

BA (Hons) Dance

Programme specification document [🔗](#)

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Overview [🔗](#)

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath School of Music and Performing Arts
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Dance
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE
Routes available	Single

Professional Placement Year	Yes
Duration of award	3 years full-time, 4 years with Professional Placement Year
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	No
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	W500
Route code (SITS)	DANSIN
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Dance, Drama and Performance (2019)
Date of most recent approval	September 2022
Date specification last updated	May 2023

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the BSU Qualifications Credit Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Programme/Pathway	Regulations/Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date

Programme Overview [🔗](#)

BA Dance is a physically and intellectually challenging programme that has a strong practical focus. You will immerse yourself in an exciting artistic environment that will support your development as a versatile and creative dance practitioner. The programme's focus on professional networking and placements will help ensure you are fully-equipped to explore the diverse range of employment options within the creative industries and beyond. The broad range of modules will give you regular opportunities to create and perform new work you have generated, to use dance to explore yourself and the world around you and to find your individual passion and focus.

Your physical training is an important feature of your programme and requires you to take part in daily technique and performance classes. There is a strong focus on developing an holistic understanding of safe and healthy dance practices in order to ensure that you can work in a sustainable and ethical manner. The majority of your training focuses on contemporary techniques; Cunningham, Release, Limon, somatic practices and contact improvisation are key elements and help to underpin your development as a versatile artist. The professional visiting artist classes give you a chance to experience a range of different styles and techniques to help broaden out your core skills in contemporary work.

Exploring creative ideas is central to the ethos of dance at Bath Spa and you will be encouraged to make work for both the live and digital arena. Modules in dance making and choreographic enquiry offer you the chance to create work for live performance both as an independent artist and working alongside others in a collaborative context. You will also have a chance to explore Screendance, different emerging digital technologies and how dance intersects with other art forms.

The course is designed to ensure that you consider from the outset how the skills you are developing will work within different professional contexts. You will work regularly with industry practitioners to develop a broad understanding of dance employment routes. By year 3 you will focus on developing a specialist area of study and preparing for the employment market. You can work on a professional performance project, complete a work-placement and undertake a substantial independent study.

BA Dance will support you to become increasingly sophisticated in your understand of the interplay between technical, creative and critical modes of enquiry in dance. On completion, you will have a flexible skillset that draws on the professional networks and approaches engendered by the programme, making you able to respond to the changing global landscape.

Programme Aims [🔗](#)

1. Develop students' practical skills in performance and creative processes to enable them to engage in a diverse range of dance activities
2. Provide regular opportunities for interaction with the profession through engagement with different artists, companies and organisations
3. Foster the skills that are required to work both independently and in a range of collaborative and interdisciplinary contexts
4. Offer space to investigate a range of perspectives that develop a critical understanding of dance as an artistic and cultural phenomenon
5. Promote principles that aim to ensure that dance practices are safe, ethical and sustainable
6. Develop self-reflective, versatile and autonomous individuals who are prepared for the increasingly complex demands and challenges of a changing global landscape
7. Promote an awareness of the value of lifelong learning and an understanding of how subject specific skills can be applied to a range of employment scenarios

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) [🔗](#)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	To critically engage with complex processes that enable you to analyse and refine movement material and/or ideas in a creative manner	To explore a range of creative processes that enable you to generate, structure and refine material and ideas in a creative manner	To explore a selection of choreographic devices that enable you to generate and structure material and ideas
A2	To articulate and experiment with skills in body knowledge and detailed technical competency in a range of movement practices	To apply core skills in body knowledge and technical competency across codified and non-codified movement practices	To acquire core skills in body knowledge across selected codified and non-codified movement practices
A3	To demonstrate the skills required to conceive, design, conduct and present materials for challenging and/or unpredictable scenarios	To exhibit a clear understanding of how to conduct and present projects for a range of different scenarios	To demonstrate an understanding of how to conduct and present a project for a specific dance activity

