Dance
Undergraduate Studies
Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance
Welcome

I am delighted that you are considering coming to study Dance in the Department of Drama, Theatre & Dance at Royal Holloway. Royal Holloway is in the top tier of dance and drama departments in the world. The 2017 QS World University Rankings by Subject named Royal Holloway 14th in the world and 6th in the UK for Performing Arts. Our dance staff are internationally-known prize-winning researchers, working at the cutting edge of dance and physical theatre. We have particular strengths in intercultural performance, national and transnational dance, dance and physical theatre. Dance students enjoy state-of-the-art facilities, from specialist dedicated rehearsal studios to the Boilerhouse Theatre. Other spaces, such as the Handa Noh Theatre and the College Chapel, encourage creative choreography and offer innovative performance opportunities. Our proximity to London gives us unrivalled access to theatres, productions and practitioners, both in London and in dedicated workshops and masterclasses on our Surrey campus.

Students studying Dance at Royal Holloway use time, space and bodies to make meaning and tell stories. They grapple with big questions about identity, about heritage, and about our relationship with ourselves and with other cultures, other times, and other forms of story-telling. Our students challenge themselves and learn a range of new skills while developing a sophisticated critical framework. In the process they interrogate the work of others and create and perform their own stories, their own dance.

I hope very much that you will choose to study at Royal Holloway. Please take the time to visit us on one of our Open Days and see our department and facilities first hand or contact our Programme Director if you would like to know more.

Dr Lynette Goddard
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
Dance

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MORE INFORMATION
This brochure is designed to complement Royal Holloway’s Undergraduate Prospectus, Drama & Theatre Undergraduate Studies Brochure and information on the department’s website at royalholloway.ac.uk/drama
It is also available as a PDF at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere
Why study Dance at Royal Holloway?

• At Royal Holloway, you will find your place as a thinking dancer and choreographer. You come here as someone who is passionate about creating dance, or excited about watching choreography. You want to express your ideas about the world through movement, choreography and performance making.

• In our department, the text and the body, thinking and doing, work together. There is no distinction between theory and practice; theory is used to understand and inform practice, while practice helps elucidate theory. You will be assessed through performances, workshops, presentations, essays and critical reflections. To be a dancer is also to be a thinker.

• Our dance curriculum has an international and interdisciplinary approach to dance and performance. You will be exposed to global perspectives on dance throughout your studies.

• Royal Holloway has an established reputation for physical theatre and dance theatre. Dance flourishes alongside drama in our department. Our staff are founders and innovators in the field.

• Our research-led teaching sets you at the cutting-edge of dance scholarship and practice. Our dance staff have received awards and recognition for the originality and significance of their research.

• You will be part of an energetic department where students are also studying Drama & Theatre. The department is part of a creative campus that includes students studying Music, Media Arts, Creative Writing and English. The huge number of student societies will give you ample opportunities to develop your art in a creative and supportive campus environment.

• As a campus university close to London you will get the best of both worlds. In addition to the excellent facilities on campus, our location close to London provides us with strong links to dance companies and individual artists, local communities and an international network of dance scholars and makers such as Jasmin Vardimon Company, Candoco Dance Company, DV8 and Jonathan Burrows. Students are regularly required to watch performances in London and attend masterclasses as part of the degree.
Our flagship space for Dance is the Boilerhouse, a converted 19th-century boiler room that once heated Royal Holloway’s Founders Building. This is a huge and atmospheric ‘found’ space in which we have installed a sprung dance floor. It is ideal for movement-based and environmental work, and the cobbled courtyard outside also offers a distinctive performance space. We use the Boilerhouse as a hub to explore dance, devising, and physical theatre.

Rehearsal Studios
One of our rehearsal studios is used exclusively for dance and physical theatre. It features a Harlequin Activity sprung floor covered with a Cascade heavy-duty dance floor. This combination is used by dance schools, studios, institutions, and professional theatres and is ideal for all types of dance and physical theatre practices.

Beyond the rooms dedicated towards your dance studies, you will also have access to:

The Caryl Churchill Theatre
Named after one of the most influential British theatre writers of the last hundred years, the Caryl Churchill Theatre is a flexible fully equipped modern theatre, capable of handling sophisticated lighting and complex scenery.

The Handa Noh Studio
An asset unique to Royal Holloway, the Handa Noh Stage is the only permanently-standing Noh stage outside of Japan.

Our undergraduates are able to book one of our five rehearsal rooms and many of our performance spaces outside of teaching hours. Dance students have exclusive use of Rehearsal Studio 1.

The wider campus and surrounding area also inspire performances, including site-specific and site responsive work, promenade performances, and work with and in the local community.
## Degree structure

### BA Dance (UCAS code: W500)

The first year is a foundation year designed to equip all students with a shared set of reference points to enable the study of dance at degree level. Your learning takes place through three strands: Moving Bodies (technique), Theatre and Performance Making (group performance), and Choreographic Practices (dance solos). You also learn to write about Dance and study dance histories. In the second year, you will return to three of the strands in a higher and more specialist level. You will have several dance specific options to choose from within Theatre and Ideas pathway, and you will take Dancing Bodies, Global Culture. In the final year, you will have the opportunity to take more personal responsibility for your learning, building on the skills you have already acquired. Dance students will also be able to work closely with a visiting professional dance company or practitioner and develop both group and independent work.

In addition to the formally-assessed courses, we offer six hours of technical training practice per week throughout the degree programme. This zero-weighted course gives Dance students a chance to practice and to experiment with new technique and styles.

Across the degree, you will experience a great range of teaching styles, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, dance practice and workshops. Assessment takes a variety of forms, according to the needs of the different courses. These include lecture-demonstrations, essays, and technique assessment; the only mode that we do not use is the formal timed examination.

