

Master's degree programme in choreography

The Master's Degree Programme in Choreography consists of two years of full-time contact studies. The programme develops the student's independency as an artist, critical awareness and understanding of the practices and strategies in contemporary choreography, and understanding of the interactional relationship between art and society. The pedagogy of the programme emphasises the importance of collegial learning, interaction, discussion and cooperation, in addition to independent working processes and responsibility.

The starting point of the studies is a historically conscious, yet critical, open and research-based take on choreography. It offers the student a versatile learning environment that encourages artistic development and in which the methodological and theoretical questions in contemporary choreography are integrated into artistic working processes.

The studies consist of theme studies on choreography and personal artistic projects, contextual studies on contemporary performance and discourses, and optional studies and an MA thesis. The programme emphasises a contemporary artist's exploratory and creative relationship with culture, as well as the dynamics and interaction between an artist's individual and collaborative roles and his/her professional and communal roles.

The programme engages in collaboration with the University of the Arts Helsinki's other degree programmes in various ways. The programme offers students exceptional opportunities for artistic activities, making use of the academy's performance facilities and the services of the training theatre. The programme is actively involved in international partnerships and educational cooperation, considering the international nature and field of activities of the work of contemporary choreographers.

The Master's Degree Programme in Choreography 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 Choreography is also an essential agent in the Theatre Academy's international publication series *Kinesis*, which publishes research studies on dance.

In addition to the programme's artistic director (professor), the teaching staff comprises visiting teachers and professors, lecturers, artists and other experts in the field.

Learning outcomes

A student who has passed the Master's Degree Programme in Choreography is able to read, observe and identify the ways in which bodily existence is communicated in art and society and how these ways change over time. The student has developed his or her understanding of bodily articulation and meaning contained in movement and understands the different ways in which bodily existence and movement have been organised, analysed and performed. The student is able to analyse the impact of choreographic and cultural traditions on contemporary life as well as interpret and filter them creatively and critically through his or her own experiential world and present-day society.

With these skills and knowledge, a graduate of the Master's Degree Programme in Choreography has the abilities required to engage in both independent and collegial artistic activities. Graduates of this programme are equally acquainted with a wide variety of choreographic practices and methods of performance development and research related to performing arts; in addition, they have the required skills for doctoral studies. Graduates are also able to analyse their own process of creating

an artwork, along with their choreographic intentions and motives, and communicate them fruitfully with the remainder of a work group, as well as parties curating and producing the work. Graduates are able to create a choreographic work based on a plan, document the work and present it to others.

After completing his or her studies, the student is able to network and actively search for new activity opportunities and operating strategies. The student is also able to identify the roles and possibilities available for an artist as an author and agent now and in the future. The student is aware of the views and strategies in related arts as well as broader worldview trends, changes and challenges in global society that influence contemporary art. Using the open view of choreography provided by the programme as his or her basis, the student is able to act creatively, boldly and without prejudice in the field of dance art while participating in creative and collegial reformation of the tradition, concept and operational environment of choreography.

MASTER'S DEGREE IN DANCE 120 ECTS credits

T-TK100 THEMATIC STUDIES IN CHOREOGRAPHY AND ARTISTIC PROJECTS 56 credits	I	II
T-TK101 Choreography 1: Composition and the artistic research process, 10 cr		10
T-TK102 Choreography 2: Contemporary choreography: questions and practices # 1, 11 cr	11	
T-TK103 Choreography 3: Contemporary choreography: questions and practices # 2, 14 cr		14
T-TK104 Choreography 4: Choreography and society, artistic research, 4 cr		4
T-TK105,b Movement research and somatic methods 1 - 2, 4 cr	3	1
T-TK106a-b History and theory of choreography 1 - 2, 10 cr	8	2
T-TK107a-b Seminar in dance as an art form 1- 2, 3 cr	2	1
T-TK200 CONTEXTUAL STUDIES, 27 credits		
T-TK201a-b Contemporary performance and discourses 1- 2, 11 cr	7	4
T-TK202a-b Philosophy of art, Critical theory 1 - 2, 4 cr	1	3
T-TK203a-b Performance design 1 - 2, 5 cr	3	2
T-TK204a-b Knowledge of production and the professional field 1- 2, 3 cr	2	1
T-TK205a-b Study orientation 1 - 2, 2 cr	1	1
T-TK206 Thesis seminar, 2 cr		2
T-TK300 INDIVIDUAL STUDIES, 17 credits	12	5
T-TK400 MASTER'S THESIS, 20 credits		20
T-TK401 Artistic and written thesis		
T-TK402 Maturity test		
Total	60	60

