

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY



DANCE

FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITITES

YOUR FUTURE
STARTS WITH HOPE



Dance Fact File

Faculty:

Arts and Humanities

Department:

Drama, Dance and Performance Studies

Campus Location:

The Creative Campus

Entry Requirements:

The standard offer level is between 260 - 300 UCAS points, including a minimum of two A/A2 levels or equivalent. In addition, applicants should have experience of dance techniques. All applicants will be required to attend an audition.

Duration:

3 years

Degree:

Combined Honours only

You may also be interested in...

- Creative & Performing Arts
- Drama & Theatre Studies

Contact Details:

Student Recruitment

+44 (0) 151 291 3111

enquiry@hope.ac.uk

Course Combinations:	
Dance and Drama & Theatre Studies	UCAS code WW54
Dance and Education	UCAS code XW35
Dance and Early Childhood	UCAS code WL59
Dance and English Language	UCAS code WQ35
Dance and Media & Communication	UCAS code WP53
Dance and Music	UCAS code WW53
Dance and Nutrition	UCAS code WB40
Dance and Philosophy & Ethics	UCAS code W5V5
Dance and Psychology	UCAS code W5C8
Dance and Sport & Physical Education	UCAS code WC53

All Combined Honours result in a BA degree.

Course Introduction

Dance can be described as a fluid art form. It is constantly changing, exposed to different cultural contexts, bodily histories and physical disciplines, as well as being influenced by political and social movements. This course aims to locate dance as a living social practice and dynamic art form, considering how the dance body throughout both eastern and western cultures has been cultivated through traditional training practices as well as more contemporary cultural influences.

This course looks at the bodies, techniques, performances and histories that make up dance practice today both from an embedded perspective - as a source for developing material - and from a reflective position, combining both theoretical and practical approaches to learning. The small dance team at Liverpool Hope University are all professional dance practitioners and active researchers whose specialist skills map into the diverse areas of site specific choreography, multicultural dance and somatic practice.

During your studies at Liverpool Hope University, you will have the opportunity to work alongside professional visiting choreographers and dance artists, performing at our Capstone Theatre for public audiences as well as developing a consistent studio practice through one to one and group seminars and regular dance classes and workshops.

Here at Liverpool Hope we actively encourage students to consider their art form as an ethical and embodied practice, where dance can reflect some of the social and cultural concerns of our day. In promoting active, conscious minds and bodies through our learning practices we seek to expand our awareness of our role in society and our responsibilities to ourselves and to others.

What you will study

Year 1

Foundations in Dance:

Teaching methods integrate practical work (performance, creation, design and presentation of dance) with theoretical studies (analytical, historical, critical, contextual). Students will engage with key historic dance practices and traditions from an embodied perspective using technical, performance and choreographic responses to understand how dance histories are created, narrated, and passed on.

Topics covered include:

- European dance theatre history to include Kurt Jooss, Rudolph Laban, Pina Bausch
- Modernism, feminism, multiculturalism in dance
- Introduction to composition for dance
- Weekly technique classes in western and non-western dance styles
- Group choreography (staff directed).

Assessment Methods: The assessment pattern in Year 1 follows a continuous mode of interrogation through theory and practice where students will work towards developing individual and group dance compositions alongside written reflections, essays and seminar presentations.

Year 2

In Year 2, students learn to integrate practical and theoretical studies through the production, creation, design and presentation of dance. The roles of documentation and analysis in dance will be examined in relation to filming and recording dance, disseminating your practice, and exploring choreographic development through mixed media presentations designed in and for non-conventional dance spaces and audiences. Students will have the opportunity to explore diverse world dance traditions from the African Diaspora as well as South East Asian Dance and will interrogate how dance operates within a contemporary multicultural society.

Topics covered include:

- Reconstruction and revisionism in dance
- Orientalism, postcolonialism, globalisation
- Modernism to include vaudeville, popular dance forms, early dance film and Tanz Theater
- Studio practice in world dance traditions to include Bharata Natyam - South Indian Classical dance.

Assessment Methods: Students will be assessed in a range of presentation formats to include contextual journal, essay and through group and solo performance presentations.



Year 3

Throughout Year 3 we will examine the body in contemporary performance, articulating intrinsic differences and similarities across a wide range of choreographic approaches. Students will explore current debates about globalisation as a process of social change within a dance context, focusing on various traditions and approaches that have been reshaped in the late 20th and 21st century, with the aim to consolidate and extend their knowledge of the wider context of multicultural society's variety of dance styles and their relationship with western contemporary dance.

Students in Year 3 will extend their individual choreographic and dance techniques, performance and presentation methods with a view to creating a strong platform for continuing professional development as an entrepreneurial graduate dancer. Throughout the year students will be introduced to a range of 'Next Steps' seminars, delivered by leading professionals in the field which will equip them with a range of professional skills to include arts administration, workshop facilitation and preparing CVs as well as profiling postgraduate opportunities. In addition, students will have the opportunity

to study the political, historical, health and social issues that arise working in a range of community contexts and will examine and evaluate the purpose and value of arts in communities, especially community dance work, its history and its place in the arts, media and public life.

