

BA (Hons) Professional Performance (Top-up)

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	BA (Hons) Professional Performance (Top-up)
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a Teaching institution	London Studio Centre
3b Language of study	English
4a Valid intake dates	September
4b Mode of study	<i>Full Time</i>
4c Delivery method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended <input type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body	N/A
6. Apprenticeship Standard	N/A
7. Final qualification(s) available	BA (Hons) Professional Performance (Top-up)
8. Academic year effective from	2024-2025

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Applicants will be expected to audition for entry onto the course in one of the four companies in either: Ballet (Images Ballet Company), Contemporary dance (INTOTO Dance), Jazz and Commercial dance (Jazz Co), or Musical Theatre (Seedtime). Details on the audition and criteria by which they are assessed can be found in LSC's Audition Criteria document online. Applicants are normally expected to have:

- Successfully completed a foundation degree in dance (Level 5), such as LSC's FdA Dance Performance
- Current dance skills, practical knowledge, understanding of technique and style and the capacity for critical reflection on performance at Level 6 demonstrated at audition and interview for students not transferring directly from LSC's FdA Dance Performance
- The aptitude for professionally orientated practical study of performance techniques at Level 6 and the potential to benefit from performance training as judged through audition for those applicants not transferring directly from LSC's FdA Dance Performance

- A physical aptitude necessary to safely and successfully study an intensive programme confirmed at a physical examination by a qualified practitioner such as a physiotherapist.

Applicants who have non-standard qualifications (or who wish work or life experience to be taken into account as part of their application) will be considered on an individual basis.

If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 or equivalent. If you require a visa to study in the UK, you will also need a minimum score of 5.5 in each individual component.

We are unable to accept applications for deferred entry or defer offers for this programme as applicants must retain a high level of fitness prior to enrolment.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Develop coherent and detailed knowledge of professional dance as a performance practice and appreciate the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of this knowledge.
- Review, consolidate, extend, apply and transfer knowledge and conceptual understanding and communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Develop potential as creative artists working both independently and collaboratively to explore, reflect, problem solve and critically evaluate different approaches.
- Promote self-reliance, exercising initiative and decision making to manage learning and career prospects.

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme you will be able to:

A1: Systematically investigate and interrogate technique and performance knowledge relevant to the employment market.

A2: Engage with research and creative practice to inform and enhance performance in dance and/or musical theatre.

A3: Critically reflect, evaluate arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts drawing on current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship in professional performance.

Teaching/learning methods

You will develop your knowledge and understanding in technique classes, performance rehearsals, workshops, lectures and seminars as outlined below.

Technique classes allow you to put into practice the dance and/or musical theatre knowledge (A1, A2) you are developing, ask questions, and actively engage in the feedback process.

Performance rehearsals enable you to experience the industry within the safety of your studies. You will develop knowledge (A1, A2) that mirrors the workplace.

Workshops allow you to create and explore concepts both practically and theoretically,

A4: Respond professionally to work-integrated challenges within the professional performance context.

developing your knowledge (A2, A3, A4). These experiences introduce you to new ways of working collaboratively often with guest artists who are influential within the industry.

Lectures and seminars provide you with opportunities to reflect on historical, analytical, and research frameworks to contextualise your practical learning. These sessions develop your subject knowledge and understanding (A1-A4).

Assessment methods

Your knowledge and skills are assessed both formatively and summatively through a range of methods designed to allow you to achieve your best and stretch your abilities.

Technique Assessments allow you to demonstrate your achievement in the techniques you are studying as a dance and/or musical theatre artist. You will be asked to perform your skills in the context of the regular technique classes that you take as part of your daily practice or in performance either as an individual or as part of a group.

Performance assessments will enhance your ability to adapt, to work constructively and collaboratively with colleagues, directors and choreographers, and to problem solve through the application of your technical knowledge. This is pivotal to your programme of study.

Audition assessments allow you to communicate yourself as an artist in a “real world” scenario presenting your understanding of industry expectations and your place within it.

Portfolio assessments enable you to artistically illustrate your learning in a variety of creative outputs often drawing on digital technologies to produce your work. These assessments facilitate new and exciting ways of presenting your understanding of the learning outcomes.

