

COURSE BOOKLET

MA Dance: Participation, Communities, Activism



| | |
|--|--|
| Award Title MA Dance: Participation, Communities. Activism | Length and Mode of Course 12 months Full - Time 24 months Part - Time |
| Awarding Body University of the Arts London | Location of Study The majority of the course is offered online with two residencies at London Contemporary Dance School, The Place |

The Course

This MA is for students who want to develop a socially engaged dance practice which addresses the urgencies of our times. Students join a global community of artists and researchers working at the intersection of community dance and arts activism.

The course has an intensive residency model. You will engage in two, 2-week live residencies per year based at LCDS in London. All other teaching and learning is online, allowing you to remain embedded in the communities with whom you practice, growing your work as you study. You are **not required to relocate to London**.

This course explores the potential of movement and dance to contribute to the creation of sustainable social structures, to support individuals and communities, to rehearse and perform collective actions and to challenge systemic inequity. You will situate your work in an international network of peers, artists, scholars and teachers, challenge and develop your individual practice and apply your learning in an individual creative project, supported by one-to-one mentoring.

On this course, you will:

- Develop your artistic approach to dance including its social, ethical, activist, aesthetic and pedagogical dimensions
- Be supported in your development working for the advancement of social justice across the fields of community and participatory dance and activism
- Encounter, interrogate and negotiate systemic contexts, activating dance as a methodology for change
- Locate your practice in historical and contemporary discourses around socially engaged arts practices
- Develop appropriate skills and knowledges to lead safe, creative, accessible, ethical and enquiring dance projects in a variety of settings
- Develop advocacy skills and activist values to influence the contexts in which you work
- Analyse and reflect upon the efficacy of your practice and its relationship with the communities of practice in which it is embedded

What You Will Study

There are three units in the MA. Units 1 and 2 begin with a two-week residency at The Place in London. All other teaching and learning is online, allowing you to embed your learning in your established communities of practice. The course culminates with you planning, resourcing and delivering an artistic research project co-created with a community of your choice, which you then present in an international online symposium.

Unit 1: Mapping Co-Creative Communities

This unit maps a wide range of participatory/community/activist dance practices around the world. Through exploring the work of your peers, teachers and guest artists working with multiple approaches, you will situate your own practice in a wide context. Theoretical and practical inputs are applied continuously in the setting in which you practice, enabling you to investigate new ideas and impulses practically and then reflect upon your learning with your community of learners. We interrogate the key terms of the MA: participation, communities, activism. You have an individual student placement in this unit.

Indicative content includes:

- Peer exchange on existing practice
- Critical exploration of contemporary practice internationally
- Social disruption and social organisation in activist dance practices
- Approaches to co-creativity and co-authorship in participatory work and community dance
- Ethical concerns in socially engaged work
- The historical development of socially engaged practice in diverse contexts
- Documentation, analysis and evaluation of embodied experience outside of student's own experience (placement)
- Safe Practice, risk management, safeguarding and self-care
- Introduction to research approaches

Unit 2: Learning in Collaborative Practice

Unit 2 leads you through a process of sifting through the learning in the previous unit, supporting you to identify and investigate your areas of interest. You will develop your practice-based research in practical collective micro-processes with your peers and communities. Critical reflection will anchor the development of your unique creative practice. Your personal mentor will support you to identify your research questions and to imagine and plan your independent project.

Indicative content includes:

- Application of learning in practical processes with peers and communities
- Movement generation and composition, collective decision-making, collective editing,
- Co-authorship and co-creativity
- Working in groups (including conflict management)
- Safe Dance Practice and safeguarding principles and the application of these, self- and collective care
- Addressing the specific needs of individuals
- Building and sustaining ethical relationships with communities
- Systemic dimensions in the field (institutional collaborations)
- Social organisation/social disruption in activist approaches
- Research practices, techniques and procedures
- Project management and managing resources in projects
- Building a mentoring relationship
- Imagining and planning an independent project, writing a project proposal.

