

# MA Contemporary Performance



## Programme Overview

This MA programme offers an interdisciplinary and multicultural perspective in contemporary performance practice and research. The programme is unique, guiding students to conceive, devise and deliver their creative ideas through close engagement with cutting-edge theories and practice bringing together the arts with science and ritualistic practices. It will be of particular interest to practitioners, curators and researchers interested in performance in its widest cultural sense and its application to the various strands of contemporary cultural practices.

This MA will help you to develop a mature and critical understanding of a variety of creative forms and their relevant historical and cultural contexts. You will get the opportunity to create new forms and contexts for performance, theatre and dance that respond to emerging social, political and ecological settings. You will learn to write project and funding proposals and document and archive your practice; developing a portfolio of projects to use for professional interactions with art organisations and institutions at national and international level.

## Curriculum

The MA is taught by specialist scholars and international practitioners who support students at all levels. It is of utmost importance at Liverpool Hope that you will be mentored and receive personal development and supervision throughout your study in your distinguished subjects.

Through a praxis ethos where research informs practice and vice versa, students are encouraged to develop their skills, creativity, analytical skills and independence. Overall, the curriculum engages with a wide range of performance strategies including performance art, dance, ritual, site-specific performance, multicultural and/or hybrid forms of theatre.

The emphasis of the programme is on practice-based enquiry and interdisciplinary research. Students are exposed to innovative, integrative and intercultural perspectives on anthropology, politics, cultural theory, religious and ritual studies, but also on the social and human sciences, posthuman theories and ecology.

## Key Information

**Award:** MA Contemporary Performance

**Study Mode:** Full-time; Part-time.

**Duration:** 12 months full-time; 27 months part-time.

**Intake:** October

**Entry Criteria:** A minimum of a Second-Class Honours degree in a relevant discipline (Drama, Dance, Performing Arts) awarded by a UK university, or an equivalent higher education qualification. For students whose first language is not English there is a language requirement of IELTS 6.5 overall (reading 6.0, writing 6.0).

**Fees and Funding:** For tuition fee information, please go to the Student Finance pages at [www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding](http://www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding)

**School:** Creative and Performing Arts.

**Contact Details:**

Student Recruitment,  
[enquiry@hope.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@hope.ac.uk)

*Disclaimer: Information is correct at time of print, however programme details can change.*



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## CONTACT

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[www.hope.ac.uk](http://www.hope.ac.uk)

## Why choose this subject?

The programme benefits from excellent amenities and facilities enhanced by a wide local and international professional network of organisations, commissions, venues and festivals.

- Liverpool Hope's Creative Campus consists of two beautiful Grade II Listed buildings located in Liverpool city centre. The state-of-the-art facilities include two theatres, two dance studios and two black box performance spaces, a music technology laboratory, a recording studio, and studios for painting, sculpture, wood, ceramics, metal and textiles.
  - The Capstone Building boasts music practice rooms, business incubation spaces and The Capstone Theatre, a state-of-the-art 260 seat performance space, engineered to be acoustically perfect.
  - The Cornerstone Building includes the impressive Great Hall as well as excellent studios for drama, dance and fine art.
  - The Creative Campus's buildings are all set within the tranquil setting of Angel Field – the award-winning Renaissance style garden, described by Country Life Magazine as '...one of the best examples of conceptual landscape design in the country'.
  - The University has numerous partnerships with the most important cultural Institution of the city such as the Tate Liverpool, the Bluecoat and FACT.
  - Liverpool, European Capital of Culture 2008 and Music City of Britain, is situated where two rivers meet the Irish Sea. This historic port and UNESCO World Heritage Maritime Mercantile city is home to numerous iconic sites and tourist attractions, including the magnificent Anglican and Catholic cathedrals and the world famous Albert Docks. It is also a city that is fast acquiring
- a reputation as one of the most important cultural destinations of Britain;
  - The Drama, Dance and Performance Studies Department is facilitated by practitioners working at the forefront of contemporary performance from Performance Art, to Applied Theatre, Popular Theatre, Liver Art, Storytelling;
  - The Creative Campus is home of the Milap festival, the leading Indian Arts Development Trust in UK Its aim is to work to create and develop high quality performance programmes that showcase the rich diversity of Indian culture and performing arts.
  - The MA will collaborate with the Milap Festival to provide support to students studying Indian performing arts.
  - The Artistic Director of the Hull Truck Theatre, John Godber, is currently Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at the University and has strong links with the university;
  - Every year the Creative Campus hosts the Cornerstone Festival that provides all Hope students the opportunity to see free performances by artists not only from the UK, but also from Belgium, France, Germany, Moldova, Russia and Spain. MA students might contribute with performances or workshops;
  - Liverpool Hope University owns and operates Plas Caerdeon Outdoor Education Centre in North Wales, set in 18 acres of private, secluded woodlands within the Snowdonia National Park, North Wales overlooking the Mawddach Estuary - often described as one of the most beautiful in Britain. MA students have often teaching residencies here.

## Teaching and Research

67% of the research of this Department is at least at an internationally recognised level. 80% of their impact is rated as internationally recognised.

Teaching staff in the Department are distinguished scholars published in their fields and bring their innovative and specialised knowledge to bear on postgraduate teaching and research.

The Department builds on established undergraduate provision in experimental performance, live art, popular theatre, contemporary dance practice, classic drama and applied theatre, balancing programmes of study and providing opportunities for academic and practical analysis.

## Future Career Opportunities

This MA is designed to support practicing or emerging practitioners in the development of critical, technical and management skills and strategies for forging independent and self-motivated careers. The programme is aimed to lead to a variety of employment outcomes across the arts industry and beyond. Our graduates work as practitioners, teachers and cultural leaders.

Some students will develop their own artistic style as independent artists and learn to compete with their research projects for funding offered by charities such as the Wellcome Trust or public agencies such as the Arts Council England. Some will extend and refine their performance skills and will be trained for auditions with theatre and dance companies. Others will focus on developing the necessary skills to work as art programmers, curators, producers or arts administrators for museums, art centres, private art galleries and art institutes.



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