A4	To critically engage with theories and concepts that explore the relationship between the creation, presentation and/or reception of dance work	To apply your understanding of the relationship(s) between the creation, presentation and reception of dance work	To demonstrate comprehension of the connection between the creation, presentation and reception of dance work
A5	To evaluate how your skills and knowledge will enable you to operate as a professional in a range of dynamic employment markets	To identify how your skills and knowledge will enable you to operate within a range of employment markets	To identify how your skills and knowledge enable you to operate within the subject field
A6	To critically assess the ethical and sustainability implications and appropriateness of techniques to ensure that dance activities are undertaken in a safe environment for specific communities	To regularly engage and demonstrate key principles that promote safe, sustainable and ethical dance practices	To demonstrate an understanding of principles that promote safe dance practices
A7	To critically engage with theories and concepts that inform your dance practice.	To demonstrate an understanding and application of the theories and concepts that inform your dance practice.	To demonstrate comprehension of the theories and concepts that inform your dance practice.

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1	To demonstrate the critical and self-reflective skills necessary to consider and articulate a range of complex issues and ideas	To demonstrate the critical skills necessary to consider and articulate a range of issues and ideas	To demonstrate the analytical skills necessary to explore key concepts within the discipline
B2	To recognise dance as an artistic and cultural phenomenon in order to be able to engage critically with the theoretical frameworks and debates that surround the discipline	To engage with debates and principles associated with the discipline that recognise dance as an artistic and cultural activity	To recognise dance as an artistic and cultural activity

B3	To demonstrate the ability needed to collect, synthesise, analyse and evaluate data from a range of different sources	The ability needed to collect, synthesise, analyse and evaluate information	An understanding of how information can be collected, analysed and evaluated
B4	To identify and engage in practical research processes that allow the interplay between theory and practice to be explored	An understanding of how different processes can allow you to explore the interplay between theory and practice	An understanding of the relationship between theory and practice

C Skills for Life and Work

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
C1	Autonomous learning ³ (including time management) that shows the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and enables decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility.
C2	Team working skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making for effective work with others such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility for effective work with others.

C3	Communication skills that ensure information, ideas, problems and solutions are communicated effectively and clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	Communication skills commensurate with the effective communication of information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences in which key techniques of the discipline are deployed effectively.	Communication skills that demonstrate an ability to communicate outcomes accurately and reliably and with structured and coherent arguments.
C4	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate core competences and are commensurate with an ability to work at the interface of creativity and new technologies.	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the development of existing skills and the acquisition of new competences.	IT skills and digital literacy that provide a platform from which further training can be undertaken to enable development of new skills within a structured and managed environment.

[3] i.e. the ability to review, direct and manage one's own workload

Programme content [🔗](#)

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single

DANCE				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
4	DAN4101-20	Body in Training 1: The Healthy Dancer	20	C	

4	DAN4102-20	Dance Making 1	20	C	
4	DAN4103-20	Exploring Screendance	20	C	
4	DAN4104-20	Body in Training 2: The Mindful Dancer	20	C	
4	DAN4105-20	Dance Making 2	20	C	
4	DAN4106-20	Performance Project 1	20	C	
5	DAN5201-20	Body in Training 3: The Responsive Dancer	20	C	
5	DAN5202-20	Creative Worlds	20	C	
5	DAN5203-20	Performance Project 2	20	O	
5	DAN5204-20	Applied Techniques	20	C	
5	DAN5205-20	Performing Self	20	C	
5	DAN5206-20	Creative Lab	20	O	
6	DAN6205-20	The Company	20	O	
6	DAN6206 -20	Somatics for Performance, Health and Wellbeing	20	O	
6	DAN6202-20	Dancing Knowledge	20	O/R*	
6	DAN6201-40	Professional Practice	40	C	

6	DAN6203-20	Independent Project 20 credits	20	R*	
6	DAN6204-40	Independent Project 40 credits	40	R*	

Assessment methods [🔗](#)

A wide range of different formative and summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. The rich diet of assessment tasks is designed to simulate professional work scenarios; this helps to ensure that the assessment strategy is preparing you for the workplace and beyond.

