

COURSE SUMMARY DOCUMENT

MA Dance: Participation, Communities, Activism



Award Title MA Dance: Participation, Communities. Activism	Length and Mode of Course 12 months Full - Time 24 months Part - Time
Awarding Body University of the Arts London	Location of Study The majority of the course is offered online with two residencies at London Contemporary Dance School, The Place

Entry Requirements

Standard Minimum Entry Requirements

- BA (Hons) degree or equivalent academic qualifications
- Alternative qualifications and experience will also be taken into consideration
- Personal statement
- Portfolio of work

APEL – Accreditation of Prior (Experiential Learning)

Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements will still be considered. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:

- Related academic or professional experience in in dance, film, arts, media, fine arts, performance, or similar field
- The quality of the personal statement
- A strong academic or other professional reference
- A combination of these factors

English Language

IELTS level **6.5** or above, with at least **5.5** in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Course Outline

This MA is for students who want to develop a socially engaged dance practice which addresses the urgencies of our times. Students join a global community of artists and researchers working at the intersection of community dance and arts activism.

The course is offered full-time or part-time, allowing you to remain embedded in the communities with whom you practice with. Students are **not required to relocate to London**, but rather learn mostly online, supported in applying learning immediately with the communities with whom they work. **Two, 2-week live residencies per year based at LCDS** in London allow you to connect with your peers and teachers in person

On this course, you will:

- Develop their approach to dance including its social, ethical, activist, aesthetic and pedagogical dimensions
- Be supported in their development working for the advancement of social justice across the fields of community and participatory dance and activism
- Encounter, interrogate and negotiate systemic contexts, activating dance as a methodology for change
- Locate their practice in historical and contemporary discourses around socially engaged arts practices
- Develop appropriate skills and knowledges to lead safe, creative, accessible, ethical and enquiring dance projects in a variety of settings
- Develop advocacy skills and activist values to influence the contexts in which they work
- Analyse and reflect upon the efficacy of their practice and its relationship with the communities of practice in which it is embedded

Unit Structure and Content

There are three units in the MA. Units 1 and 2 will each begin with a two-week residency at The Place in London. The rest of the units, and the whole of unit 3, will be taught online, allowing you to embed your learning in your established communities of practice.

The course culminates with you planning, resourcing and delivering an artistic research project co-created with a community of your choice which is then self-evaluated in a symposium for peers and other audiences.

Unit 1: Mapping Co-Creative Communities

This unit maps a wide range of participatory/community/activist dance practices around the world. Through exploring the work of your peers, teachers and guest artists working with multiple approaches, you will situate your own practice in a wide context. Theoretical and practical inputs are applied continuously in the setting in which students practice, enabling you to investigate new ideas and impulses practically and then reflect upon the learning with your peers. We interrogate the key terms of the MA: participation, communities, activism.

Indicative content includes:

- Peer exchange on existing practice
- Critical exploration of contemporary practice internationally
- Social disruption and social organisation in activist dance practices
- Approaches to co-creativity and co-authorship in participatory work and community dance
- Ethical concerns in socially engaged work
- The historical development of socially engaged practice in diverse contexts
- Documentation, analysis and evaluation of embodied experience outside of student's own experience (placement)
- Safe Practice, risk management, safeguarding and self-care
- Introduction to research approaches

Unit 2: Learning in Collaborative Practice

Unit 2 leads you through a process of sifting through the learning in the previous unit, supporting you to identify and investigate your areas of interest. You will develop your practice-based research in practical collective micro-processes with your peers and communities. Critical reflection will anchor the development of your unique creative practice. Your personal mentor will support you to identify your research questions and to imagine and plan your independent project.

Indicative content includes:

- Application of learning in practical processes with peers and communities
- Movement generation and composition, collective decision-making, collective editing,
- Co-authorship and co-creativity
- Working in groups (including conflict management)
- Safe Dance Practice and safeguarding principles and the application of these, self- and collective care
- Addressing the specific needs of individuals
- Building and sustaining ethical relationships with communities
- Systemic dimensions in the field (institutional collaborations)
- Social organisation/social disruption in activist approaches
- Research practices, techniques and procedures
- Project management and managing resources in projects

- Building a mentoring relationship
- Imagining and planning an independent project, writing a project proposal.

