



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## MA Choreography

Course Code: MCHOR

2021/22

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

**Material Information Summary for 2021/22 Postgraduate Applicants**Confirmed at Aug/2021**General Information**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Award</b>                                    | Master of Arts Choreography   |
| <b>Contained Awards</b>                         | Post Graduate Diploma Choreography<br>Post Graduate Certificate Choreography  |
| <b>Awarding Body</b>                            | Leeds Beckett University  |
| <b>Level of Qualification &amp; Credits</b>     | Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England  |
| <b>Course Lengths &amp; Standard Timescales</b> | Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length of the course is confirmed below, and modes of delivery will be confirmed prior to the start date in line with Government guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 year (full time)</li><li>• 2 years (part time)</li></ul>  |
| <b>Part Time Study</b>                          | PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students. |
| <b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>                  | City Campus, Leeds  |
| <b>Entry Requirements</b>                       | Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning">www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning</a> .   |

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:  
[AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

### **Course Fees**

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to [Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## **Timetable Information**

Timetables will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Outlook Calendar
- ii) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- iii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

**Policies, Standards and Regulations** ([www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations))

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

## **Key Contacts**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Your Course Director</b>      | Lisa Osborne Kendall   |
| <b>Your Academic Advisor</b>     | Beth Cassani   |
| <b>Your Course Administrator</b> | Adam Paul <a href="mailto:PerformanceCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">PerformanceCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> |

## **Sandwich or Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information**

### **Summary**

Within the context of a drive to build beneficial partnerships, the Performing Arts department provides the opportunity for MA Choreography students to work with a range of choreographers, dance artists and dance ecologies, on small and medium-term, projects. Engagement with professional work experiences is embedded within a diverse range of modules, including the following examples as and when pertinent: Choreographer's Mentor Project; Dramaturgy; Choreography in The Expanded Field; Choreographer's Major Project.

Many potential MA Choreography students have articulated the desire to gain teaching experience as part of their professional development. Care has been taken to ensure that opportunities exist for students to shadow and collaborate with the existing staff team on selected undergraduate dance modules: such experiences often becoming integrated into the PG students learning experiences as practice in the modules Artist as Teacher and Socially Engaged Practice.

### **Length**

N/A

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

The course does not currently have professional body accreditation.

## Course Overview

### Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

1. To provide students with an MA education in Choreographic Practice which will enhance potential employability.
2. To develop and stimulate a community of critical enquiry into contemporary choreographic practice in current cultural and global contexts.
3. To expand and liberate the creative potential of students by encouraging and supporting the production of innovative practical work.
4. To provide an intensive hothouse environment for students to improve and develop their knowledge and understanding of choreographic practice through professionally modelled, constructive self-reflection, peer and professional critical feedback thus facilitating more advanced and complex strategies for making, producing, reflecting and disseminating.
5. To embed critical and creative dialogues between students in the academic context and the industry.
6. To develop public exposure for student's work in the region and internationally by working in collaboration with local arts, cultural organisations and international festivals.
7. To provide an experimental environment for graduates, practitioners, professional and 'emerging' artists and those working within diverse contexts to come together in supportive, collaborative enquiry to intensify and deepen their practice

### Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Demonstrate sophisticated practice that reflects originality and innovation and is informed by professional practice, scholarship and theory at the forefront of the discipline.   |
| 2 | Demonstrate the ability to synthesise and apply knowledge, techniques and choreographic strategies systematically to articulate new insights and/or critical awareness in their own research and practice.   |
| 3 | To autonomously negotiate, plan projects, taking initiative, applying critical reflection and collaborative communication to creative and practical decision-making and problem solving in a range of professional contexts.   |
| 4 | Demonstrate a critical understanding of the current cultural debates pertaining to contemporary choreographic practices.   |
| 5 | Demonstrate the ability to be able to work ethically, sensitively and with appropriate professionalism in diverse contexts with the aim of creating sophisticated artistic practice that communicates with critical and cultural awareness to specialist and non-specialist audiences. |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 6 | Demonstrate a complex level of conceptual understanding in artistic research and practice including the ability to evaluate and interpret embodied experience and relevant data. |
|---|--|

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

Students who enrol on MA Choreography can expect a variety of engaging learning experiences. Most sessions are studio based with an emphasis on 'learning through doing', and practice led research enquiry. Taught workshops and tutor supported making processes form the main body of studio practice with technical training where appropriate to the module content.

Studio teaching activity takes place in our own studio spaces on City Campus and also when relevant in professional organisations and contexts, venues and site-specific environments.

Critical discussion and peer and staff formative feedback is embedded in all studio work, whilst seminar-based sessions also provide an opportunity for staff presentations and intensive discussion focussing on module specific content, trends in dance performance, choreography and wider cultural and interdisciplinary practices in a critical depth with staff and external speakers as appropriate.

The ethos of MA Choreography is one that values Professional Practice, and as such, students should expect teaching and learning activities to occur with for example, professional artists or curators, as well as the programme team in professionally appropriate settings.

Making choreography is a significant part of MA Choreography, and this occurs in a variety of contexts. Students will be expected to make solo, self-authored, group directed and collaborative practice. Students may direct each other, they may work alone, make collaborative choreography, work with a student dramaturg or work with external artists. Receiving and working with critical feedback is built into to all module learning.

