

UAL Extended Diploma in Dance



2020 Graduates

Dear Dancer,

It was lovely to meet you at the audition, and I very much hope you will be joining us in the autumn term to start your dance diploma. The quarantine has been difficult for everyone and I understand it must have been hard for you not to finish your time at school as expected. Our current dance students found it very disappointing not to be able to perform in their final show, for which they had prepared 26 numbers in the styles of ballet, jazz, contemporary, tap, and ballet! BUT ... I am very proud of how they have pulled together at home, and are currently putting together some video dance footage for our 'On-line End of Year College Show'. If you check out our college website at the end of term, you will see some videos of what they have achieved.

This pack is simply to give you some information on what to expect from the course, and how to get yourselves in the right frame of mind for starting. I have included a task for you to attempt over the summer break, so please do get in touch if you have any questions.

You will hear from the college nearer the time about how to enrol and when we will be starting. Enrolment is usually in August after the GCSE results come out.

Enjoy the summer, and I really look forward to welcoming you to the college soon!

Helen Charalambous

Course Leader Extended Diploma in Dance

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Induction

You will start the autumn term with an induction week. I will welcome you to the college, give you your timetables and course information, and familiarise you with the facilities. You will spend the week getting to know your classmates, and working on a short dance piece to perform to the performing arts department. The intention is to make you 'feel at home' by the end of the week. Following the induction, we will get stuck into the course and your initial project.

Course Summary

The UAL Extended Diploma in Dance is a 2 year course which is equivalent to 3 A levels. This means that if you achieve a good final grade you have the option to apply for a higher education diploma or degree course at a professional dance college or university.

The course is obviously very practical, and we have high expectations for your physical training. We want you to become the best dancer you can be. You will also have opportunities to develop your creative talents through improvisation and choreographic tasks. There will be plenty of written assignments too, so be prepared to stay on top of your theory work.

There will be the chance to learn from guest industry professionals through workshops and talks. You will have the opportunity to perform in two major college theatre productions per year, in our in-house college theatre '*The Theatre on the Hill*'. Work experience will be within the programme too, and you will have the chance to learn industry relevant on-line skills in our digital class sessions.



Course Teachers and Subjects

Helen Charalambous: Classical Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Fitness, Choreography, Rehearsal Skills, Improvisation and Dance Theory

Alice Chilver: Tap Dance

Pedro Gardiner: Singing Skills

Joanne Roots: Commercial Jazz Dance and Musical Theatre Jazz

Johnny Schwerzmann: Street Dance

Standards

This course has a history of excellent achievement. Each student comes with different strengths and experiences. We encourage a supportive atmosphere, where we appreciate, and learn from each other. We expect students to work outside their comfort zone, and have an open mind in trying new ideas. To achieve high standards there must be a strict code of behaviour. All those who participate in a demanding physical training should take a disciplined and professional approach. Dance students in training are expected to wear the correct attire, and at the end of this document, you can find our uniform list.

Assessments

On the UAL course you will be completing 5 projects throughout the year. The first 4 are developmental, and lead towards your final project which involves a major dance production in our college theatre. Project 5, which is the final production, will be graded pass, merit or distinction, and this will determine your overall grade for the diploma.

Details of these projects will be given when you start the course. Your teachers will issue project briefs, and guide you through the work. The project briefs are instructions about the tasks you should complete, and you will have deadlines for these tasks. Each assignment will have both practical and academic elements. There are no sit down theory exams. The academic content of the diploma is assessed through coursework, and will involve activities like evaluative logs, essays and presentations.



Transition Task

Here is an activity I would like you to do over the summer. You can bring it with you to induction week and we can discuss it together!

On the dance diploma, you will be taking classes in ballet, contemporary, jazz, street and tap dance. All of these techniques have very different characteristic features. They have differences in technical skills and stylistic qualities. You may be familiar with all of these techniques, or some of them might be new to you.

Please watch the clips in the chart on the next page. Your challenge is to find up to 20 words to describe the characteristic features and performance qualities you see for each clip. If you are struggling to find vocational vocabulary, try to do some extra research about the characteristic features of each genre. You can use creative language to describe what you see too.

Characteristic Features

Technical Features (the physical elements within the genre)

Stylistic Features (the elements that give the genre its style)

Performance Qualities

Performance Features (character interpretation, musical interpretation, dynamic interpretation, energy projection, facial expressions, stage presence and more)

I will be interested to hear what you come up with!

Enjoy!



Genre	Content of Clip	Link for Clip
Tap Dance	The Nicholas Brothers 1943 Jumping Jive	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBQOfyR75vY
Jazz Dance	Sing Sing Sing Fosse (show) Broadway 1998	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaAO6kDLYR8
Contemporary Dance	Connor Scott Contemporary Duet BBC Young Dancer of the Year 2015	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1Ke2NBNI0A
Street Dance	Josh Wharmby 2016 <i>(commercial, locking, hip hop)</i>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8MnlJGi1sk
Ballet	Sylvia Act 3 Solo 2018 Darcey Bussell	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=We7KakWJow8

Dancewear Expectations

Shoes:

Ballet shoes (pink/white ballet shoes for girls and black/white ballet shoes for boys)



Jazz shoes / trainers (optional) Jazz can be performed bare foot



Tap shoes



Black character shoes – girls (optional, but a good idea to have)



Ballet Classes:

Girls: black leotard and pink tights



Optional: black/pink legwarmers and black dance knit top



Boys: white t-shirt/vest top, black tights/leggings and dance belt



Contemporary and Jazz Classes:

Girls: black leotard and black leggings or jazz trousers



Boys: black t-shirt/vest top and black shorts/tracksuit bottoms



Street Dance Classes:

Suitable dance wear of your choosing, including t-shirt/vest top, tracksuit bottoms and trainers.