Unit 3: Encounter in the Creative Process

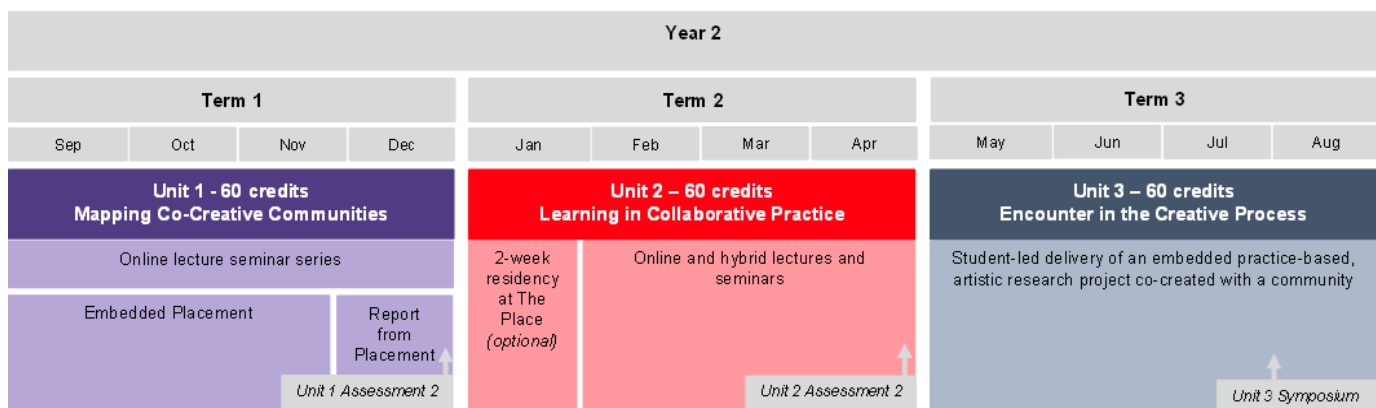
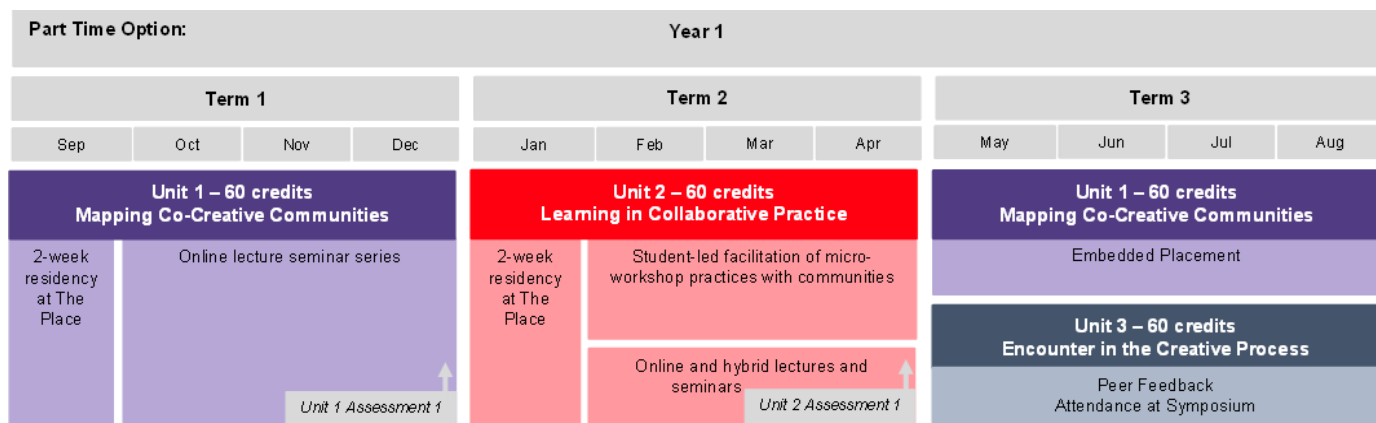
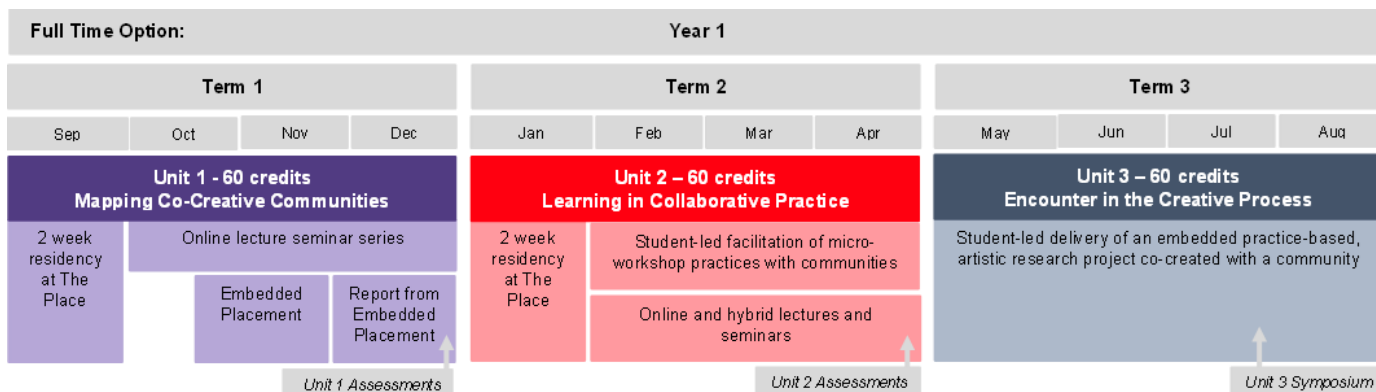
You will integrate your learning throughout the course to deliver an embedded practice-based, artistic research project with a community. Self-reflective analysis of your process feeds into a final presentation in a student-led symposium. Your mentor will continue to support you throughout this process.