The understanding and critical articulation of practice and research is also demonstrated in the processing of ideas in creative practice, making compositions and presentations of performance, but also through portfolios of critical and reflective documentation, presentations, vivas, essays, blogs, digital practices, report and essay writing.

The Virtual Learning Environment is primarily used by MA Choreography as a repository for information, the submission of assessments, and the distribution of feedback. All modules on MA Choreography will have module handbooks, assessment briefs, reading materials published on MyBeckett as a minimum. Written Feedback will be released to students via Turnitin. Formal training on VLE is offered to all students on the course in induction. In addition to this, MA Choreography works closely with the Academic Librarians in order to provide training and support for digital research tools such as Dawson Era, Discover, and the E-Journal Catalogue.

Students enrolling on and engaging with MA Choreography are required to invest in independent study as relevant to all modules and practices. It is essential that given and independently negotiated timeframes are adhered to and that an autonomous approach to learning is developed and upheld throughout the course fostering and supporting critical and creative dialogue.

### Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Part time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate module which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

| <b>Level 7 Full Time</b>                    |                   |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>Semester 1</b>                           | <b>Core (Y/N)</b> | <b>Semester 2</b>                               | <b>Core (Y/N)</b> |
| Research & Development (20 credits)         | Y                 | Dramaturgy (20 credits)                         | Y                 |
| Commission (20 credits)                     | Y                 | Choreography in the Expanded Field (20 credits) | N                 |
| Writing Talking Festival (20 credits)       | N                 | Writing Talking Festival (20 credits)           | N                 |
| Choreographer's Mentor Project (20 credits) | N                 | Choreographer's Mentor Project (20 credits)     | N                 |
| Artist as Teacher (20 credits)              | N                 | Artist as Teacher (20 credits)                  | N                 |
| Socially Engaged Practice (20 credits)      | N                 | Socially Engaged Practice (20 credits)          | N                 |
| The Placement Project (20 credits)          | N                 | Embodied Knowledges (20 credits)                | N                 |
|   |                   | The Festival Project (20 credits)               | N                 |
| <b>Semester 3</b>                           | <b>Core (Y/N)</b> |   |                   |
| Choreographers' Major Project (60 credits)  | Y                 |   |                   |
| Improvisation (20 credits)                  | N                 |   |                   |

**Electives listed above are indicative, therefore availability of electives is subject to change.**

**Scheduling of electives listed above is indicative and therefore, subject to change.**

| <b>Level 7 Part Time structure</b>                       |                   |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Semester 1/4</b>                                      | <b>Core (Y/N)</b> | <b>Semester 2 /5</b>                         | <b>Core (Y/N)</b> |
| Research & Development (PT Semester 1 only) (20 credits) | Y                 | Dramaturgy (PT Semester 2 only) (20 credits) | Y                 |

|  |                   |  |   |
|--|-------------------|--|---|
| Commission<br>(PT Semester 4 only)<br>(20 credits) | Y                 | Choreography in the Expanded Field<br>(20 credits) | N |
| Writing Talking Festival<br>(20 credits)           | N                 | Writing Talking Festival<br>(20 credits)           | N |
| Choreographer's Mentor Project<br>(20 credits)     | N                 | Choreographer's Mentor Project<br>(20 credits)     | N |
| Artist as Teacher<br>(20 credits)                  | N                 | Artist as Teacher<br>(20 credits)                  | N |
| Socially Engaged Practice<br>(20 credits)          | N                 | Socially Engaged Practice<br>(20 credits)          | N |
| The Placement Project<br>(20 credits)              | N                 | Embodied Knowledges<br>(20 credits)                | N |
|  |                   | The Festival Project<br>(20 credits)               | N |
| <b>Semester 3</b>                                  | <b>Core (Y/N)</b> |  |   |
| Improvisation (20 credits)                         | N                 |  |   |
| <b>Semester 6</b>                                  | <b>Core (Y/N)</b> |  |   |
| Choreographers' Major Project (60 credits)         | N                 |  |   |

The option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules.

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

Assessment on MA Choreography is designed to enable learning to be evaluated for the benefit of the student. The programme provides students with a range of assessment tasks including;

- Choreographic making and performance
- Portfolios
- Viva
- Presentations
- Continuous Assessment of process or engagement

- Report writing
- Critical and Creative Documentation
- Essays
- Research proposal writing/project design
- Digital Portfolio of video documentation
- An application for a choreographic commission

In some modules, students will be required to be autonomous in constructing the shape and content of their submission in order to meet assessment criteria and module learning outcomes. This nurtures student’s creative independence and is relevant to professional models of practice. At the end of the course is a major choreographic project which requires the student to design, fulfil and present choreographic work in performance: this is accompanied by either written documentation as relevant to the project or a viva voce as relevant to the project.

### Workload

| Overall Workload for the Course   | Level 7    |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Teaching, Learning and Assessment | 600 hours  |
| Independent Study                 | 1200 hours |
| Placement                         | 0 hours    |

### Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students’ Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, call into or contact the Student Advice Hub on either campus. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. There is a Student Advice Hub on the ground floor of the Rose Bowl at City Campus and one in Campus Central at Headingley. You can also find the team in the Gateway in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus. Email enquiries may be directed to [studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students’ Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.