

ITALIA CONTI

Programme Specification

FDA Dance

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	FdA Dance
2	Programme code	UF_FDDASICW
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

The FdA Dance is a two-year, full-time course vocational programme.

Italia Conti's FdA Dance programme is designed to nurture and develop innovative and individual dancers who embody and apply specialist skills and techniques supported by grounded knowledge of industry practices, contexts, and the emerging requirements that empower graduates for further study and/or sustainable career in dance.

Through training in different dance styles (Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary), developing aerial and acrobatic skills, creative skills in choreography, as well as supporting skills in acting, singing and tap dance you will gain a full and rounded preparation for the dance industry. In contextualising your training in the study of Contextual Practices you will develop the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to develop as professional dance artist and dance scholar.

Students studying on the FdA have the exciting opportunity to work alongside other likeminded students studying on other Dance Programmes. These co-learning opportunities extend to combined opportunities for performance, shared supervised use of performance and rehearsal space and work-integrated shared learning experiences. An example of such a co-learning opportunity exists in dance technique classes. It is a common practice to separate the learning of dance technique by level of technique and ability. This means that a first year FdA student may work alongside a first year BA (Hons) Dance student in an advanced ballet technique class. This is wholly appropriate co-learning and mirrors industry expectations and standards.

Level 4 – Year 1 (Foundational Skills)

As a student dancer, you will acquire a firm understanding of the core principles of dance styles and techniques, which support you as a versatile performer. The 1st year introduces you to the principles of professional training in Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary dance styles, as well as providing you with a grounding in choreographic principles and practices. Through dance improvisation and developing skills in a range of practitioner approaches you will acquire the tools and knowledge necessary to create sound choreography which communicates meaning to an audience.

You will also be introduced to the fundamentals of a range of aerial skills, such as hoops, silks and acrobatic skills. Such skills will allow you to develop as a versatile performer.

Fundamentals in supporting skills, will allow you to develop further performance skills in acting, singing and tap dance.

Interpretive, reflection and analytical skills are developed through contextual practice, in which you are encouraged to develop sound research skills, reflect on your practice as well as that of others and develop written skills at undergraduate level, including academic integrity and absence of plagiarism.

The assessment structure will allow you to develop your skills under the supervision of your teachers in cumulative practice. In performance presentation assessment tasks you are encouraged to showcase your skills and collaborate in small groups. Such project work encourages you to integrate the skills you have learned in each of the disciplines. This encourages you to develop as a versatile dancer and performer in a variety of styles and arts mediums (acting, singing, aerial and acrobatic skills). You will also develop the necessary rehearsal techniques and skills necessary for the profession.

Level 5 – Year 2 (Advanced Skills)

Having acquired the core skills associated with the fundamentals of professional dance training, the 2nd year introduces you to advanced skills in Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary dance styles and techniques. You will consolidate existing skills and develop a wider range of styles within the dance genres as well as deepening your technical and expressive abilities.

You will develop your choreographic skills and produce your own short pieces of choreography, thus demonstrating your ability to achieve advancement in creative, expressive and communication skills. Advanced supporting skills (acting, singing) will support you in the further development of your wider performance skills.

A Dance Performance module provides you with the opportunity to develop your skills in tap dance and choreography as well as developing your collaborative, creative, rehearsal and performance skills in two Dance Projects.

You will further develop your interpretive, reflective and analytical skills through advanced contextual practice, where you will be encouraged to develop advanced research skills leading on your own interests regarding dance practitioners and your own developing practice-as-research methodology to support choreography, theatre-making and devising as key skills for the self-sufficient performing artist.

Course aims:

The course aims to ensure that successful graduates:

- Acquire the knowledge and skills to perform as a dancer to industry standards
- Acquire specialised skills in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary dance styles,
- Acquire acting, singing and tap dance as well as aerial and acrobatic skills to develop their palette as versatile performers and are able to synthesise these in professional performance practice and engage creatively and critically with the skills and processes of performance and production.
- Operate as a dancer in a environment, whether in musical theatre, contemporary dance, theatre, film, TV or any of the emerging media industries

- Possess transferable skills, especially in communication and self-presentation, teamwork, independent research, critical analysis and reflection on action which will allow them to operate successfully in a variety of fields
- Are proactive in the creation of employment opportunities
- Contextualise the historical, cultural framework of dance performance, techniques and practice to facilitate intelligent engagement with critical and theoretical perspectives
- Approach all genres, styles and forms of dance and performance with an open-minded approach

Students that complete the FdA have several options for completing a Level 6 qualification through APL/RPL routes onto other validated programmes, including the BA Hons Professional Arts Practice or BA Hons Dance at Italia Conti. These options would all require one year of further study and may include professional performance opportunities and performance to Industry (showcase).