Unit 3: Encounter in the Creative Process

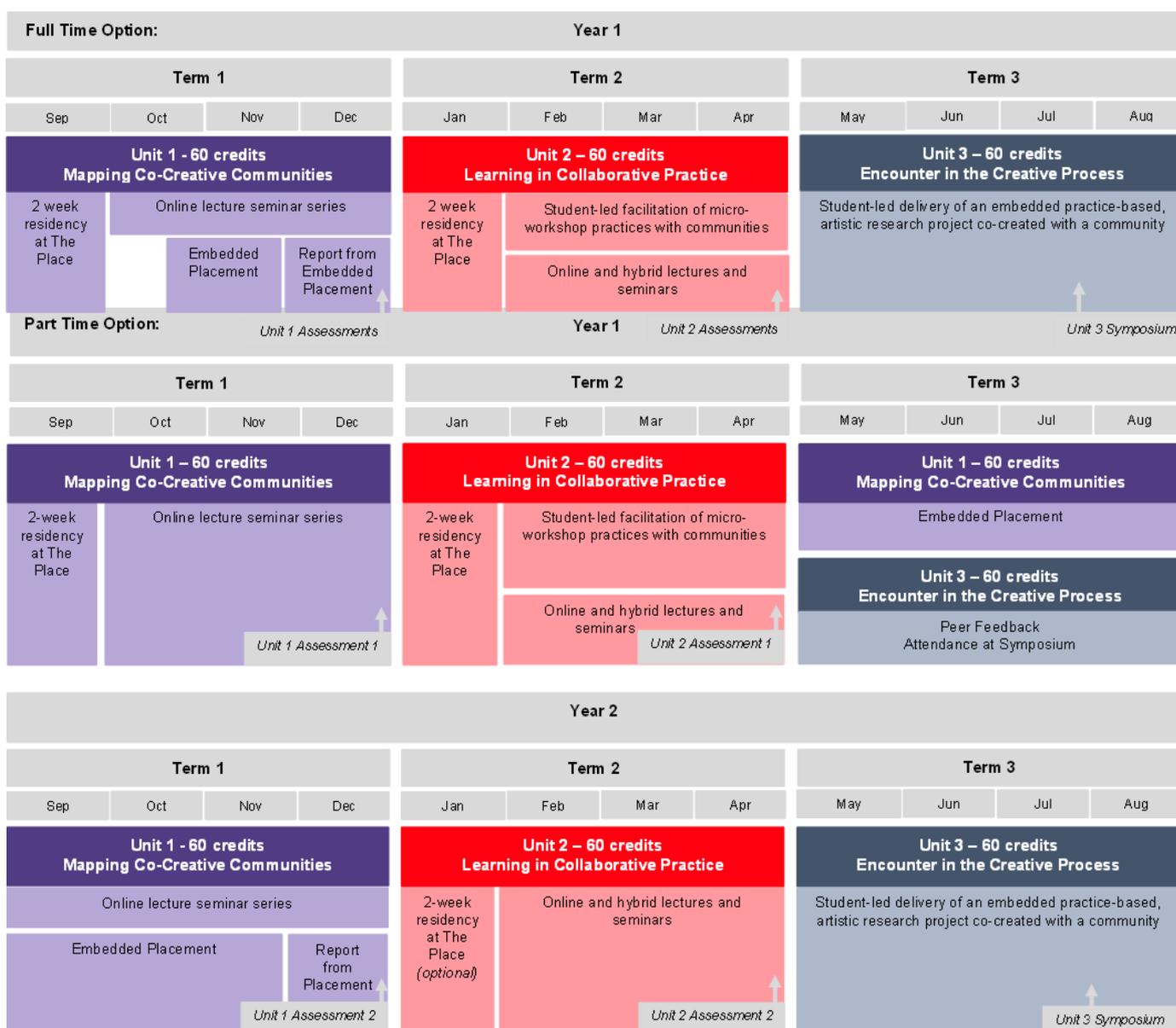
You will integrate your learning throughout the course to deliver an embedded practice-based, artistic research project with a community. Self-reflective analysis of your process feeds into a final presentation in a student-led symposium. Your mentor will continue to support you throughout this process.

Indicative content includes:

- Individually motivated and developed exploration into areas of fresh enquiry in your creative work.
- Delivery of embedded practice-based, artistic research project with a community
- Self-reflective analysis of your process
- Presentation in student-led symposium

Course Diagram

On the below diagram you will be able to see how each unit is structured across the course. You can take the course full time (12 months) or part time (24 months).



