



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification MA Dance & Choreography

Course Code: MDCHO

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Award and Title: *MA Dance & Choreography (MDCHO)*

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 11/2025

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Dance & Choreography
Contained awards	Post Graduate Diploma Dance & Choreography Post Graduate Certificate Dance & Choreography
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
Course lengths and standard timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months (full time, campus based)• 24 months (part time, campus based)
Part time 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 from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that a work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
Entry requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/ Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk .
Course fees	Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk .

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

N/A

'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 Dance & 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 are 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 and Final Major Project.

Placement Delivery

Many potential MA Dance & 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. Students may also opt to do elective module Artist as Teacher which explicitly includes a requirement to engage in teaching practice and/or Socially Engaged Practice in order to maximise teaching or teaching related experiences as an integrated part of their learning experiences and course study.

Location

Whilst students source their own placements, they will need to meet requirements which will be outlined before module enrolment.

Approval

Whilst students source their own placements, they will need to meet requirements which will be outlined before module enrolment.

Timetable

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

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

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

Key Contacts

Your course director Beth Cassani

Your course administrator Sue Kershaw PerformanceCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

1. To provide students with an MA education in Dance & Choreographic Practice which will enhance potential employability.
2. To develop and stimulate a community of critical enquiry into contemporary dance and 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 dance and choreographic practice through professionally modelled, constructive self-reflection, peer and professional critical feedback thus facilitating more advanced and complex strategies for making, performing, 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, performance and choreographic strategies systematically to articulate new insights and/or critical awareness in their own research and practice.
3	To initiate, negotiate and plan projects, applying critical reflection and collaborative communication to creative and practical decision-making and problem solving in a range of industry related contexts.
4	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the current cultural debates pertaining to contemporary dance and 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 and scholarly research & practice including the ability to evaluate and interpret embodied experience and relevant data.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Students who enrol on MA Dance & Choreography can expect a variety of engaging learning experiences. Most sessions are studio based with an emphasis on 'learning through doing', and student's research enquiry may be practiced.

Learning is essentially live and in person. Taught workshops and tutor supported making processes form the main body of studio practice with technical training where appropriate to the module content. Students will also experience lecture and seminar sessions with academic study appropriate to level 7. Lectures and seminars are also live, and seminars often include studio practice. Studio teaching activity takes place in our own studio spaces on City Campus.

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 Dance & Choreography is one that values professional practice and welcomes diverse approaches to dance practice. Students should expect teaching and learning activities which may include input from for example; professional artists, artists with culturally diverse or culturally specific practices, producers or programmers, as well as the programme team.

Dance making and performing are significant parts of MA Dance & Choreography, and this occurs in a variety of contexts. Appropriate skills delivery is embedded in students' teaching and learning. Students may make solo, self-authored, group directed and collaborative practice. Students may direct each other, perform in each other's work, they may work alone, collaborate, work with a student dramaturg or work with external artists. Receiving and working with critical feedback is built into all module learning.

Students will engage with the critical articulation of practice and research. They will have the opportunity to do this through a variety of modes of expression. This is intended to include a breadth of student learning styles and to offer a range of possibilities for engagement with their area of study. Students will be asked to make and present performance work, to produce portfolios of critical and reflective documentation, to give presentations, to participate in vivas, to write essays, blogs, and digital portfolios. Academic support is provided for students in module teaching, tutorials and supervision and additionally can be accessed by students independently through the library.

The Virtual Learning Environment is primarily used by MA Dance & Choreography as a repository for information, the submission of assessments, and the distribution of feedback. All modules on MA Dance & 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 Dance & 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 MA Dance & Choreography are required to engage in independent study for all modules. Whilst there is scope for negotiated learning and creative approaches throughout the programme students must also comply with university deadlines and academic regulations. The staff team and module leaders will foster and support critical and creative dialogue in class sessions and in one to one or group tutorials.

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7

Full time - Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Research in the Arts	20	1
Commission	40	1
Dramaturgy	20	2
Major Project	40	3
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Dance & Choreography in the Expanded Field	30	
Writing Talking Festival	30	
Artist as Teacher	30	
Improvisation	30	
Embodied Knowledges	30	
Mentor Project	30	
Socially Engaged Practice	30	
Negotiated Project	30	
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	60	

Electives listed above are indicative therefore scheduling and availability are subject to change.

Part time - Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Year 1 - Commission	40	1
Year 1 - Dramaturgy	20	2
Year 2 - Research in the Arts	20	1
Year 2 - Major Project	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Dance & Choreography in the Expanded Field	30	
Writing Talking Festival	30	
Artist as Teacher	30	
Improvisation	30	
Embodied Knowledges	30	
Mentor Project	30	
Socially Engaged Practice	30	
Negotiated Project	30	
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	30 per year	

Electives listed above are indicative therefore scheduling and availability are subject to change.

Assessment 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

Level 7

On this course students will be assessed through a broadly even mix of coursework and practical presentation of choreography and performance work. There is a major independent study module at the end of the degree which will require students to produce a substantial piece of practice which offers students the opportunity for an in-depth research enquiry. The practice is accompanied by either written documentation or a viva voce.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	420 hours
Independent study	1380 hours
Placement	-