Practical assessment tasks help you to demonstrate your understanding of the creative and technical demands of the course. You will take part in live performances, practical improvisations and processed based tasks which will enable you to apply your skills to different scenarios. In addition essays, presentations, vivas and journals allow you to demonstrate your critical understanding of key issues within the discipline.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities [🔗](#)

BA Dance provides both simulated work experience and work placement opportunities to help to prepare you for a range of employment scenarios. Levels 4 and 5 begin to prepare you for employment by providing you with assessment tasks that align with the professional demands of the discipline. For example, you will regularly produce and present work for public performance. In addition, you will have an opportunity in each year to undertake an intensive week with a visiting professional artist or company and to connect with external artists regularly through the creative and performance modules.

The programme can also be taken as a 'Sandwich' degree, which is studied over 4 years and includes a year-long work placement in a sector of your choice. The placement year is completed between years 2 and 3 of your degree and counts for 120 Level 5 credits. During this time you will be able to utilise knowledge gained as part of your studies in a real work environment to gain 'hands on' experience. The University has a dedicated Careers & Employability team to help you find and prepare for a placement. Following your placement year, you will return to University to complete your final year of study.

Level 6 modules offer increased flexibility and allow you to focus on developing a specialist area to support your transition to the workplace or further study. In semester 1, you can opt to take part in a large scale professional performance project with a visiting guest company. During this project, you are assessed on a variety of roles that match your career aspirations. All students are required to take the Professional Practice module; this will require you to complete a work placement with a professional dance organisation and to make a detailed plan to support your career development. You will also undertake a substantial independent study in a topic area of your choosing that you will design, execute and manage to completion.

Additional Costs Table [🔗](#)

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost
DAN6201-40 Professional Practice	Other	Travel costs to work placement, approximately £50 - £75
DAN6203-20 Independent Project	Other	This will be determined by the nature of your study
DAN6204-40 Independent Project	Other	This will be determined by the nature of your study

Graduate Attributes [🔗](#)

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
Confidently Self-Aware	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	<p><i>Students are encouraged to express themselves both physically and verbally on a regular basis, and guest artists are regularly brought in to challenge students to adapt to different ways of working.</i></p> <p><i>Students will develop subject-specific and transferable skills throughout the programme and be invited to reflect on their development as part of their learning journey.</i></p> <p><i>This will prepare them for the performing arts industry, where they will need to be creative, entrepreneurial and self-aware.</i></p>

Emotionally Attuned	Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.	<p><i>Creativity is at the heart of the learning, and emotional attunement is key to understanding how dancers communicate to each other and to audiences.</i></p> <p><i>We ensure that processes within studio practice are valued, and contribute towards student achievement. We offer plenty of project-based assessments where interpersonal relationships will be developed.</i></p> <p><i>In the profession, creativity will thrive when there is trust and good interpersonal relationships between choreographers, dancers and audiences.</i></p>
Inclusive Collaborator	Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.	<p><i>Students will be working in a range of contexts and with varying groups of people throughout the course. Collaborative working paired with independent study are key working practices within creative projects.</i></p> <p><i>Collaborative working practices are at the heart of the dance industry, both between dancers and between dancers and other artistic disciplines. As an example, choreographers expect their dancers to work collaboratively with them and to make independent choices within a given framework.</i></p>
Adaptable Innovator	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	<p><i>There is a precarity in the performing arts which students need to ready for. On graduation students may need to create their own opportunities, to apply for funding or to dream up projects.</i></p> <p><i>The programme builds in challenge and complexity so that an element of risk is always present. We talk a lot about 'exploring new territory' whether that be in technique, choreography or performance. The range of assessments, some individual and some group, require students to adapt to different contexts regularly.</i></p>

