

## **Dance Department of the Universidade Técnica de Lisboa<sup>1</sup>**

by Victoria Pérez Royo

### **MASTER'S IN ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE - DANCE**

This master's course is offered by the Dance Department of Faculdade de Motricidade Humana of the Universidade Técnica de Lisboa.

In the Faculdade de Motricidade Humana the dance department offers further study after the BA degree in this MA in artistic performance-dance and in a PhD specialising in Dance. Concerning research, the dance department plays a dynamic role; it has established itself as a place for discussion and critical reflection, having organised a great number of conferences, seminars and laboratories in the past years.

#### **Contact:**

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**Year the degree course was accredited:** 2003

**History:** Since the Bologna accreditation the Master's Degree has focused itself more on the field of choreography. The previous format was more open to other directions, specially pedagogy: Currently pedagogy is treated more specifically in the other post-graduate programme offered by the Dance Department: Dance in Educational contexts.

#### **Professions the degree prepares students for:**

Performing dancers, choreographers, dance teachers, performing arts managers and producers, art critics and the whole range of professions involved in the performing arts managing.

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**Student's Profile:**

The course is conceived for choreographers and professionals who wish to extend and deepen their understanding and knowledge of dance at a postgraduate level.

**Possible intermediate degrees (e.g. specialist):**

The students who only fulfil the first year of the programme without continuing with individual research of the second part can achieve a certificate from the taught modules of this first part.

**Specificity:**

Further curricular and practical development in the artistic context; to provide the students with instruments for the professional activity in cultural and artistic organisms.

**Aims:**

To promote strategies for the intervention in the field of performing arts and dance from the perspective of the specialised artistic development: improvement of the artistic, scientific and professional-technical competences specific to the choreographic activity.

**Total number of current students:** ca. 35

**Average number of admitted students per year:** 15-20

**Admission requirements for regular students:**

Previously achieved degrees: bachelor's degree in dance or related fields: music, theatre, performance, fine arts.

The admission of candidates lacking a bachelor's degree is possible if the previous professional work proves equivalent competences. Approval by the selection committee of the Faculdade de Motricidade Humana (FMH) is necessary.

**Required Submission materials:**

- Curriculum vitae
- Portfolio

**Selection procedure:**

CV and Portfolio evaluation

**Evaluation criterion:**

Based on the CV, the academic record and the interest of the professional previous work.



**Financial aspects:**

Registration fees: 4000 € (total for 2 years)

**PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION**

The programme is organised around three scientific areas: Theory of Communication in the Arts (TCA), Analysis of Artistic Performance (APA) and Artistic Production (PA). These three areas are present alongside each other during the first two semesters. The two last semesters are dedicated to individual research in one of these areas.

**Learning approach:**

There is a strong focus on the individual work, which occupies more than half of the ECTS. Before the student starts with it, he / she is equipped with theoretical, practical and analytical tools for confronting his / her research.

One main part of the curriculum is dedicated to creative work; the other strong component of the programme is conceived with the idea of educating professionals for the activities of managing and producing performance work.

**Duration of the programme:** four semesters

**Total number of ECTS:** 120

**ECTS distribution:**

Compulsory and optional ECTS in the first two semesters:

TCA: compulsory: 19 ECTS; optional: 60 ECTS

APA: compulsory: 19 ECTS; optional: 60 ECTS

PA: compulsory: 22 ECTS; optional: 60 ECTS

Development of individual projects: 82 ECTS

**Modules /structure**

**FIRST SEMESTER:** 30 ECTS

All subjects are attended, on-site.

Dance systematic. APA. Laboratory, workshop.

Art history. TCA. Seminar, lecture.

Aesthetic. TCA. Seminar, lecture.

Dance documentation and reconstruction. APA. Laboratory, seminar.

Performative body and contemporary thinking. TCA. Seminar, lecture.



## **SECOND SEMESTER: 30 ECTS**

All subjects are attending, on-site.

Analysis of dancer behaviour. APA. Practice, analysis, laboratory.

Multiculturalism and Multidisciplinarity. APA. Practice, analysis, laboratory.

Dance and Art Criticism. TCA. Theory, lecture.

Choreography. PA. Integration of theory and practice, analysis, individual creative project.

Production and Management of choreographic projects. PA. Practice, seminar.

Project proposal. PA. Theory and Practice

The aim is to introduce a wide range of research methodologies before the students starts with the long research project (Final Project) of the last two semesters.

Tutorial guidance, feedback from fellow students. Individual creative project.

**Frequency:** weekly. It is important that the students are engaged continuously in the learning process. The courses takes place at the weekend, in order for working professionals to be able to attend the classes.

### **Elements of assessment:**

Mainly through written works. This works reflects on the personal learning process within the framework of the particular subject. A personal reflection on the contents of the subject and a personal confrontation with them is expected.

In some subjects a diary of classes, a portfolio in which the students individually articulate their learning experiences and processes is another important element of assessment.

### **Assessment criteria:**

Level of engagement with learning processes.

Clarity of understanding of the particular features of the selected subject.

Appropriately structured and clearly expressed argument and structure of written work.

## **THIRD AND FOURTH SEMESTERS: Final project 60 ECTS**

Scientific dissertation in one of the three main areas. Tutorial guidance, feedback from fellow students. Individual creative project.

**Formal requirements:** consistent and solid research work.

Accepted formats: Written dissertation; it can consist of a reflection of their own practical work, although this does not happen very often.



Assessment: tutorial guidance.

Average number of final dissertations per semester: 6

Financing: the dance department.

**Evaluation criteria:**

Scientific rigour.

Quality of the conceptual framework, its location in an intellectual context.

Quality of argument and its formulation.

Observation of reference and research guidelines.

Application of appropriate methodologies.

Evidence of appropriate reading.

**Examining board:** Mixed: two internal, one external. Should the final work be specially interdisciplinary, further examiners will be invited.

**PhD in DANCE**

There is the possibility, on completion of the degree, of carrying out further the research at a PhD level: PhD in Human Movement, speciality Dance. This research follows strictly the academic guidelines and does not accept an experimental hybrid form between practice and theory.

There are no taught modules; the programme is exclusively based on the individual theoretical investigation in the dance field. There is no prescribed time to write the PhD thesis.

**TEACHING STAFF**

Required academic qualifications: Depending on their duties, the teaching staff must have a PhD or a Master's Degree. The teaching staff without PhD graduation are professionals who assure a contact of the department with the professional field.

Percentage of teaching staff:

Tenured staff: 8

Non-tenured staff: 1 plus visiting professors and guest lecturers invited to give workshops and seminars.

The teaching load is assumed mainly by the tenured staff. Guest lecturers have usually little teaching load; they are often invited for short workshops in the summer courses.



## Departmental structure

Since the dance department is a small one, there is no strict departmental structure. There is one coordinator, and the tenured staff work together. The personal interests and the concrete specialisation of each one defines what could be called 'areas'. These determine to a large extent the orientation of the team and the organisation of a number of projects.

## Departmental financing:

Official funding: 50%

Public and private funding: 50%

## Research groups

In the Technical University of Lisbon it is necessary to count upon a minimum of 30 participants in order to organise a research group; this is an impossible number to achieve for the dance department. Nevertheless, it does not prevent this department from being an active and dynamic research platform. Each member of the teaching staff is responsible for organising a number of events in the field they are specialised in. The dance department has no an official research group, but is actively engaged in a great variety of research activities.

Main subject areas: choreography; dance pedagogy; ethnochoreology; cultural studies in dance; dance and new technologies; performative aesthetics; analysis of dance teaching;

## Conferences:

2006.	Seminario	Internacional
Dança e Movimento Expressivo		
2004.	Encontro Nacional A Dança	
no Sistema Educativo Português.		
2003.	Conferência	Internacional
Pulses and Impulses for Dance in the Community .		
1999.	Conferência Internacional de	
Dança -Cursos e Discursos.		
1998.	Conferência	Internacional
Continentes em Movimento. Novas Tendências no Ensino da Dança.		
1992.	Conferência	Internacional
"Dança: cursos e discursos"		

Editorial projects:

Regular publication of conference Proceedings.



Magazine: *Revista de Estudos de Dança*.

## CONTEXT

### **Academic Network:**

Exchanges in the framework of Erasmus and Socrates within the European context. Exchanges with universities in Brazil.

There is also a non regular organisation of non-strictly academic courses in the form of summer courses, weekend workshops in order to invite professionals that could be interesting for the students and the teaching staff. These courses are usually open to non regular students and dance professionals, so that it contributes to the visibility of the Dance department.

### **External Networks:**

Link to professional contexts:

It mainly takes the form of work experience for students in a cultural or an artistic institution, in a company or by the organisation of a festival. The students can work for a period of time by different institutions, like Centro Cultural de Belem, the National Conservatory, the International Festival of Almada (Quinzena).

## INFRASTRUCTURES

Rooms for theory classes, rooms for practice, for individual work, laboratories, library, hall for presentations. Some of these facilities are shared with the degrees offered by the Faculty.

