

ITALIA CONTI

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Professional Arts Practice (Top-up) *Online*
Academic Year 2026/27

Programme approved by University of Chichester



Italia Conti is an Associate College of
University of Chichester

Programme descriptor

Programme summary information

1	Programme title	BA (Hons) Professional Arts Practice (Top-Up) (online)
2	Programme code	UF_PROFARTICWOL
3	Awarding institution	University of Chichester
4	Teaching institution (if different)	Italia Conti (partner only)
5	PSRB accreditation	

6 Programme description (text for website), including information on employability

This **BA (Hons) Professional Arts Practice (Top-Up)** consists of three modules, focusing on the development of reflective skills and the exploration of creative practice within the performing arts/creative industries. It is designed to enhance students' self-reflection abilities, critical thinking, and industry knowledge to foster personal and professional growth.

You can engage with the BA Hons in Professional Arts Practice (Top-Up) in a variety of contexts regarding your creative and professional practice. This includes, but is not limited to, your work as: **a performer, creative entrepreneur, director, producer, facilitator, educator, filmmaker, writer, leader, or arts administrator.**

The aim of this course is to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of your own creative practice in the context of the performing arts/creative industries. By exploring your own creative practice, engaging in independent research, and embracing career development opportunities, you will cultivate a reflective mindset, enhance your employability, and excel in your chosen career paths within the performing arts/creative industries.

Module 1 focuses on developing reflective skills through self-reflection and critical analysis in the context of your creative practice within the performing arts/creative industries.

Module 2 focuses on enhancing employability skills and exploring career development opportunities within the professional performing and creative arts sectors.

Module 3 focuses on exploring and deepening knowledge in a specific area of interest within the performing arts/creative industries, bridging the gap between theory and practice, and fostering personal and professional growth.

The overall aims of the programme are:

- To allow you to top up your Trinity Professional Diploma or equivalent qualification and/or professional industry experience to a BA (Hons) in Professional Arts Practice (Top-Up)
- To foster self-reflection and reflective skills in the context of your creative practice within the performing arts industry, enabling you to assess strengths, weaknesses, and feedback for personal and professional growth.

- To develop your understanding of successful aspects of your creative process/performance and identify areas of improvement, development, or change
- To enhance your employability skills by utilising reflective practice, evaluating career opportunities, and identifying realistic career outcomes and professional development
- To deepen your knowledge and exploration of specific areas of interest within the performing arts/creative industries, bridging the gap between theory and practice
- To cultivate a mindset that embraces creativity, artistic excellence, and entrepreneurial skills necessary to thrive in the performing arts/creative industry
- To encourage independent research, critical thinking, and analysis to explore career development, employment opportunities, and personal/professional practice within the performing arts industry
- To prepare students for success and innovation in their future careers through a transformative experience, contributing original insights, and bridging the gap between theory and practice

The course is designed for early career professionals and academics looking at gaining their BA Hons (Top Up) qualification; those who working in the performing arts/creative arts industries, with an emphasis on critical reflection, facilitation of real-world skills/development and analysis/evaluation of the sector, artistic/creative specialisms and encouraging you to build your sense of creative self.

We promote the combination of industry expertise, creative approaches, and academic rigour. For this programme, students will be required to develop a high level of independence, autonomy, self-motivation, drive, and determination to ensure completion of the course.

7	Programme awards		
7a	Name of final award	Level	Credits awarded
	BA (Hons) Professional Arts Practice (Top-Up)	6	120

8	Exemptions from the Academic Regulations

9	Mode of study
	Online, distance learning, fully remote

10	Entry requirements
Home: • Successful interview • Applicants must be 18+ by the 31st of August in the year of entry (17+ for Scottish applicants). • Trinity Diploma, HND, FdA or equivalent level 5 qualification, or equivalent professional experience • English and Maths at GCSE Grade 4 or above (or recognised equivalent Level 2 qualifications) • IELTS Level 6 (for applicants for whom English is not their first language and who do not have GCSE English or equivalent)	
Non – standard entry requirements On occasion, admission may be considered through recognition of non-standard entry through the Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) process.	

All prospective students wishing their prior certificated or experiential learning to be considered will have to attend an in-depth interview with the Italia Conti Course Leader and panel to determine suitability and qualification for entry. A portfolio of written and / or creative work may also be requested. Evidence will be reviewed by a panel on a case-by-case basis. All recommendations for entry on the basis of accredited certificated or experiential learning will need to be ratified by the University of Chichester Award board, which will do so according to the standard timeframes.

Criteria for industry professionals to be presented to a panel in the absence of a Trinity Level 6 Professional Diploma or recognised full L5 qualification:

The evidence will be reviewed by a panel on a case-by-case basis. Consideration may be given to the following, to evidence a successful and high quality, professional performance career:

- Equity managed work credits, specifically a minimum of 3 high quality employment contracts, or an extended contract over at least 3 years.
- Evidence of an (Agency Association/ Equity approved) Agency contract with a letter of reference detailing the calibre of work the candidate is put up for/ seen for
- CV and any performance showreels/ portfolio or editorials/ official critique of the candidate's work.
- Number of years in full time vocational performing arts skills training
- High calibre industry credits
- Other relevant qualification(s)
- Professional reputation within the industry and social media/ google search.