T-TK100 THEMATIC STUDIES IN CHOREOGRAPHY AND ARTISTIC PROJECTS, 56 credits

Learning outcomes:

The student will have a personal, creative and insightful view of the multidimensional ways in which choreography manifests as art. The student is able to plan and realise choreographic works as well as creatively interact with his/her artistic workgroup. The student is able to document his/her work and present it to others, as well as position his/her work in the frameworks of contemporary art. The student is able to identify the different roles and operating opportunities available for artists now and in the future and is able to act without prejudice in the field of dance, as well as participate in a creative and collegial reforming of the tradition, concept and operational environment of choreography.

The study entity consists of practical and theoretical studies on composition and choreography in workshops and theme seminars; personal artistic projects; study modules on movement-research and somatic methods; and advanced independent studies. The advanced independent studies can be linked to any area of theme studies in choreography, and the specifics will be discussed with the professor of the degree programme while the student is working on his or her personal study plan.

T-TK101 Choreography 1: Composition and the artistic research process, 10 credits

Learning outcomes:

- a) The student has studied the concept of composition in practice and in theory. The student knows the basic elements of movement composition and is able to use this knowledge creatively and critically when analysing choreography and studying meanings of movement. The student is able to analyse choreographic works and contemporary performances from the viewpoint of composition and is also acquainted with compositional thinking in related arts.
- b) The student understands the different stages of an artistic process and is able to reflect on it while using preliminary artistic planning, process documentation and compositional analysis. The student is able to plan a creative artistic process and put it into practice, as well as carry out a small solo work and its overall performance design. The student is able to collaborate as an artist with his/her student colleagues during the production of solo performances.

The study period consists of practical and theoretical studies on the concept of composition, as well as an artistic project that includes preliminary artistic planning and a solo choreography project. This study module will take place in the autumn of the first year.

Classification C

T-TK102 Choreography 3: Contemporary choreography: questions and practices # 1, 11 credits

Learning outcomes:

- a) The student knows different choreographic and artistic starting points, intentions and methods and is able to position them as part of the history and contemporary dance art. The student is able to identify his/her own choreographic aspirations and develop choreographic methods to implement them.

b) The student is able to engage in creative interaction with student colleagues, as well as design and carry out a series of choreographic studies with dancers. The student is able to reflect on his/her own artistic goals, methods and artistic process, as well as communicate them to others.

The study period consists of workshops discussing artistic questions, work practices and work methods in contemporary choreography, as well as work-in-progress performances to be created together with students in the master's degree programme in dance. The goal of the workshops is to provide insights into the recent history of choreography, giving the student the opportunity to forge a personal relationship with the history of art that enriches and deepens his/her work and learn about the backgrounds of the goals and methods in contemporary choreography. This study module will take place in the spring of the first year.

Classification C

T-TK103 Choreography 3: Contemporary choreography: questions and practices # 2, 14 credits

Learning outcomes:

a) The student knows different starting points, intentions and methods in choreography and contemporary performance and is able to position them as part of contemporary dance art and its current field of activities. The student is able to create relationships between his/her choreographic thinking and the surrounding reality, is familiar with goals and methods of community art and is able to identify personal choreographic aspirations as well as develop choreographic methods to realise them.

b) The student knows the basics of group dynamics and understands the goals and opportunities of collegial work, both in the role of an equal participant in a work group process and from the point of view of a choreographer/director. The student is able to carry out an artistic project in creative and interactive collaboration with students from other fields of art. The student is able to function within an artistic work group in a goal-oriented and methodical way and identify all the different components of a work of art, as well as its content and its production and structural environment.

The study period comprises workshops and seminars discussing artistic questions, work practices and work methods in contemporary choreography and contemporary performance, as well as an artistic project created in collaboration with students from the bachelor's degree in dance and other fields of art. This study module will take place in the autumn of the second year.