Critical Thinker	<p>Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.</p>	<p><i>To make engaging and current artistic work, students must be engaged with the world around them. The arts promote open-mindedness and curiosity through questioning and commenting on what society perceives as normal.</i></p> <p><i>Specific modules focus on how dance communicates meaning, and how it can be a socio-political commentator. Building on this foundation, dance students work with other subjects and with emerging technologies, encouraging curiosity beyond their discrete subject.</i></p>
Forward Thinker	<p>Set goals, plan ahead and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.</p>	<p><i>Forward planning is critical within project-based employment. Making performances happen requires a great deal of forward thinking and imagining, whether you are in a production role or in a creative role.</i></p> <p><i>Students are always working on projects with a given timeline so they get used to project planning. Individual creativity is highly valued and students are able to reach individual milestones as and when they are ready.</i></p> <p><i>By the end of the course every student will present their professional profile drawing on the resources of the last three years and identifying future goals and aspirations</i></p>

Ethical Leader	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	<p><i>Somatic modules advocate for healthy and sustainable dance practice and to empathetic relationships with others. Creative projects encourage engagement with current social and political debates.</i></p> <p><i>Leading by example, staff are currently engaged with current ethical shifts in dance practices and this feeds into our teaching.</i></p> <p><i>Questions are being raised within dance around specific ethical principles, for example, sustainable dance practice, decolonisation and decarbonisation. Perspectives are shifting and our graduates need to be aware of the changing climate.</i></p>
Responsible Self-Starter	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	<p><i>Through engagement in a range of project work, in performance, creative and production roles, students will need to find solutions to problems and be proactive when difficulties arise.</i></p> <p><i>Process is assessed within several modules to account for students' ability to work through challenges.</i></p> <p><i>The freelance sector accounts for a large proportion of the performing arts industry and relies on those with creative ideas and the tools to seed and grow new initiatives.</i></p>
Compassionately Resilient	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	<p><i>Self-reflection is a staple within the course and students are required to respond to formative feedback within every module. Because dance is a personal endeavour (bodily, experiential, creative) students need to develop resilience when met with feedback.</i></p> <p><i>Staff encourage criticality alongside self-care, with an aim to improve student achievement whilst also building confidence. Resilience is key to success within the industry.</i></p>

Digitally Resourceful	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	<p><i>Digital skills are introduced in year 1 and developed in year 2 with the use of emerging digital tech (VR).</i></p> <p><i>Student engagement with online sources and with Ultra ensure their transferable skills development within IT throughout.</i></p> <p><i>Cutting edge dance companies working with film, VR, AR, projection mapping and intricate lighting design show that this is a burgeoning area within our sector.</i></p> <p><i>Competency within IT will underpin every job within the dance industry.</i></p>
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Modifications [🔗](#)

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
All module codes updated		2023-24

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – Dance [🔗](#)

Required: Blue

Optional: Yellow

Required*: Purple(see explanatory notes on page 2)

Single Honours	
Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core Modules	
DAN4101-20 Body in Training 1: The Healthy Dancer	DAN4104-20 Body in Training 2: The Mindful Dancer
DAN4102-20 Dance Making 1	DAN4105-20 Dance Making 2
DAN4103-20 Exploring Screendance	DAN4106-20 Performance Project 1
Rule Notes: N/A	
Level 5	
Core Modules	

