

# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

BA (HONS)

DANCE

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, graduates, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to provide the course described in the Programme Specification, the University reserves the right to make such changes as may be appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to circumstances beyond its control. Any changes are made in accordance with the University's academic standards and quality procedures.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

## ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

### PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **BA (Hons) Dance** course, and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found within this Handbook and the online Unit Information, which is available on your course blog.

<b><u>Key Course Information</u></b>	
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Course Title	Dance
Award Title	BA (Hons) Dance
Teaching Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the Faculty of: <i>Contact details:</i> Telephone number Email	Media and Performance  01202 363270 <a href="mailto:fomp@aub.ac.uk">fomp@aub.ac.uk</a>
Professional Accreditation	None
Length of course / Mode of study	3 Years full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject Benchmark Statement	Dance, Drama and Performance
UCAS code	W500
Language of study	English
External Examiner for course:	Andrea Barzey Coventry University  <i>Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly</i>
Date of validation	2015
Date of most recent review	N/A
Date programme specification written/revised	September 2015

## **Contact hours**

Contact hours include all scheduled teaching sessions, but also supervised time in the workshop or studio. In line with national guidance, we include in our calculation of contact hours all the time which is scheduled in the studio for independent study which is also supported by staff (either academic staff, or technicians).

<i>Contact hours</i>	
Year 1 (% time)	75
Year 2 (% time)	75
Year 3 (% time)	77

The information provided below gives the proportion of your study time which constitutes contact hours. Where there are optional routes through the course, we have used the figures for the most popular option.

## **Assessment**

The figures below set out the proportion of your assessment which will be coursework or written exams and, where appropriate, practical assessment (such as a performance) or placement. Where there are optional routes through the course, we have used the figures for the most popular option.

% coursework assessment	28
% performance assessment	72

## **Course Description**

Welcome to Dance at the Arts University Bournemouth. We hope you will enjoy your time here and that you will make the most of the opportunities you will encounter being part of a vibrant, innovative performing and collaborative arts community.

We believe in Dance as a form of artistic expression that transcends cultural boundaries while contributing to the cultural landscape; that invites an audience to experience a language that is more universal than spoken language and that engages and excites them.

BA (Hons) Dance has been developed as a response to the changing landscape of the dance and arts ecology. As such it recognises the diversity and interdisciplinary nature of contemporary performance and stresses the need to produce versatile, open-minded and curious graduates who can gain employment in a variety of areas.

The ability to generate, present and sustain one's own work is crucial to a career in dance and the course offers concrete opportunities to explore this aspect of your future profession. We believe in fostering creativity and that the ability to create one's own opportunities is as important as the ability to work effectively and professionally. In the making of original work, you will consider how form, style and structure can affect content, meaning and audience engagement in a performance event. You will consider the motives for the creation of material: social, political, educational and commercial, whilst developing key professional skills required for the workplace, such as selecting work to be developed, project management and effective marketing, as

well as learning about the structures and policies of dance organisations in the UK, professional standards and codes of conduct.

During your time at the Arts University Bournemouth, you will experience making dance, performing, producing and applying dance in a variety of environments and contexts. You will have the chance to tailor your final year to reflect your own interests and strengths with support and advice from the faculty and our partner organisation, Pavilion Dance South West\*, in whose venue you will be taking many of your practical classes. Rooted in a professional and industry-focused context, this course offers you excellent facilities for dance, regular access to professional performance and contact with dancers, choreographers and producers at the forefront of their profession.

While the course has a strong technical and practical foundation – offering classes and workshops in Ballet and Pilates as well as Contemporary techniques such as Release, Cunningham, Contact Improvisation and Graham. We also place a strong emphasis on the theoretical and contextual study of Dance and the dance industry and you will be expected to complete written assignments and presentations to the highest standards.

The course offers you the opportunity to explore your potential as a dance artist; whether that be as a Performer, Choreographer, Practitioner or Producer or a combination of all four. You will have opportunities to explore these facets of yourself on the course, will graduate with a clear sense of the direction that you would like your career to take and will have the skills and knowledge to take those steps into industry or further study. You will develop personal and working relationships with professionals from the Dance industry and also with colleagues from other AUB disciplines such as Costume, Film Production, Creative Events Management, Photography and Make-up and these relationships will form the beginning of your professional network.

- Pavilion Dance South West (PDSW) is the National Dance Development Organisation with strategic responsibility for dance development across the South West of England. It is a National Portfolio Organisation with Arts Council England and has a dedicated dance venue in the centre of Bournemouth, where it curates a professional performance programme, commissions choreographers to make new work and regularly hosts dance artists in residence.