Topics covered include:

- Developing choreographic signature
- Advanced level dance technique
- Community dance work placements
- Skills in audition and recruitment procedures in dance
- Research led extended writing project.

Assessment Methods:

Research materials will be presented through a variety of written and performance outcomes which will be assessed through negotiated terms, which best reflect each student's individual strengths as a researcher, writer and performance maker.



Employability/Career Opportunities

Students graduating from the dance course at Liverpool Hope University will have accumulated a wide range of practical and critical skills to apply directly in the professional workplace. Students will graduate with hands-on experience in running community dance projects, managing rehearsal schedules, evaluating and reviewing professional dance work and producing performance works in professional environments. We currently have graduate students working in the National Youth Dance Company of Wales, the Black – E Community Arts Space in Liverpool and, internationally, at The Space Dance and Arts Centre, Melbourne.

The combined honours program at Liverpool Hope University means that all of our students graduate with a broad skills base across two, often quite diverse, subjects. Many of our graduates choose to pursue postgraduate studies, completing vocational qualifications and MA programs in specialist areas such as Dance Movement Therapy. The dance program has a long history of providing apprenticeship opportunities and volunteer placements within a range of regional community arts venues throughout Liverpool's diverse and dynamic arts scene. As a result of these partnerships, many students leave the dance course with invitations to continue their placements through professional roles as choreographic assistants, workshop facilitators and rehearsal directors as well as pursuing roles in arts administration, management and technical support.



Why choose this subject?

- The Creative Campus holds the largest multi-equipped, sprung floor dance studio in Liverpool city, as well as housing two full scale working theatres and several smaller multi-purpose studios.
- Liverpool Hope Dance department supports a Visiting Professor in Classical Indian Dance, Leela Samson, whose international role has included Director of the world renowned Kaleshektra Foundation in Chennai. More recently Leela Samson was appointed Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi in New Dehli, by the President of India.
- Plas Caerdeon is a large scale converted school house in the heart of Snowdonia which provides a rural residential education centre where students can enjoy immersive practical studies in nature. Dance students have the opportunity to extend their studio practice to outdoors, developing site specific choreographic practice working in the environment and exploring how dance might relate to wider social and environmental issues such as ecology and sustainability.

Graduate Profiles

Grace Goulding

After graduating from her BA degree, Grace worked at Hope Street Limited artist training programme in Liverpool before taking up a role as a Movement Assistant Director for Artichoke Events Company's outdoor production 'Dining with Alice'. Grace has worked as a member of both the National Youth Dance, and National Youth Theatre Company of Wales.

Michaela Roberts

Since graduating, Michaela has worked in the region as a dance teacher at Marshside School of Dance and at St Michael's C of E High School before moving to Australia, where she currently works at The Space Dance and Arts Centre, Melbourne.





Academic Staff Profiles



**Dr Rachel Sweeney,
Lecturer in Dance**

Rachel has lectured in dance at the University of Plymouth, Middlesex University, Chichester University and the Irish

Academy for Music and Dance. She was recently Visiting Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University (2012) and was appointed Research Fellow at the Centre for Sustainable Futures, University of Plymouth (2007-09). She holds a practice as research PhD from Middlesex University, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Her teaching specialisms include site specific dance practice, dance anthropology and European Dance Theatre history.



**Dr Claudia Brazzale,
Postdoctoral Teaching
Fellow**

Claudia Brazzale is a dancer, choreographer and scholar from Italy. Claudia holds a PhD in Culture

and Performance from the department of World Arts and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Masters in Performance Studies from New York University. Her current research focuses on the circulation of West African dance forms and practices in Italy.



**Dr Declan Patrick,
Postdoctoral Teaching
Fellow**

Declan trained as a professional actor and dancer in New Zealand and in London, and holds a

Bachelor's degree in English, a postgraduate Diploma in Drama and a Master of Arts degree in English (Drama and Film Studies), all from the University of Auckland. He has a PhD in Contemporary Arts (Dance) from Manchester Metropolitan University and his research is concerned with intercultural performance and cultural identity. Declan is Artistic Director of performance company, Fighting Fit Productions, who have toured both nationally and internationally.

**Sarah Black,
Lecturer in Dance**

Sarah's background is dance and choreography and she is currently working on/in dance and film. Sarah's teaching and research focuses on the Humphrey/Limon technique and site specific dance performance. Sarah completed the Professional Studies programme at the Limon Institute in New York 2006 and is the Artistic Director of Liverpool dance company 'Us Geese are Swans' and also is resident choreographer for Zho Productions a Liverpool based theatre group who recently won a Capital of Culture grant for their production of The Quiet Little Englishman.