Classification B

T-TK104 Choreography 4: Choreography and society, artistic research, 4 credits

Learning outcomes:

The student gains a contemporary understanding of the societal relationship of artists and choreographers and their international field of activities. The student is able to critically analyse the relationships between the creative economy, art and society and to find new, personally meaningful opportunities for artistic activity in society. The student knows the goals and methods of artistic research and its significance in society. The student is able to document and present his/her own artistic work and constructively reflect on his/her own artistic identity.

The study period comprises studies that discuss the societal relationships of contemporary artists and choreographers, along with studies on artistic research. The study module will take place in the spring of the second year.

T-TK105,b Movement research and somatic methods 1 - 2, 4 credits

Learning outcomes:

The student understands bodily existence as a person's fundamental relationship with the world and movement as a life phenomenon. The student is able to creatively apply his/her understanding of the functional principles of movement, movement's relationship with the world and the intersubjective nature of bodily existence. The student is able to carry out independent and exploratory movement research processes and discover different levels of meaning in both his/her personal movement experience and the bodily existence of others to support his/her choreographic work.

The study period consists of guided and independent movement work and research as well as studies on somatic methods. The study module will be carried out over two academic years, including some independent studies.

T-TK106a–b History and theory of choreography 1 - 2, 10 credits

Learning outcomes:

The student is familiar with and understands the historical, philosophical and theoretical grounds and worldviews of contemporary choreography. The student is familiar with significant artists and works in the field and is able to analyse and articulate the different ways in which choreography constructs its meanings. The student is able to link choreographic goals and methods with his/her own artistic work, as well as conceptualise and communicate the starting points, meaning and goals of his/her work. The student is able to create and convey choreographic knowledge and participate in contemporary cultural and societal discussion on performance arts.

The study period consists of lectures, seminar and practical work, and study literature, as well as essay and summary assignments. The studies take place mainly during the first academic year and the autumn of the second year, and the aim is to integrate them with the study periods and artistic projects in Choreography 1–3.

T-TK107a–b Seminar in dance as an art form 1 - 2, 3 credits

Learning outcomes:

The student knows contemporary choreography, authors and works and is able to have a constructive and critical discussion on dance art as part of the field and culture of contemporary art. The student is also able to search for information independently and implement a presentation on an artist/artwork for a seminar in dance art.

The study period consists of seminar work and presentations on international contemporary choreography. The module will be carried out over two academic years.

T-TK200 CONTEXTUAL STUDIES 27 credits

Learning outcomes:

The student knows the central starting points and methods related to the aesthetics, theory and practice of contemporary performance and art and is able to apply them in his/her own artistic work. The student is able to interact artistically with art production, artists and researchers, as well as participate in critical and constructive discussion in the field of contemporary art. During orientation to studies, students form an understanding of their own study path, development needs and orientation in the field of art.

The study module consists of studies providing knowledge on contemporary performance practices and theory, production structures in choreography, and studies on related arts. In addition, the module includes the making of a personal study plan, orientation to studies and a thesis seminar. The studies will be carried out in the form of lectures, a seminar and workshop studies, and collaboration with different degree programmes, as well as joint studies at the University of the Arts. The module may be supplemented with advanced independent studies. The advanced independent studies can be related to any area of the framework studies, and specifics are discussed with the professor of the degree programme when the personal study plan is discussed.

T-TK201a–b Contemporary performance and discourses 1- 2, 11 credits

Learning outcomes:

The student is familiar with the theoretical and methodological starting points of contemporary performance, as well as different forms in which performances are manifested. In accordance with his/her personal study plan, the student knows the basics of dramaturgy and performance dramaturgy; the starting points of theatre work, such as performance, space-time art and installation; and performance design areas related to theme studies in choreography (basics of performance light, sound, space and media design) and is able to apply this knowledge and skills in his/her own artistic work.

The study period includes theoretical and practical studies that provide a background in and deeper knowledge of contemporary performance and the notion of performance, seminars and workshops, work-in-progress projects, study literature and written assignments. The study module will be carried out over two academic years.

T-TK202a-b Philosophy of art, Critical theory 1 -2, 4 credits

Learning outcomes:

The student gains an understanding of the philosophical dimension of art and movement, as well as the central considerations related to art, artwork, truth and performance. In addition, the student understands the starting points of critical theory and current intentions and manifestations in contemporary art and is also able to apply this knowledge in his/her own artistic work.