<p>B. Skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme you will be able to:</p> <p>B1: Apply and evaluate professional performance methods and techniques in addition to critical theories and perspectives to initiate and carry out projects.</p> <p>B2: Collaboratively and independently work within professionally orientated and creative rehearsal and performing contexts to interpret and perform a range of choreographic and/or musical and dramatic works.</p> <p>B3: Effectively communicate complex information, arguments, ideas and analysis to both specialist and non-specialist audiences using a variety of different outputs and technology.</p> <p>B4: Take responsibility for and personally manage learning and personal practice with an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>You will develop your practical skills in technique classes, performance rehearsals, workshops, lectures and seminars as outlined below.</p> <p>Technique classes allow you to put into practice the skills (B1, B2) you are developing, ask questions, and actively engage in the feedback process.</p> <p>Performance rehearsals enable you to experience the industry within the safety of your studies. You will develop performance skills (B1, B2, B4) that mirrors the workplace.</p> <p>Workshops allow you to create and explore concepts both practically and theoretically, developing your skills (B2, B3, B4). These experiences introduce you to new ways of working collaboratively often with guest artists who are influential within the industry.</p> <p>Lectures provide you with opportunities to reflect on historical, analytical, and research frameworks to contextualise your practical learning. These sessions develop your skills (B1-B4)</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Your knowledge and skills are assessed both formatively and summatively through a range of methods designed to allow you to achieve your best and stretch your abilities.</p> <p>Technique assessments allow you to demonstrate your achievement in the techniques you are studying as a dance and/or musical theatre artist. You will be asked to perform your skills in the context of the regular technique classes that you take as part of your daily practice or in performance either as an individual or as part of a group.</p> <p>Performance assessments will enhance your ability to adapt, to work constructively and collaboratively with colleagues, directors and choreographers, and to problem solve</p>
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<p>12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)</p>
<p>12.1 Structure of the programme</p>
<p>The BA (Hons) Professional Performance (Top-up) is a full-time, taught one year top-up to allow students who have completed a foundation degree to have access to a full undergraduate qualification alongside rigorous performance training in a specific genre.</p> <p>This programme provides an in-depth development of specialist skills in ballet, contemporary dance, jazz and commercial dance or musical theatre. You will receive intensive tuition by specialist tutors and renowned industry professionals through workshops, masterclasses, lectures, seminars and Research & Development (R&D) sessions, which will enable you to develop your own independent professional practice as performers who are employment ready. With work-integrated learning, you have frequent opportunities to perform, from informal, in-house presentations of work to full professional performances usually at major performance venues in the UK. A strong focus on employability equips you with the required knowledge, understanding and skills to take advantage of employment opportunities in the performing arts industry. Research in creative practice, contextual studies or dance science/psychology further enhances your performance practice.</p> <p>The programme has been designed to develop graduates who are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate dance and performance skills with coherent and detailed knowledge of the art form, which they are able to apply in a range of choreographic and performance contexts. • Work collaboratively and independently as part of a creative team to perform substantial dance works in different contexts to a range of audiences. • Direct and manage their own learning and demonstrate focus, resourcefulness and self-motivation, so as to continually adapt to a developing performing arts industry.

Joining one of LSC's four internal companies: Images (ballet), INTOTO (contemporary) JazzCo (Jazz and Commercial Dance) or Seedtime (Musical Theatre) you will engage in daily company classes, rehearsals, creative workshops, agent experiences and full-scale performances in order to give you the full experience that mirrors the real-life experience of joining a professional company in each of the four areas of expertise. It is through this work-integrated approach to learning that you will become fully prepared for the professional performance industry.

There are four modules taught on the programme and each module is **compulsory**. There are no exit awards for this top-up programme.

Programme Structure

	M601: The Professional Practitioner (20 credits)	M602: Creation, Performance & Production (40 credits)	M605: Understanding Employability (20 credits)	M606: Independent Project (40 credits)
Term 1				
Term 2				
Term 3				

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 6

Compulsory	Optional	Progression requirements
Students must take all of the following: M601: The Professional Practitioner (20 credits) M602: Creation, Performance & Production (40 credits)	There are no option modules on this programme.	All modules must be completed to receive the award.

M605: Understanding Employability (20 credits)		
M606: Independent Project (40 credits)		

*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
6	M606

13. Information about assessment regulations

See the University's regulations, which can be found at <https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies>. London Studio Centre uses a 0-100 marking scheme for assessed work, which is explained in the BA (Hons) Professional Performance (Top-up) handbook.

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

From time-to-time students are offered professional engagements. Provided the nature of the work meets the requirements for assessments of the learning outcomes it may be possible to undertake such employment provided it is equivalent to the assessed performances for the module M602 Creation, Production & Performance at Level 6. Normally, only professional work equivalent to a full evening performance underwritten by a professional contract is considered.

London Studio Centre will make arrangements for first and second markers to assess the student in that context and to arrange for a video recording of the work to be available to external examiners. The decision to do so is entirely at LSC's discretion and the arrangements must meet its reasonable demands. Applications must be made in accordance with agreed procedures set out on the Application Form. Details of the arrangements are available on DIVA.