7	Programme awards		
7a	Name of final award	Level	Credits awarded
	FdA Dance	5	240
7b	Exit awards	Level	Credits awarded
	CertHE Dance	4	120

8	Exemptions from the Academic Regulations
Students on this course are expected to maintain a 90% attendance rate in order to progress effectively through the levels of study and achieve the learning outcomes. Attendance is compulsory on an intensive timetable which runs for an average of 25 contact hours per week over at least 25 weeks and typically more, with additional self-led study hours. Attendance of less than 90% may be considered a disciplinary matter (professional conduct) and may after due process lead to termination of studies on the course. The course runs according to specific academic regulations and policies which may diverge from standard UEL frameworks in order to uphold the professional vocational standards expected and to ensure the principles of holism, integrated skills development and embodied learning are fully supported.	

9	Mode of study
Full-time, onsite (Woking)	

10	Entry requirements
Home: • Applicants must be 16+ by the 31st of August in the year of entry (17+ for Scottish applicants). • Successful audition through Italia Conti • Equivalent to 64 UCAS points (e.g. 2 'C' grades at A Level or equivalent achievement in Level 3 vocational qualifications including but not limited to BTEC, UAL, RSL, OCR Diplomas/Extended Diplomas, Access to HE qualifications and T-Levels.) • 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)	

- Legal right to reside/study in the UK for the full period of the programme

Admission through recognition of non-standard entry qualifications/experience may also be considered on a case-by-case basis for candidates who demonstrate exceptional talent or who can satisfy the panel of their ability to successfully complete the programme. Non-standard entry is assessed at audition and interview. Students without a Level 2 English qualification may be asked to complete a non-standard entry written task.

EU: N/A unless evidence of pre-settled or settled status can be provided.

International: N/A

Access to HE: M = 15 credits, P = 30 credits (64 UCAS points)

11	Programme aims and outcomes
	Knowledge
1	Demonstrate a range of performance practices and practitioner approaches in dance performance and choreography.
2	Understand key methods and concepts of dance theory (including histories, practitioner approaches) and their practical contemporary application in professional performance practice.
3	Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, socio-cultural contexts of dance histories across the Western canon and global dance histories.
4	Investigate hybrid and innovative forms of dance in by current practitioners and the impact of hybridity on the development of dance as an art form
5	Understand different and emerging dance forms: screen dance, site dance, physical theatre
6	Understand vocal and physical anatomy, safe and healthy practice, including nutrition and apply knowledge in practice
7	Understand the historical and cultural context of dance practitioners and/or performances
8	Understand and use correct technical dance vocabulary, terminology employed within the field of professional performance development and production
9	Demonstrate current knowledge of the dance industry and entry level requirements
	Cognitive skills
1	Reason critically
2	Critically reflect
3	Analyse and interpret
4	Apply theoretical and conceptual concepts
5	Identify and solve problems
6	Reflect, draw conclusions, and make plans
7	Synthesise information from various sources
8	Formulate and test ideas
9	Research, assimilate information, create sound argumentation in essays and report research findings
	Practical Skills
1	Create and communicate performance and choreography for professional live or recorded media using different dance and/or movement styles, improvisation, choreography, text, sound, movement or other ideational material
2	Apply key methods, techniques and approaches drawn from dance theory and practice through a personal performance preparation process to realise professional performances