Please note: Non-standard entry will normally only be considered as a percentage of APL credits, this is normally a maximum of 50%.

EU: As above for home students. As this course is delivered fully online course via distance learning, EU students can be considered. Please note that Italia Conti cannot sponsor any student visas for entry to the UK.

International: As above for home students. As this course is delivered fully online course via distance learning, International students can be considered. Please note that Italia Conti cannot sponsor any student visas for entry to the UK.

Access to HE: N/A

11	Programme aims and outcomes
1	Analyse and critically evaluate reflective models/practitioners in the context of creative practice within the performing arts industry.
2	Identify previously acquired skills and areas needing development for success within a selected area of the performing arts/creative arts industry.
3	Apply research skills to select and evaluate relevant information on a chosen area of specialism within the performing arts industry.
4	Critically reflect on personal employability skills and potential career pathways in the performing arts industry.
5	Engage with current industry knowledge, conventions, trends, and standards, and demonstrate understanding of their development and evolution.
6	Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the context of a chosen area within the contemporary performing/creative arts industries and assess their own fit within their chosen area of specialism.

7	Understand the diverse range of employment opportunities available in the current performing arts and creative industries and critically evaluate their potential for professional growth and success.
8	Research and articulate the specific performance and business skills required to pursue employment in your chosen specialism, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the demands and expectations in the performing arts/creative industries.
9	Analyse and identify the personal skills necessary to proactively create and develop suitable employment opportunities within the performing arts/creative industries, showcasing an entrepreneurial mindset and adaptability
10	Engage in self-reflection to evaluate how you fit within the performing arts/creative industries, exploring potential areas for growth, transformation, and professional development.
11	Effectively communicate information and ideas related to the performing arts/creative industries in a critical and self-reflective manner, demonstrating clarity, coherence, and persuasive skills
12	Develop and employ proficient oral and written communication skills to create compelling pitches and action plans that effectively promote professional
13	Develop and employ proficient oral and written communication skills to create compelling pitches and action plans that effectively promote professional employment opportunities in the performing arts industry and creative industries.
14	Demonstrate professional self-management skills to set and achieve personal performance and progression goals, exhibiting effective time management, organisation, and self-motivation
15	Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of a specific area of interest within the performing arts/creative industries through evaluation of relevant research, literature, trends, conventions, and arguments to make informed judgements, with the view to addressing complex problems.
16	Apply theoretical concepts and methodologies to contribute original insights to the existing body of knowledge in the field.
17	Reflect on personal growth, professional development, and the impact of one's artistic practice.
18	Integrate theory and practice, effectively bridging academic knowledge with professional application.
19	Communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively through written, oral, or creative/performative presentations.
20	Showcase a high level of critical reflection regarding your past and current skills, your creative and professional journey and communicate this with maturity, confidence, and acknowledgement.
21	Demonstrate a strong sense of professional identity and creative potential within the performing arts/creative industry, through the presentation of original work and research findings.
22	Effectively communicate the reflective process, demonstrating an in-depth understanding of personal progress, learning experiences, and the impact of the course on their artistic practice and professional development.

12	Programme requirements (Please include optional modules / replace with L7 for postgraduate provision)	
12a	Level 6: In order to complete this programme a student must successfully complete all the following modules, totalling 120 credits:	
Module code	Module name	Credit value
ICW631	The Reflective Artist	40
ICW632	The Creative Entrepreneur	40
ICW633	The Industry Professional	40

13	Structure diagram (Please include optional modules)	
Level 6	Induction	
	T1	ICW631
	T2	ICW632
	T3	ICW633

14	Overall student workload
Overall student workload consists of directed and independent learning, with each credit equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. Whilst actual contact hours may depend upon the modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities. Directed learning includes scheduled lectures, workshops, tutorials, and digital and online activity accessible through VLE (Moodle). This also includes placements, work-based learning, visits, and peer learning. Independent learning includes private study and preparation for assessments and examinations. This is an independent, remote, distance-learning course and students will be expected to demonstrate autonomy and self-motivation to complete the work. The entire course is delivered online. Students are expected to engage in regular tutorials to progress through the levels of study and achieve the learning outcomes. If students wish to accompany their work on the programme with work experience, placements, or internships, they are solely responsible for sourcing, organising, and undertaking that work.	

Level 6	
Activity	Hours
Directed learning	150
Independent learning	1050
Total hours	1200

15	Other information	
A1	Start date	September 9 th , 2024
A2	Institute/Department	Conservatoire
A3	Programme leader	Jenny Coyle
A4	UCAS code	NA
A5	JACS/HECoS Code	
A6	Language of study	English
A7	Subject benchmark statement	Dance, Drama and Performance (2024)
A8	Date initial programme approval	July 31 st , 2023

A9	Additional programme costs	• Refundable Course Deposit Fee – £150, fee waivers may be available • Purchasing of relevant books/play-texts • PC / laptop / IPAD or tablet capable of running Microsoft 365, with webcam and microphone (if not already built into the webcam and speakers. This is necessary for research and coursework, with associated printing costs (essential) • Consistent internet connection • Headphones
A10	Accreditation	Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT) Affiliated to FDS: Federation of Drama Schools