How You Will Study

Intensive Residencies and Online Learning

The first two units each feature an intensive two week-long residency with tutor-led seminars and workshops, site visits and practical workshops with visiting artists. These residencies will be followed by online and hybrid lectures and seminars framing practices in reference to contemporary artistic discourse and scholarship.

Placements

The first unit will include an embedded placement (e.g., assisting an artist working in participatory processes) and the final unit will centre on the delivery of a research project in an embedded context.

Independent Learning

Independent learning will be situated in relation to communities of practice, supported by tutorials from faculty, mentorship from professionals outside of the School, and through structured peer exchange and feedback.

Workload

| | Scheduled Learning & Teaching Hours | | Guided Independent Study | | Placement | | Total credit-bearing hours (exc. personal tutorials) | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|--|--|
| | Hours | % | Hours | % | Hours | % | Hours | |
| Unit 1 | 180 | 30% | 385 | 64% | 35 | 6% | 600 | |
| Unit 2 | 180 | 30% | 385 | 64% | 35 | 6% | 600 | |
| Unit 3 | 36 | 6% | 494 | 82% | 70 | 12% | 600 | |
| Total | 396 | 22% | 1264 | 70% | 140 | 8% | 1800 | |

Assessment Methods

Unit 1 – Mapping Co-Creative Communities

Assessment 1: Presentation - Mapping co-creative communities (60%)

Assessment 2: Written placement report (40%)

Unit 2 – Learning in Collaborative Practices

Assessment 1: Workshop and evaluation (40%)

Assessment 2: Embedded research project proposal (60%)

Unit 3 – Encounter in the Creative Process

Project delivery, documentation and evaluation. Presentation in student symposium. (Holistic)

Staff teaching on the course

Staff teaching on the course includes the Course Leader for MA Dance: Participation, Communities, Activism and the Curatorial Team alongside a range of guest lecturers.

You can find out more about the staff teaching on the course [here](#).

Entry Requirements

Standard Minimum Entry Requirements

- BA (Hons) degree or equivalent academic qualifications
- Alternative qualifications and experience will also be taken into consideration
- Personal statement
- Portfolio of work

APEL – Accreditation of Prior (Experiential Learning)

Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements will still be considered. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:

- Related academic or professional experience in dance, film, arts, media, fine arts, performance, or similar field
- The quality of the personal statement
- A strong academic or other professional reference
- A combination of these factors

English Language

IELTS level **6.5** or above, with at least **5.5** in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Course Costs

Course Fees

Fees for 2025/26 academic year are:

| | UK Students | Overseas Students |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Full Time | £9,700 | £21,500 |
| Part Time – Year 1 | £5,200 | £11,250 |
| Part Time – Year 2 | £4,500 | £10,250 |

For more information on course fees and the Tuition Fee Deposit please see the Fee Policy and Course Deposit Policy on our website

Tuition Fee Deposit

All Postgraduate students will need to pay a deposit of £1500, payable within 21 days of an offer being made. More information can be found in the Course Deposit Policy.

If you who have applied for the Global South Scholarship, you will not be required to make the deposit payment until a formal outcome of your scholarship application has been sent to you. Anyone in receipt of the scholarship will not be required to pay the deposit. However, if you are unsuccessful with the scholarship application, you will be required to pay the deposit within 21 days of the scholarship outcome.

Visa

As the course is distanced learning, we are unable to sponsor a Student Visa. Students requiring a Visitor Visa when attending the two week residencies in London will need to pay for this, the cost of this is £100. To find out if you require a visa to visit please click [here](#).

More information on visiting the UK as a visitor can be found here.

Student Support Package

London Contemporary Dance School also offers a Student Support Package for an annual fee of £50, payable on registration / re-registration at the start of each academic year. More information can be found on [our website](#).

Other extra costs

Other extra costs may include:

- Health insurance for students coming to UK on a Visitor Visa for the residencies
- Flights and Accommodation costs whilst in London
- The cost of laptop and broadband to engage with any online learning
- The cost of materials which you may choose to use in your creative projects and placements
- Printing costs
- The cost of books you might wish to purchase (you have access to most of the course resources digitally and will be loaned some books from the well stocked library at LCDS, but you may wish to consider purchasing your own additional books as well).

Onsite Delivery

Please be aware that whilst we are planning for delivery for the live residencies to be on site, if government guidelines and requirements change (for example through a further national or local lockdown), LCDS may need to move all or some of its provision online.