The study period includes mainly literature seminars and lecture studies that introduce the philosophy and critical theory of art. The studies are mainly carried out during the spring of the second academic year.

T-TK203a–b Environments of performance 1- 2, 5 credits

Learning outcomes:

The student has been studying the framing, relations and conditions of performance as well as different environments where a performance could actualize. The student is also familiar with the starting points and practices related to the audio-visual, spatial and media-technological environments and is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to his/her own artistic work.

The study period consists of both personal studies that are included in the degree programme and workshops and courses carried out in collaboration with other degree programmes.

T-TK204a–b Knowledge of production and the professional field 1 - 2, 3 credits

Learning outcomes: The student masters the basics of production in the performing arts field, has sufficient knowledge of the Finnish and international infrastructure of art as well as current curatorial and other parties involved in production. The student has basic knowledge of the production process and understands the contexts in which performances and artwork presented. The student has an understanding of the practical requirements for working as a professional choreographer, as well as the production frameworks in the art field, both in Finland and internationally.

The studies consist of a course on the basics of production and studies on building an artist's identity, as well as training in the post-production of artwork. The studies are mainly carried out during the student's first year; post-production training takes place during the second year.

T-TK205a–b Study orientation 1 - 2, 2 credits

Learning outcomes: The student is oriented to reflecting on the nature of master's degree studies and their meaning to him/herself and acquires the necessary knowledge of how the studies are carried out and evaluated, what they contain and what the learning goals are. The student writes a personal study plan that aims to provide professional skills and knowledge in the field of art. The student is able to reflect on and evaluate his/her learning and teaching, as well as give constructive feedback on the degree programme and to the University of the Arts.

T-TK206 Thesis seminar, 2 credits

Learning outcomes: The student is familiar with the thesis process, understands the significance of the thesis and knows its goals, and has the necessary basic knowledge and skills to produce a written thesis.

In the thesis seminar, the student will gain an understanding of what the thesis process includes, read MA theses, learn about the basics of academic writing and data collection, and begin the planning process for his/her own thesis. The studies are mainly carried out during the autumn of the second year.

T-TK300 INDIVIDUAL STUDIES, 16 credits

Learning outcomes: The student is able to identify his/her personal development needs and is able to select supporting studies. The student is able to search for information on subjects that are

important to his/her own quality as an artist and, therefore, deepen his/her knowledge and skills as part of his/her artistic training.

In this study module, the student becomes familiar with freely selected subjects that are useful and important to him or her, and therefore deepens his/her knowledge and skills as part of his/her artistic training.

The specifics of this entire study module are agreed upon through personal study plan discussions with the professor of the degree programme. The student has the opportunity to select studies from the joint studies available at the Theatre Academy and the University of the Arts, studies provided by universities under the Flexible Study Rights agreement (JOO) and studies provided by summer universities, as well as acquire some of the study credits in the form of artistic or communal projects in the professional field. Individual studies include:

- a) 10 ECTS credits of freely chosen studies*
- b) 6 ECTS credits of advanced independent studies from the Choreography theme studies and/or Framework studies in accordance with the degree requirements.*

T-TK400 MASTER'S THESIS, 20 credits

Learning outcomes: In the thesis, the student should demonstrate that he/she meets the artistic and intellectual goals contained in his/her personal study plan. The student demonstrates that he/she has the ability to work in independent and creative artistic processes and that he/she possesses good intellectual knowledge of his or her field of profession, along with the appropriate skills to communicate considerations through art.

Artistic thesis, learning outcomes:

The student is able to perform independent artistic work. The student is able to create an artwork that covers all the stages of a choreographic work and gives a picture of both the student's ability to work as a professional choreographer and of his/her potential to discover his/her quality as an artist.

Written thesis, learning outcomes:

The written thesis demonstrates that the student knows the basic concepts of choreography and is an expert in his/her field of art, as well as the subject matter of their thesis. The student has the skills to communicate considerations in his/her field of art and reflect independently on questions concerning the same.

The thesis consists of both artistic and written parts. The written thesis can, but does not need to, be directly linked to the artistic work.

Before the thesis is approved, the student must take a written maturity test that demonstrates that he/she knows the subject matter of the thesis and is sufficiently fluent in Finnish or Swedish.