

# Master Of Arts In Dance

## Course Synopsis

The MA Dance course is the perfect choice for anyone looking to excel in the competitive and demanding dance industry. Delivered in Singapore, the course builds on the vibrancy and diversity of the local arts scene to deliver a curriculum that meets the unique needs of professional dance practitioners in the creative industries. The course is structured upon three key areas of development: Performance, Creative, and Research to direct the students' learning.

As a student, you will have the opportunity to refine your technical skills, enhance your creativity, and further develop your analytical abilities. The Performance strand will challenge you to further refine your craft as a critically informed practitioner of dance, while the Creative strand will provide you with deeper insights into the forefront of creative jobs within the industry. The Research strand will help you develop advanced analytical and self-management abilities through practical applications of research.

The MA Dance approaches dance as a complex and multifaceted art form that requires sensitivity, creativity, and intellectual engagement. Through practical modules such as Performance Practice: Screen and Media, and Performance Practice: Global Discourses, you will be able to hone your performance skills and take your artistry to the next level. Through creative modules such as Dance Production and The Reflexive Dance Educator, you will be exposed to the contemporary debates and literature of the industry as well as innovative approaches towards performing and teaching. This will further enhance your employability after graduation.

The course places a strong emphasis on academic rigor and research as well. You will undergo Critical Discussions in Dance and PG Research Methods, which will strengthen your academic understanding of the dance discipline and provide you with the skillsets needed to conduct successful research. You will also embark on a semester-long Masters Project focusing on an area of research of your choice, which will allow you to apply your knowledge and skills in a real-world context.

Whether you are an aspiring performer, choreographer, dance educator, or researcher, this course is designed to nurture your potential and help you achieve your career goals. With a carefully curated curriculum that focuses on practical and theoretical development, this course will help you thrive in the ever-changing dance industry.

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### **Performance Practice: Global Discourses      20 credits**

In this practical module, students will engage with recent developments in global dance practice. Through an examination of aesthetic ideas, cultural factors, political and body political discourses, students will gain an understanding of the current influences on contemporary dances. Through workshops and seminars, students are provided with a space to reflect on issues that are relevant to their own dance practice, its place within the global dance context, and the development of a personal dance philosophy.

### **Performance Practice: Screen and Media      20 credits**

The practical module provides students with an immersive learning experience in the field of screen-dance and screen-dance appreciation, through a range of theoretical and practical components, including live demonstrations. Students are exposed to various themes, cinematography, and editing techniques, enabling them to develop a comprehensive understanding of the creative and production processes involved in screen-dance works. Interpretive skills are emphasized as students learn to distinguish between dance on screen and live performances. Moreover, students are encouraged to reflect on their personal dancing practices and explore how their art form is expressed.

### **Critical Discussions in Dance      20 credits**

This module aims to develop an understanding of key critical, analytical, and reflective approaches to the study of dance through examination of literature and the application of those approaches. Through weekly seminars, students will be exposed to the key trends within dance research. In doing so, students critically engage with topics such as cultural appropriation, representation, identity, and embodiment in dance. The module will also equip students with the skills necessary to conduct independent research, enabling them to explore their own interests within the field of dance.

### **Dance Production      20 credits**

This practical module is designed to build upon the foundational knowledge and skills developed in the previous Performance Practice modules. Through a combination of workshops, seminars, and panel discussions, students will become reflective practitioners of dance, developing a nuanced understanding of the medium and literature surrounding dance performance. Students will be challenged to engage critically with the latest trends and debates in the field. Through close analysis of dance performances and literature, students will gain a deep appreciation for the complex ways in which dance shapes and is shaped by social, cultural, and political contexts.

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## **The Reflexive Dance Facilitator**

**20 credits**

This module offers an immersive learning experience for students to further enhance their skillset and develop their career within dance education. Through a combination of seminars and observed teaching sessions, students will gain an in depth understanding of the contemporary dance education field and develop valuable skills that are applicable to a range of professions.

## **PG Research Methods**

**20 credits**

As preparation for research this module will require students to undertake a number of tasks related to their discipline. These include a portfolio of work that documents their 'research journey' and a proposal for their Dissertation or Project with an annotated bibliography.

## **Project**

**60 credits**

The Masters Project module offers students the exciting opportunity to embrace and develop the broad base of skills needed for the execution of a large-scale project mirroring those required in the professional world. The assessment consists of a practice-based research project and a written component. The balance between the duration or size of the practical element and the word count of the written component will be subject to negotiation with the students' supervisor. The practical element can also take a myriad of forms, such as a performance, an installation/exhibition, a piece of sound design or experimental audio/visual work, or an audio production.