changing social, political and artistic values and practices; it is the dynamic nature of these cultural practices and their frequently contested nature that sustains the vitality of the subject areas. Reciprocally, the activities of students and staff impact upon and change those practices.'

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Dance comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6 delivered over two years. Students will study at 120 credits per level, and at 180 credits per year.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Teaching Dance 1: Exploring pedagogy	20	M
	Choreography 1: Solo and group composition	20	M
	Exploring dance technique	20	M
	Theories and aesthetics of the body	20	M
	Professional practice	20	M
	Community engagement and participation	20	M
Level 5			
	Teaching Dance 2: Leading and facilitating	20	M
	Choreography 2: Site-specific dance	20	M
	Experiential anatomy, technique and embodiment	20	M
	Dance and health	20	M
	Dance, film and documentary	20	M
	Entrepreneurship 1: Project design	20	M
Level 6			
	Creation and performance	20	M
	Entrepreneurship 2: Project delivery	20	M
	Placement	40	M
	Final Independent Research Project	40	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Dance. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Dance on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Dance on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich and DanceEast over two whole years running from September until July. Students studying full-time on the BA (Hons) Dance are likely to have approximately 12 – 15 contact hours per week during the first year of study. During the second year of study weekly contact hours will remain at 12 – 14 for level 5 and then decrease to 8 – 13 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and work-based learning; and students will also be required to participate in an intensive 6 week long placement at 24 hours/ week at level 6. Placements will be arranged by the University. Students also have the option to find their own placement in consultation with the University. Students will normally be expected to undertake 15 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 77% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects), 20 % practical assessments, and 3% assessment by examination.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the appropriate professional body.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Dance will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£11,100 per year
Part-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Full-time International	£13,330 per year
Part-time International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs including DBS (required). Other costs might occur for optional activities such as travel cost if placements are selected outside of Ipswich, materials used for creative tasks, individual research materials and resources, optional field trips, additional optional classes and performance visits at DanceEast.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).