**Frequently Asked Questions**

Please find below answers to frequently asked questions that have arisen over the years since the course commenced.

**Applying**

What is the closing date for applications? Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis if there are vacancies in the programme. It is advisable to apply as early as possible as there is a maximum number of 10 places available each year.

**What is the application process?**

Step 1- Fill out your application online - [www.ul.ie/gps/about/how-apply](https://www.ul.ie/gps/about/how-apply)

Step 2 - Send via email Vimeo/YouTube links of your work to the Course Director at Jenny.Roche@ul.ie

Links should include all or some of the below:

Footage that shows your ability as a dancer, preferably Contemporary Dance but other styles are accepted. Footage may be as a solo dancer and/or in an ensemble work. (Please highlight your role in the ensemble by your clothing or exact time of your participation and/or your position in space).

Samples of your choreographic work e.g. Dance film work, works-in-progress showings, theatre productions.

Links should be as recent as possible. Please send 3-4 links maximum.

Step 3 - Based on your application you may be required for an interview/audition at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance or for an online interview. You will be notified of the date, time and venue by the Course Director. Your application will then be processed.

I live overseas, how can I audition for the course? If you live outside of Ireland you will be requested to send video footage of your work to the Course Director via YouTube/Vimeo. She will the interview you online.

**What are the scholarship opportunities?** There are currently no specific MA Contemporary Dance Performance scholarships. However, the Irish World Academy offers Stepping Stones Scholarships for (Non-EU and General). You are also advised to examine the scholarships available for students in your country or at SUSI if you are in Ireland.

**Requirements**

**I do not have a primary degree in dance, can I still apply?** The programme requires applicants to have either a primary degree with first or second-class honours or an approved equivalent qualification or an equivalent capability based on prior professional experience.

If your primary degree is not in dance you will need to demonstrate relevant degree level qualifications (and these would be reviewed on a case by case basis) as well as exceptional activity in dance. We encourage you to be thorough with the original application, highlighting your relevant performance and dance experience alongside any courses, classes and workshops you have attended.

Additionally it is important to indicate why you want to do the programme, questions you may have about your dance/artistic practice and what you hope to achieve in the programme. You can also refer to persons you have worked with and/or any choreographic work you have undertaken and shown in a public arena. Please include the above information in a supporting statement in your application.

**The Programme**

The MA Contemporary Dance Performance comprises of 3 Semesters. There is no requirement for students to be on campus during the third (Summer) Semester.

Weekly Schedule for Semester 1 and Semester 2

The schedule for the first and second semester is such that students are required to attend classes/workshops/lectures for 3.5/4 days of the week (Monday -Thursday) over 12 weeks each semester. Final Performance Exam (Part 1) – a programme of ensemble and solo choreographies will take place in May following week 12 (exact date to be confirmed). This performance is 60% of the Final Exam.

Semester 3

During the Third Semester students are required to complete an independent performance project. There are no scheduled classes and/or workshops during the Third Semester but the Course Director will be available to provide feedback to the students on their projects. This project has to be submitted at the end of August/beginning of September (exact date to be confirmed). This project is submitted as the Final Performance Exam (Part 2). This is 40% of the Final Exam.

**What is a typical day on the MA programme?**

The MA programme is intensive and primarily studio based. A typical day commences at 9am/10am and finishes at 5pm/6pm. Classes are held Monday to Thursday with Fridays allocated for personal practice and research.

Each day commences with a morning technique class. This is supported by aligned technique classes such as Somatics and ballet. The afternoons are spent working with guest choreographers on ensemble choreographies, solo mentoring or workshops with selected guest dance specialists.

Is there a way to do the programme part-time? The programme is full-time for one year and 100% attendance is required. It is difficult to complete the course unless you are able to be on campus from Monday to Thursday during Semester 1 and 2.

**How intensive is the timetable?** **Can I organise part-time work?** Some students have taken part-time work during the MA Programme, however it is encouraged to devote as much time as possible during the year to the programme.

The timetable for all university students is advised in the first week of semester. Please be assured that faculty will advise you of your timetable as soon as this is finalised in the university system. Full attendance is expected at all classes. We do understand that life events and health issues can arise. In such cases the student may be asked to provide a medical certificate. Occasionally unexpected seminars or guest lectures are scheduled outside of the regular class times. These will be advised to students well in advance.

While students are required to be on campus each week from Monday – Thursday during semester 1 and 2, during semester 3, students are only required to attend three tutorials over the summer semester either online or in person depending on the project.

**What are the number of credits for the overall programme?** The programme of study for semester one, two and three totals 90 credits.

**What are the academic/written modules on the programme?** In Semester 1 there is one module/three credits which requires written documentation. In Semester 2 there are 2 modules/six credits that require written documentation. The Final Performance Exam in May is fully practical and the final independent project comprises 70% for a practical presentation and 30% for a written document.

What do previous students go on to do? The programme is beneficial for students wishing to pursue careers in dance performance (solo and ensemble), improvisation, choreography, devising original works for performance and community arts practice, as well as teaching dance. Furthermore, some graduates have secured positions as dancers-in-residence, dance consultants with state funding agencies, festival producers, university lecturers, doctoral researchers and dance company directors.

**If I have further questions, what should I do?** Any additional questions about the programme should be directed to Dr Jenny Roche Course Director, MA Contemporary Dance Performance – Jenny.Roche@ul.ie