Indicative content includes:

- Individually motivated and developed exploration into areas of fresh enquiry in your creative work.
- Delivery of embedded practice-based, artistic research project with a community
- Self-reflective analysis of your process
- Presentation in student-led symposium

Module Diagram

On the below diagram you will be able to see how each unit is structured across the course. You can take the course full time (12 months) or part time (24 months).



Method of Study

Intensive Residencies and Online Learning

The first two units will each feature an intensive two week-long intensive residencies with tutor-led seminars and workshops, site visits and practical workshops with visiting artists. These residencies will be followed by online and hybrid lectures and seminars framing practices in reference to contemporary artistic discourse and scholarship.

Placements

The first unit will include an embedded placement (e.g., assisting an artist working in participatory processes) and the final unit will centre on the delivery of a research project in an embedded context.

Independent Learning

Independent learning will be situated in relation to communities of practice, supported by tutorials from faculty, mentorship from professionals outside of the School, and through structured peer exchange and feedback.

Workload

	Scheduled Learning & Teaching Hours		Guided Independent Study		Placement		Total credit-bearing hours (exc. personal tutorials)	
	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	
Unit 1	180	30%	385	64%	35	6%	600	
Unit 2	180	30%	385	64%	35	6%	600	
Unit 3	36	6%	494	82%	70	12%	600	
Total	396	22%	1264	70%	140	8%	1800	

Assessment Methods

Unit 1 – Mapping Co-Creative Communities

Assessment 1: Presentation - Mapping co-creative communities (60%)

Assessment 2: Presentation - Placement report (40%)

Unit 2 – Learning in Collaborative Practices

Assessment 1: Written workshop plan and evaluation (40%)

Assessment 2: Embedded research project proposal (60%)

Unit 3 – Encounter in the Creative Process

Project delivery, documentation and evaluation. Presentation in student symposium. (Holistic)

Staff teaching on the course

Staff teaching on the course includes the Course Leader for MA Dance: Participation, Communities, Activism alongside a range of guest lecturers.

You can find out more about the staff teaching on the course [here](#).

Course Costs

Course Fees

Fees for 2024/25 academic year are:

	UK Students	Overseas Students
Full Time	£9,550	£21,300
Part Time – Year 1	£5,100	£11,150
Part Time – Year 2	£4,450	£10,150

For more information on course fees and the Tuition Fee Deposit please see the Fee Policy and Course Deposit Policy on our website

Tuition Fee Deposit

All Postgraduate students will need to pay a deposit of £1500, payable within 21 days of an offer being made. More information can be found in the Course Deposit Policy.

If you who have applied for the Global South Scholarship, you will not be required to make the deposit payment until a formal outcome of your scholarship application has been sent to you. Anyone in receipt of the scholarship will not be required to pay the deposit. However, if you are unsuccessful with the scholarship application, you will be required to pay the deposit within 21 days of the scholarship outcome.

Visa

As the course is distanced learning, we are unable to sponsor a Student Visa. Students requiring a Visitor Visa when attending the two week residencies in London will need to pay for this, the cost of this is £100. To find out if you require a visa to visit please click [here](#),

More information on visiting the UK as a visitor can be found here.

Student Support Package

London Contemporary Dance School also offers a Student Support Package for an annual fee of £50, payable on registration / re-registration at the start of each academic year. More information can be found on [our website](#).

Other extra costs

Other extra costs may include:

- Health insurance for students coming to UK on a Visitor Visa for the residencies
- Flights and Accommodation costs whilst in London
- The cost of laptop and broadband to engage with any online learning
- The cost of materials which you may choose to use in your creative projects and placements
- Printing costs
- The cost of books you might wish to purchase

Please be aware that whilst we are planning for delivery for the live residencies to be on site, if government guidelines and requirements change (for example through a further national or local lockdown), LCDS may need to move all or some of its provision online.