DAN5201-20 Body in Training 3: The Responsive Dancer	DAN5204-20 Applied Techniques
DAN5202-20 Creative Worlds	DAN5205-20 Performing Self
or (see rule note below)	or (see rule note below)
DAN5205 Performing Self	DAN5202-20 Creative Worlds
Optional Modules	
DAN5203-20 Performance Project 2	DAN5206-20 Creative Lab
or (see rule note below)	or (see rule note below)
DAN5206-20 Creative Lab	DAN5203 Performance Project 2
Rule Notes: The semester sequencing for DAN5203-20 and DAN5206-20, and for DAN5205-20 and DAN5202-20 are decided on an annual basis. Students are expected to take a minimum of 100 credits of Dance modules.	
Optional Professional Placement Year 120 credits	
Level 6	
Core Modules	
DAN6201-40 Professional Practice (year long module)	
Required* Modules	
DAN6202-20 Dancing Knowledge	DAN6203-20 Independent Project
	DAN6204-40 Independent Project
Optional Modules	
DAN6205-20 The Company	
DAN6206-20 Somatics for Performance, Health and Wellbeing	
Rule Notes: Students are expected to take a minimum of 100 credits of Dance modules. Students must take a minimum of 40 credits from the Required* module selection	

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes [🔗](#)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R*,O)	Intended Learning Outcomes															
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge							Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	

4	DA N41 01- 20	Bod y in Trai ning 1: The Hea lthy Dan cer	C		x				x	x				x	x		x	x
4	DA N41 02- 20	Dan ce Mak ing 1	C	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	DA N41 03- 20	Expl orin g Scr een dan ce	C	x			x				x	x	x		x		x	x
4	DA N41 04- 20	Bod y in Trai ning 2: The Min dful Dan cer	C		x				x	x	x		x	x	x		x	
4	DA N41 05- 20	Dan ce Mak ing 2	C	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	DA N41 06- 20	Perf orm anc e Proj ect 1	C		x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x

5	DA N52 01- 20	Bod y in Trai ning 3: The Res pon sive Dan cer	C		x	x			x	x					x	x	x	
5	DA N52 02- 20	Cre ativ e Wor lds	C	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
5	DA N52 03- 20	Perf orm anc e Proj ect 2	O		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	DA N52 04- 20	App lied Tec hniq ues	C		x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	
5	DA N52 05- 20	Perf ormi ng Self	C	x			x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
5	DA N52 06- 20	Cre ativ e Lab	O	x		x		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
6	DA N62 05- 20	The Co mpa ny	O	x	x	x	x	x					x		x	x	x	x

6	DA N62 06 -20	Somatics for Performance, Health and Wellbeing	O	x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x
6	DA N62 02- 20	Dancing Knowledge	O/R*			x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
6	DA N62 01- 40	Professional Practice	C	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
6	DA N62 03- 20	Independent Project 20 credits	R*			x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
6	DA N62 04- 40	Independent Project 40 credits	R*			x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x

^[1] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module [🔗](#)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O) [1]	Assessment method												
				Coursework				Practical						Written Examination		
				Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Performance	Practical Project	Improvisations	Presentation	Skills Assessment	Viva	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
4	DAN 4101-20	The Body in Training 1: The Healthy Dancer	C								x	x				
4	DAN 4102-20	Dance Making 1	C		x				x							
4	DAN 4103-20	Exploring Screendance	C						x		x					
4	DAN 4104-20	Body in Training 2: The Mindful Dancer	C		x							x				
4	DAN 4105-20	Dance Making 2	C		x				x							
4	DAN 4106-20	Performance Project 1	C					x					x			

5	DAN 5201-20	Body in Training 3: The Responsive Dancer	C							x		x				
5	DAN 520 2-20	Creative Worlds	C		x				x							
5	DAN 520 3-20	Performance Project 2	O					x			x					
5	DAN 520 4-20	Applied Techniques	C				x					x				
5	DAN 520 5-20	Performing Self	C		x			x								
5	DAN 520 6-20	Creative Lab	O				x									
6	DAN 620 5-20	The Company	O						x				x			
6	DAN 620 6-20	Somatics for Performance, Health and Wellbeing	O		x					x						
6	DAN 620 2-20	Dancing Knowledge	O/R*				x									
6	DAN 6201-20	Professional Practice	C								x	x				
6	DAN 620 3-20	Independent Project 20 credits	R*	x												
6	DAN 620 4-40	Independent Project 40 credits	R*	x												

^[1] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional