



X UNIARTS HELSINKI

Degree Requirements 2015–2020

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN DANCE PERFORMANCE

The master's degree programme in dance performance consists of intensive studies over two academic years. The studies develop the student's performance skills, independent and reflective artistic identity, and provide qualifications to work in diverse and changing contexts of dance art.

Versatile studies on the practices of performance within the frameworks of dance art and related arts form the core of the studies. The studies consist of thematic studies in dance as well as artistic projects, contextual studies providing a background on contemporary performance and dance practice, and individual studies. The thesis consists of both artistic and written parts.

In the thematic studies in dance art, the students explore their bodily existence with diverse movement practices and somatic methods as well as work on their personal quality as dance and performing artists during thematic workshops and performance processes. During these studies, the students develop their own artistic activities through diverse aesthetic, ethical, and political questions. In the contextual studies, the students continue to deepen their reflection on their artistic practice in relation to theoretical and art-historical questions in the chosen field of art and in the framework of productions. Historical changes and different development lines in dance practice provide a framework for the question of the significance of performance and dance practice as one form of contemporary art.

During the studies, the students develop both as solo performers and as active members of an artistic team, reflecting on artistic questions from the perspective of the performer. The students become familiar with the opportunities provided by dance in community. During the studies, each student works independently and in collaboration with other students in ways that support their development as artists and performers with a personal voice in relation to society and its changing views on art and humanity. The studies allow the students to understand their way of performing and provide a place to explore its possible manifestations. The master's degree programme provides an opportunity for a final thesis project that challenges and promotes the students' artistic quality. In the written part of the final thesis,

the students further deepen their understanding of their personal artistry and the specific topics in their field.

As an important part of the studies, the students have the opportunity to work in the TADaC (Theatre Academy Dance Company) for their thesis. In addition to the challenge of performance work, the company provides the experience of touring.

The master's degree programme in dance performance advances students' preparedness for doctoral studies, and it collaborates with the Theatre Academy's Performing Arts Research Centre (Tutke). The master's degree programme in dance performance is also an essential agent in the Theatre Academy's international publication series Kinesis, which publishes research studies on dance.

Learning outcomes:

The students have the ability to work in independent and creative artistic processes, and possess good intellectual knowledge of their profession as well as a preparedness to communicate considerations in art and continue on to doctoral studies.

The students are able to apply the underlying principles and practices of movement and performance techniques that they have learned in their artistic work. The students are able to identify differences between the body, movement, and motion and are able to articulate different historical and philosophical notions of movement. The students are able to identify historical changes in dance and reflect on their own work in relation to the different contexts of contemporary performance. The students are familiar with significant artists and works in Western dance as well as understand the different ways in which dance has constructed and continues to construct its meanings. The students are able to identify changing performance practices and new relationships that emerge through them regarding the performance, the audience, and society. The students are able to utilise different ways of performing and are able to adapt the performance to the changing frames of the artwork. The students are able to keep an open and creative mind-set in working with choreographers towards a common goal that takes shape through a joint effort. The students have a basic knowledge of the production of a dance work and understand the contexts in which performances and artworks are situated. The students are able to reflect on and articulate the goals and content of their work.

The students master the different facets of dance art in the artistic part of the thesis. In the written part of the thesis, the students demonstrate familiarity with the basic concepts of dance art and that they have gained knowledge of the field and are well-versed in the subject of the thesis.

MASTER'S DEGREE IN DANCE 120 ECTS credits

	I	II
T-TT100 Thematic studies in dance performance and artistic projects 52 credits		
T-TT101a-b Movement practice and somatic methods 1-2, 23 credits	16	7
T-TT102 Dance practice 1, solo performance 10 credits	10	
T-TT103 Dance practice 2, methods of performance 11 credits	11	
T-TT104 Dance practice 3, dance in community 4 credits		4
T-TT105a-b Vocal practice 1-2, 4 credits	2	2
T-TT200 Contextual studies 25 credits		
T-TT201a-b Study orientation 1-2, 2 credits	1	1
T-TT202a-b Contemporary performance and discourses 1-2, 6 credits	2	4
T-TT203a-b Philosophy of movement, philosophy of art 1-2, 3 credits	1	2
T-TT204 History and theory of dance performance 7 credits	7	
T-TT205a-b Seminar in dance as an art form 1-2, 3 credits	2	1
T-TT206 Introduction to dance production and the professional field, 2 credits	2	
T-TT207 Thesis seminar 2 credits		2
T-TT300 Individual studies 23 credits	6	17
T-TT400 Master's thesis 20 credits		20
T-TT401 Artistic and written thesis		
T-TT402 Maturity test		
Total	60	60

T-TT100 THEMATIC STUDIES IN DANCE PERFORMANCE AND ARTISTIC PROJECTS 52 CREDITS

Learning outcomes:

The students understand the underlying principles and current practices for movement and performance techniques that they have learned and are able to apply them in their artistic work. The students develop and broaden their dance technique skills and holistic understanding of the use of the body so that they are able to deepen their professional skills in diverse ways; the students understand how the artistic work of a dancer is constructed, the creative working processes of artworks, and the various ways and qualities of performing. The students are able to utilise different ways of performing and are able to adapt their performance to the frame of the artwork. The student is able to keep an open and creative mind-set in working with choreographers towards a common goal taking shape through a joint effort. The students are able to identify changing performance practices and new relationships that emerge through them regarding the performance, the audience, and society.

The students are able to reflect on and articulate the goals and content of their artistic work.

The study module covers dance and movement techniques, somatic methods, voice training, dance practice studies and artistic projects related to these.

T-TT101a-b MOVEMENT PRACTICE AND SOMATIC METHODS 1-2, 23 credits

Learning outcomes:

The students understand bodily existence as a person's fundamental relationship with the world and movement as a life phenomenon. Students develop their dance technique skills and horizon of experience in movement. Students develop their ability to understand bodily integration and principles of movement as well as the forms and analysis of movement. They explore variations in the spatial and temporal dynamics of movement and the choreographic structures they create. Through different movement and dance techniques, as well as somatic methods, the students practise their ability to observe and be aware of their bodily articulation and understanding of the meaning and intersubjectivity contained in movement. They understand what significance the skills gained through diverse bodily practices have for their own dance art.

T-TT102 DANCE PRACTICE 1, SOLO PERFORMANCE 10 credits

Learning outcomes:

Students are able to creatively apply their understanding of the principles of movement, their own dance and performance technique skills, and the meaning of movement. The students broaden the dimensions of their movement and are motivated to study movement and composition as a relationship with the world that has multiple meanings. Students are also able to approach solo performance as a dancer based on the practices of improvisation, composition, and autobiographical performance.

They are able to improvise different choreographic situations and continuums alone, both freely and from thematic and structural viewpoints. By practising improvisation, students have developed their ability for immediate and alert performance art expression as well as for creative thinking in structures and movement. The students are able to identify the articulation of movement in the body and their special qualities as dancers in relation to the possibilities of solo composition. The students are aware of different forms of autobiography in performance art, and are trained to use their own persona and experience as the starting point for a performance.

The students are able to work in the world of their own movement and its meanings and to work on a solo performance based on the themes of the study period. The students are able to document and reflect on the stages of this work.

T-TT103 DANCE PRACTICE 2, METHODS OF PERFORMANCE 11 credits

Learning outcomes:

By investigating choreographic methods and starting points and through exercises, discussions and demonstrations, the students gain an understanding of the views on dance practice held by some of the key choreographers in contemporary dance. The students learn about the recent history of dance, specific contexts for dance practice, and the cultural change taking place in dance work through their own experience and its written reflection.

The students understand their own actions in social situations as well as the communicative processes and interactive models guiding them. They are able to identify dynamics in action, models guiding opinions, and power relationships.

The students are able to carry out their dance work as a creative party to a choreographic process. The students deepen their understanding of a dancer's work in collaboration with choreography students in performance projects where students develop their artistic thinking together.

Classification C

T-TT104 DANCE PRACTICE 3, DANCE IN COMMUNITY 4 credits

Learning outcomes:

The students understand dance as a social and cultural phenomenon. The students are able to identify the meanings of the body and bodily existence in society as well as the various expressions of global culture. They have practised applied forms of dance work and understand the opportunities these provide for their work.

T-TT105A-B VOCAL PRACTICE 1-2, 4 CREDITS

Learning outcomes:

The students know the basics of voice use, speech, and song as well as understand the meanings and possibilities of voice use in performance work. After the study periods, the students are more confident and aware of their own vocal expression capacity.

T-TT200 CONTEXTUAL STUDIES 25 CREDITS

Learning outcomes:

The students understand their artistic practice as part of the continuum of the field of dance art in relation to its developing forms, new questions, and contemporary manifestations.

The students are able to identify differences between the body, movement, and motion and are able to articulate different historical and philosophical notions of movement. The students are familiar with historical changes in dance work, know significant artists and artworks in Western contemporary dance, understand the different ways in which dance has constructed and continues to construct its meanings, and are able to reflect on their own work in relation to the different contexts in contemporary performance. The students have a basic knowledge of the production of a dance work and understand the contexts in which performances and artworks are situated. They are able to articulate in writing the processes and goals of their artistic work.

The students possess the necessary basic skills and knowledge required to complete the written thesis.

T-TT201a-b STUDY ORIENTATION 1-2, 2 credits

Learning outcomes:

The students ponder the nature of their master's degree studies and their meaning to them as individuals, and they have the necessary knowledge of how the studies are carried out

and evaluated, what they contain, and what the learning goals are. The students are able to write a personal study plan that aims to provide professional skills and knowledge in the field of art. The students are able to reflect on and evaluate their learning and teaching as well as give constructive feedback on the degree programme and to the University of the Arts.

T-TT202a-b CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE AND DISCOURSES 1-2, 6 credits

Learning outcomes:

The students understand the concepts of contemporary dramaturgy. They are familiar with the working methods and questions of performance art and contemporary theatre. Through workshops, students broaden their understanding of their own quality as performers as well as develop their skills as performing artists.

T-TT203a-b PHILOSOPHY OF MOVEMENT, PHILOSOPHY OF ART 1-2, 3 credits

Learning outcomes:

The students are able to identify differences between the body, movement, and motion and are able to articulate different historical and philosophical notions of movement. The students are familiar with some approaches to the philosophy of art and have an understanding of the philosophical dimension of art as well as of questions related to art, artworks, truth, and performance.

T-TT204 HISTORY AND THEORY OF DANCE PERFORMANCE 7 credits

Learning outcomes:

The students have an understanding of the histories of dance from the viewpoint of dance practice as well as their foundations in different worldviews. The students are familiar with significant artists and works in contemporary dance art as well as understand the different ways in which dance has constructed and continues to construct its meanings. The students are familiar with methods of artistic research. They have also become familiar with forms of performance art outside Europe and are familiar with their theory, techniques, and cultural framework. Historical changes and different development lines in dance work provide a framework for the question of the significance of performance and dance work as one form of contemporary art.

T-TT205a-b SEMINAR IN DANCE AS AN ART FORM 1-2, 3 credits

Learning outcomes:

The students are familiar with contemporary choreography, authors, and works and are able to have a constructive, fruitful, and critical discussion on dance art as part of the field and culture of contemporary art. The students are also able to search for information independently and write a presentation on an artist/artwork for a literature seminar.

T-TT206 INTRODUCTION TO DANCE PRODUCTION AND THE PROFESSIONAL FIELD, 2 credits

Learning outcomes:

The students have basic knowledge of the production of dance art and understand the contexts in which performances and artworks are situated. They have an understanding of the production-related requirements of practising the profession of a dance artist and are familiar with the structures of the field of dance art in Finland and internationally.

T-TK2017 THESIS SEMINAR 2 credits

Learning outcomes:

The students possess the necessary basic skills and knowledge required to carry out the written thesis. They have become familiar with theses written by students who have graduated from the master's degree programme. They find a meaningful way of articulating, in writing, the processes and goals of their artistic work. The students are able to search for information that is meaningful for their subject as well as understands the requirements and process of the written thesis.

T-TT300 INDIVIDUAL STUDIES, 23 CREDITS

Learning outcomes:

The students are able to broaden their skills according to their personal interests. The students are able to search for information on subjects that are important to their own artistic qualities and therefore deepen their knowledge and skills as part of their artist education.

The individual studies may consist of artistic practice or courses in the professional field as well as freely chosen studies, which can be carried out through joint studies provided by the student's own academy and university or studies provided by universities under the Flexible Study Rights Agreement (JOO).

The student is personally responsible for carrying out the studies after having first discussed the study plan with the professor.

T-TT400 MASTER'S THESIS, 20 CREDITS

Learning outcomes:

In the thesis, students should demonstrate that they meet the artistic and intellectual goals contained in their personal study plans. The students demonstrate that they have the ability to work in independent and creative artistic processes and that they possess good intellectual knowledge of their profession as well as skills to communicate considerations in art. The thesis consists of an artistic work as well as a written part.

In their artistic work, the students demonstrate deep familiarity with the many facets of dance practice by participating in a project, which can be a work of a dance company in the master's degree programme, a work of a choreography student, or a dance work carried out through internship in a professional group.

In the written portion, the students demonstrate familiarity with the basic concepts of dance art and its practice and that they have knowledge of and are well-read in the subject of the thesis. The students have the skills to communicate considerations in their field of art and reflect independently on questions concerning the field of art.

The written thesis can, but does not need to, be directly linked to the artistic work.

Before the thesis is approved, the students must take a written maturity test, which demonstrates that they know the subject matter of the thesis as well as have sufficient skills in Finnish or Swedish.