## **Course Aims**

The course aims to:

1. Nurture your development as an open-minded and creative dance artist, providing you with a safe and secure learning environment in which to explore and develop your imaginative, intellectual and physical skills.
2. Enable you to develop a comprehensive knowledge and awareness of the current trends, professional demands, market conditions and opportunities within the dance sector in preparation for a professional life in the dance industry.

3. Develop your reflective, investigative, analytical and critical skills that inform performance and written work of maturity and depth.
4. Provide a thorough understanding of the social, cultural and historical contexts informing the dance ecology and encourage an appreciation and understanding of the relationship between theory, history and practice.
5. Promote self-directed learning through opportunities for independent study and research.
6. Provide you with an understanding of academic protocols, research methodologies and written and verbal presentation skills necessary for effective and successful engagement with work at the Higher Education level and life beyond university.
7. Develop graduates who are able to successfully work creatively in performance, education, community, research, and cultural management as well as pursue further studies in dance at postgraduate level.

### **Course Outcomes**

By the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the intellectual, imaginative and physical skills needed to be an informed and creative member of the dance sector.
2. Demonstrate and articulate your understanding of a wide range of dance contexts and a clear sense of where your own professional strengths lie and how you intend to launch your career in the sector.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the intrinsic relationship between performance, applied dance practice and producing to make work that is sustainable within the current dance industry.
4. Articulate your understanding of the complex nature of the performance event, the forms that this may take and the target audience that you wish to reach.
5. Collaborate with others effectively in the realisation of a performative and/or participative event within or across disciplines.
6. Demonstrate advanced understanding of academic protocols, research methodologies and written and verbal presentation skills necessary for effective and successful engagement with work at the higher education level and life beyond university.
7. Demonstrate the ability to make informed choices with appropriate understanding and a high degree of independent judgement.

## **Reference Points**

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

- Subject Benchmark Statement: *Dance, Drama and Performance*
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

AUB Regulatory Framework and Undergraduate Assessment Regulations

AUB Creative Learning Plan

AUB Strategic Plan

AUB Employability Framework

## **Learning and Teaching Strategies**

The association between the Arts University Bournemouth and Pavilion Dance South West responds strategically to the needs and conditions of the dance sector nationally and will help to strengthen the core of the course, which is to provide you with an authentic experience of what work opportunities are available to you in the dance industry and the skills and experience you will need in these areas in order to gain employment. Where appropriate, the course offers regular and sustained contact with and delivery by national and international dancers, choreographers, practitioners and producers working in the dance profession and related industries.

Experiential learning is a key principle of study and your work throughout the course reflects the collaborative nature of dance. Throughout the degree, you will experience both tutor-led learning with specialist studies tutors and self-directed methods of learning (through negotiated practice and research work). In this way you will be able to develop an increasing independence and a positive attitude to life-long learning.

The course objectives are met by deploying a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including rehearsal, performance, ensemble working, workshops, lectures, seminars, group critiques and tutorials. In consultation with the Course Leader, the teaching team is responsible for co-ordinating individual units of study, and for selecting appropriate methods of delivery according to subject matter and student experience.

The delivery methods are informed by the University's Creative Learning Plan and share the over-arching aims:

- i) to enable each student to realise his/her potential;
- ii) to develop and support individual learner autonomy;
- iii) to promote the acquisition of transferable/key skills;
- iv) to develop and promote best practice in approaches to teaching, learning and assessment;
- v) to promote the sharing of good practice across the University, building on best practice both within the University and nationally.

The course uses a variety of assessment methods to test your knowledge and understanding of all aspects of contemporary dance performance practice.

- Essay
- Presentation

- Critical Evaluation (with written and verbal feedback)
- Research and Reflective Log Book (a written background research that underpins your learning and practice and includes a word limited critical reflection of your learning and development processes and performances)
- Intensive Practical Industry Project (working in a professional context in partnership with PDSW with either professional performance artists or within the wider dance community that will culminate in an assessed end product that could be, for example, workshop delivery, dance performance, or choreographic lab)

## **Course Content**

The course consists of three levels, each lasting one academic year of full-time study. Each level is divided into units of study, and units may vary in size. A standard unit represents 200 hours of study and is worth 20 credits. Depending on the complexity of the area being studied some units may be larger, for example, there are double units (40 credits).

As the course progresses you will have opportunities to explore Dance performance, Choreography, Applied Practice and Producing and then focus on one or more of these areas for your Investigative Study or Negotiated Project units in Level 6.

### **Level 4**

In the first year you will develop the essential skills to enhance your understanding of making, performing and producing for a range of dance contexts through these key practical aspects: Dance Technique, Improvisation and Composition. Alongside developing your technical, creative and performance skills through a variety of performance opportunities, you will develop frameworks for reflection and analysis of a range of perspectives on dance, gaining embodied and theoretical experience of making and viewing work within different environments and contexts. You will also be introduced to the infrastructure for producing dance and begin to develop fundamental entrepreneurial skills required to sustain and manage a performing arts practice within a variety of settings. Units at Level 4 will also offer you the chance to work in groups as well as individually.