15. Future careers / progression

LSC has an existing strong track record of preparing students to enter industry or further study. In the two years LSC has been running this programme, graduates from the BA (Hons) Professional Performance (Top-up) have gone on to professional performance contracts (with cruise companies, touring shows, and holiday parks) as well as go on to postgraduate study.

The programme has been designed in consultation with employers within the professional dance performance industry to ensure that the curriculum matches industry expectations and requirements. This consultation will continue in annual course monitoring to ensure that LSC keeps on top of changes and enhancements to employment expectations. In addition, employers will often be part of the course delivery, giving you direct access to those contacts, which may be useful upon graduation.

Work Integrated Learning: The ethos of developing employability skills is integrated and thoroughly embedded into this programme through work-integrated learning. M601: The Professional Practitioner and M602: Creation, Performance & Production achieves this through replicating the company experience. You will train in a variety of techniques relating to your pathway within the company and go on to create, produce and perform company work engaging with choreographers, producers, directors, lighting and sound technicians, costume designers, photographers and other creatives along the way. This work-integrated experience allows you to be fully prepared to step directly into the industry from the moment you complete the programme.

Professional Development and Employability Advice: You will receive expert guidance on your professional development and employability through M605: Understanding Employability. This module offers you direct access to employability advice and real-life tools to enhance your portfolio as an artist. You will learn practical, real-life skills to access the gatekeepers to your particular industry with sessions on audition preparation, and platform enhancing to bring you up to speed on what is required of you to be an employable artist and performer.

Progression into Postgraduate Study: Through the completion of the degree, you will be well equipped to enter into postgraduate study either directly or after your performance career comes to a close. The skills you will learn in M606: Independent Project, will foster your academic inquiry and prepare you well for postgraduate study. LSC has five postgraduate programmes that alums from this programme are eligible for, should this be of interest.

By the time you graduate from the BA (Hons) Professional Performance (Top-up) you will feel well equipped for direct career entry or progression into postgraduate study at any time.

16. Particular support for learning

London Studio Centre welcomes students with disabilities, learning differences, long-time illness, injury and neurodivergent conditions. If applicable, and supported by evidence, reasonable adjustments will be negotiated to support your learning and assessment.

LSC endeavours to provide accessible and inclusive education for all students. When additional support needs are identified for an individual student, reasonable adjustments can possibly address any specific differences creating barriers to learning. Additional support might include extra tutorials, study skills guidance, and/or assessment adjustments, as well as specific advice for understanding learning and processing differences.

Your learning needs can be discussed and possibly recorded as a Learning Support Agreement (LSA). An LSA outlines reasonable adjustments, notes about any specific

barriers to learning, and offers advice for you and the teaching and assessment staff to ensure that your needs are being met to facilitate your academic progression.

If you suspect a learning difference (such as dyslexia), or a neurodivergent condition (such as Autism or ADHD), but lack a diagnosis or assessment, LSC will support you on a case-by-case basis.

You will also benefit from the Physical Support Scheme at London Studio Centre, which, in the event of an injury, will support you through treatment and rehabilitation to optimise your recovery.

17. HECos code(s)	100712
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18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)	The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Subject Benchmark Statement Dance, Drama and Performance (2019).
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19. Reference points

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
QAA The UK Quality Code for Higher Education
OfS Regulatory Framework
Middlesex University Regulations
Middlesex University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook
London Studio Centre's policies, procedures and strategies

20. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

21. Curriculum map for BA (Hons) Professional Performance (Top-Up)

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	Systematically investigate and interrogate technique and performance knowledge relevant to the employment market.
A2	Engage with research and creative practice to inform and enhance performance in dance and/or musical theatre.
A3	Critically reflect, evaluate arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts drawing on current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship in professional performance.
A4	Respond professionally to work-integrated challenges within the professional performance context.
Skills	
B1	Apply and evaluate professional performance methods and techniques in addition to critical theories and perspectives to initiate and carry out projects.
B2	Collaboratively and independently work within professionally orientated and creative rehearsal and performing contexts to interpret and perform a range of choreographic and/or musical and dramatic works.
B3	Effectively communicate complex information, arguments, ideas and analysis to both specialist and non-specialist audiences using a variety of different outputs and technology.
B4	Take responsibility for and personally manage learning and personal practice with an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge.

A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4
Highest level achieved by all graduates							
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4
		X			X		X		
The Professional Practitioner	M601	X			X		X		
Creation, Performance & Production	M602	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Understanding Employability	M605		X	X	X			X	
Independent Project	M606		X	X		X		X	X