3	Identify and investigate practically the expressive potential of performance and choreography to underpin coherent interpretive choices in the creation of performances
4	Use and synthesise a range of expressive technical skills to realise and communicate interpretive choices for professional performance
5	Respond with professional creative awareness of other performers, space, audience and productions teams in rehearsal and performance
6	Use the body safely as an expressive, technical and creative tool, identifying physical, qualitative and emotional shifts that underpin embodied expression in performance
7	Use the voice safely (in acting and singing) as an expressive, technical and creative tool, identify sound shifts which underpin accent and dialect acquisition and vocal expression in performance through acting and song
8	Gather, sift, synthesise, and organise material, repertoire and stimuli independently
Transferable Skills and Professional Competencies	
1	Balance and organise personal and professional issues through self-evaluation, management and in meeting deadlines
2	Communicate effectively both verbally and in the written word
3	Work effectively, collaboratively and creatively as part of a team, negotiating and pursuing goals with others, as well as working independently
4	Identify goals, reflect and plan independently for strategic and ongoing personal development of skills and competencies
5	Use information media such as libraries, archives, online platforms and the internet
6	Use basic word-processing skills
7	Create effective presentations
8	Use advanced verbal and physical communication skills, including the use and analysis of body language

12	Programme requirements (Please include optional modules / replace with L7 for postgraduate provision)	
12a	Level 4: In order to complete this programme a student must successfully complete all the following modules, totalling 120 credits:	
	Module code	Credit value
	ICW421	20
	ICW422	20
	ICW423	20
	ICW424	20
	ICW425	20
	ICW426	20
12b	Level 5: In order to complete this programme a student must successfully complete all the following modules, totalling 120 credits:	
	Module code	Credit value
	ICW521	40
	ICW522	20
	ICW523	40
	ICW524	20

13	Structure diagram (Please include optional modules)						
Level 4	Induction						
	T1	ICW421	ICW422	ICW423	ICW424	ICW425	ICW426
	T2	ICW421	ICW422	ICW423	ICW424	ICW425	ICW426
	T3	ICW421	ICW422	ICW423	ICW424	ICW425	ICW426
Level 5	T1	ICW521	ICW522	ICW523	ICW524		
	T2	ICW521	ICW522	ICW523	ICW524		
	T3	ICW521	ICW522	ICW523	ICW524		

14	Overall student workload
We promote the combination of conservatoire-style training with the benefits of a multi-disciplinary arts university education. As conservatoire-style training relies upon expert-led tuition and activity, you will have a high number of weekly contact teaching activities with staff. You will also be required to further your learning through guided independent study, reading, practice and rehearsal. As the course, and profession, require intensive physical training and practice, you will be encouraged to maintain healthy nutrition, develop physical conditioning, technique and protective practices, and most importantly to monitor your mental and physical wellbeing as a performer. 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, practical classes, workshops and studio rehearsal time specified in their timetables. This also includes placements, work-based learning, visits, online activity and peer learning. Independent learning includes private study and preparation for assessments and examinations. Although Students may be streamed on ability in certain disciplines, e.g. ballet and / or tap, all students are expected to achieve the same Learning Outcomes and Assessment criteria and will be set the same assessment tasks. Streaming supports the student to achieve and develop their skills at an appropriate pace.	

Level 4	
Activity	Hours
Directed learning	600
Independent learning	600
Total hours	1200

Level 5	
Activity	Hours
Directed learning	600
Independent learning	600
Total hours	1200

15	Other information	
A1	Start date	September 9 th 2024
A2	Institute/Department	
A3	Programme leader	Dan Fulham

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	Additional costs: • Audition fee for selection onto the programme £45. Audition fee waivers may be available. • Refundable Course Deposit Fee – £275, fee waivers may be available • Studio / rehearsal wear: estimated around £100-£200 with a detailed kit list provided upon enrolment. • Purchasing of relevant books/play-texts (approximately £25 per term) • Cost of Excursions (appx £30 per annum. Costs depend on show selections and frequency). • Basic costume, props, or rehearsal materials (varies according to student preference) • Locker hire (approximately £40 per year) • Stationery and printing (appx £20 per term) • Travel between sites for sessions and performances – variable. This includes travel into London to attend the Industry Showcase each year. • Theatre visits • PC / laptop / IPAD or tablet capable of running Microsoft 365, with webcam and microphone (if not already built into the webcam. This is necessary for research and coursework, with associated printing costs.

		Headphones Studio and rehearsal wear are compulsory (A full kit list is sent on enrolment). This includes correct shoes and practice skirts. Costs vary considerably according to student preference. A typical student on the Italia Conti Dance courses will go through multiple pairs of ballet shoes and pointe shoes per year.
A10	Accreditation	Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT) Affiliated to FDS: Federation of Drama Schools