By the end of this level you will have a sound knowledge of the fundamental technical, creative and entrepreneurial concepts related to the dance industry.

### **Level 5**

As the course progresses to Level 5, you are expected to engage in more complex issues through your creative work as well as in the more theoretical units. You will deepen and extend your technical knowledge base through the study of a variety of dance techniques, understanding current industry standards of safe and effective dance practice, while working creatively on more complex choreographic and performance projects. In Level 5 you will deepen your consideration of the audience as an integral factor in the creative process and will be encouraged to think about specialised areas of study appropriate to your developing interests as well as particular strengths in performance, choreography, and applied dance practice or producing. Further theoretical frameworks and methodological tools will deepen your

understanding and enhance your practical work. You will continue to gain experience of performance in various performance environments.

By the end of this level, you should be confident about your ability to organise your working methods and you will be prepared with key knowledge and skills that will allow you to enter the third year of study with confidence.

## **Level 6**

Level 6 will enable you to consolidate your expertise of the first two years taking your work into more advanced areas and into public performances. You will be given the opportunity to test the working methods developed in the previous levels by applying them to the creation of a substantial independent project in collaboration with fellow students involved in performance, choreography, applied practice or producing, to a professional level. The Investigative Study unit presents the opportunity to pursue a course of advanced independent research in your chosen specialism, allowing you to demonstrate that the level of your skills in research, analysis, and criticism enables you to articulate a discursive argument at a level appropriate to the award of BA (Hons).

By the end of this level, you should be able to evaluate your development in performance, choreography, applied practice and producing, to consider your strengths and weaknesses and to demonstrate significant development of an understanding of the business aspects of working in dance and related industries and will be able to demonstrate your ability to work at a professional level.

At each level of the course there may be extracurricular opportunities for performance (public or otherwise) and you will be encouraged to take part in these opportunities where it is possible without affecting your achievement on the Dance course.

Throughout the course you will have opportunities to engage with artists working at Pavilion Dance South West as Guest Lecturers, Visiting Tutors, and Workshop providers and possibly as Directors/Producers/Choreographers for Level 6 productions. The association with Pavilion Dance South West will also present opportunities for work placements and apprenticeships where possible and where this complements the needs of students and artists alike. You will also have regular access to the productions at Pavilion Dance South West, offering you a diverse and continuous range of professional performances to observe and learn from.

## **Course Units**

<b>Unit Code</b>	<b>Unit Title</b>	<b>Credit Weighting</b>
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### **Level 4**

DAN453	Dance Core 1	40
DAN450	Choreography Foundations	20
DAN452	Practice in Context	20
DAN455	Choreographic Concepts	20
DAN454	Dance Industry 1	20

### **Level 5**

DAN553	Dance Core 2	40
DAN555	Performance Practice	20
DAN551	Dance, Culture and Society	20
DAN552	Dance Practitioner	20
DAN554	Dance Industry 2	20

### **Level 6**

DAN652	Dance Core 3	20
DAN650	Dance Production	40
DAN651	Investigative Study	20
DAN653	Negotiated Project	40

## Course Diagram

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included. Further information on the structure of each unit will be included in the online Unit Information which is available on your course blog.

Level 4																														
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Autumn Term													Spring Term										Summer Term							
Induction week	<b>DAN453 Dance Core 1</b> (weeks 1-30) 40 credits																													
	<b>DAN450 Choreography Foundations</b> (weeks 1-12) 20 credits												<b>DAN455 Choreographic Concepts</b> (weeks 13-21) 20 credits										<b>DAN454 Dance Industry 1</b> (weeks 22-30) 20 credits							
	<b>DAN452 Practice in Context</b> (weeks 1-21) 20 credits																													

Level 5																														
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Autumn Term													Spring Term										Summer Term							
	<b>DAN553 Dance Core 2</b> (weeks 1-30) 40 credits																													
	<b>DAN555 Performance Practice</b> (weeks 1-12) 20 credits												<b>DAN552 Dance Practitioner</b> (weeks 13-26) 20 credits																	
	<b>DAN551 Dance, Culture and Society</b> (weeks 1-16) 20 credits																<b>DAN554 Dance Industry 2</b> (weeks 17-30) 20 credits													

<b>Level 6</b>																														
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Autumn Term</b>													<b>Spring Term</b>												<b>Summer Term</b>					
<b>DAN652 Dance Core 3</b> (weeks 1-24) 20 credits																														
<b>DAN650 Dance Production</b> (weeks 1-14) 40 credits														<b>DAN653 Negotiated Project</b> (weeks 15-30) 40 credits																
<b>DAN651 Investigative Study</b> (weeks 1-21) 20 credits																														