### BA Drama & Dance (WW45) – 50% Drama 50% Dance

### First Year

**Theatre & Performance Making**
Here you will encounter a range of creative methods for work-shopping practice, and produce a 20-minute performance as a response to one company.

**World Dance Histories**
This course exposes you to a variety of dances and choreographers from the 20th and 21st century. You will examine what histories they tell, how they are told and explore their relevance to today.

**Writing Dance**
In this half-year course, you will study different ways to write about dance. Movement analysis, performance criticism, and theoretical analysis.

**Choreographic Practices**
In this half-year course you will develop your skills as a choreographer by focusing on solo work that enhances choreographic thinking, and your ability to translate embodied ideas into a full-length dance piece.

**Moving Bodies**
This course provides you with practice in contemporary dance technique (broadly defined) and skills such as dynamics, musicality, alignment, placement, posture, breath, weight, flow and spatial awareness.

### Second Year

**Theatre & Performance Making 2**
You will choose an option that enables you to focus on a particular creative skill for instance, Acting for Camera, Playwriting, Scenography, Theatre Directing, and Dance Theatre.

**Theatre and Ideas 2**
Theatre and Ideas 2 is a half-year course that further develops the dialogue between theatre and other disciplines by exploring key ideas to theatre practice. You might choose to explore live art, acting, time, the body, or gender and sexuality.

**Choreographic Practices 2**
In this half-year course you will learn principles of crafting small and large group dance theatre and physical theatre performance. You will develop your ability to work with multiple bodies, generate movement material through a range of group tasks and scores, and problem solve creatively.

**Moving Bodies 2**
This course builds on the foundational experience from year one and deepens your reflective and technical skills. You will continue to develop your understanding of the skills you encountered in your first year.

**Dancing Bodies, Global Culture**
This half-year course investigates the relationship between dance practices and their wider cultural contexts. This provides you with ideas to creatively engage with cultural studies when making performance.

### Third Year

**Group Performance**
In groups of 8-10, you will develop a project for public performance under supervision from a tutor. You might contribute expertise in Dance Theatre, Devising, Choreography, Physical Theatre, Site-Responsive Performance.

**Repertory and Repertoires**
You will work intensively with an established practitioner or company, such as Jasmin Vardimon Company, Candoco or DV8, in order to develop a comprehensive embodied understanding of their practices and repertoire.

**Dance Research Practices**
This course builds upon the theoretical knowledge you will have gained in order to help you formulate your ideas for more directed written or practice-as-research work in your final semester.

**Special Project or Taught Dissertation or Research Dissertation**
You will undertake an individual piece of independent study, with supervision from a tutor. It might take the form of a dissertation, a blog about your dance practice, a web-based, print or digital resource pack on a particular dance company, a significant piece of choreography, a seminar; a dance installation, a portfolio of reviews; a dance festival.

### Study Abroad

The College offers you the opportunity to spend an additional year studying abroad. Under a College scheme, you can compete with students from other departments for a placement in the USA, Canada, Japan or Australia.
Your future career

Careers in dance are exciting and varied. Possible choices include further academic study such as an MA in Choreography, MA in Dance Studies, a Post-Graduate Certification in Physical Theatre, or even a PhD in Dance. Other career avenues for dance graduates include arts administration, teaching, community dance outreach, learning officers at dance companies, dance/physical therapy, fitness and rehabilitation, marketing, and PR. Our department has connections in the Drama, Theatre and Dance industries.

We are proud to be able to offer networking events with our alumni, which will allow you to explore a vast array of career options available to you, and you can ask our graduates how they pursued their own career pathway. We alert you to professional placements throughout the year as they become available, and organize a programme of placement activities for students in the summer term. These include opportunities to participate in industry-related work placements, or gain specialist assistance with preparing your CV. We actively support students wishing to perform their work publicly in festivals such as at the Edinburgh Fringe, and we offer follow up workshops aimed to help you turn a project developed for Edinburgh into a performance company.

We work closely with the College’s dedicated Careers Service to help you enhance your employability and prepare for the choices ahead. The Careers Service is open to you across the year, and they can assist with CV development, work placements, and even help you find part-time jobs to financially support your studies. They also offer themed career weeks, including ‘Creative and Media Careers’ week.

Whether you choose to work in the dance industry or not, our degrees will give you:

- Confidence and self-presentation skills.
- The ability to lead.
- Self-discipline, organisation, planning and self-motivation skills.
- Analytical skills, critical and independent thought through research.
- Communication skills, both written and oral.

- The ability to negotiate and handle interpersonal issues through the creation of original work in groups.
- The ability to construct arguments and present them persuasively.
- Enhanced creativity and imagination.
- The ability to apply performance and production skills to communicate with an audience.

This brochure was published in September 2017 and the information given was correct at that time. It is intended primarily for those considering admission to Royal Holloway, University of London as undergraduate students in 2018-19. Occasionally it may be necessary for the University to vary the content and delivery of programmes so we advise all applicants to refer to the website prior to making any application. Full terms and conditions of admission can be found at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere.
Royal Holloway, University of London, is ranked in the top 200 universities in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018). Through the dedication of our teachers, discoveries that change the world and the feel of the Royal Holloway experience, ours is a community that will inspire you to succeed academically, socially and personally.

Our university was founded by two social reformers who pioneered the ideal of education and knowledge for all who could benefit. Their vision lives on today. As one of the UK’s leading research intensive universities, we are home to some of the world’s foremost authorities in the sciences, arts, business, economics and law. As teachers and researchers they change lives, expand minds and help current and future leaders understand power and responsibility. Students and academics travel from all over the world to study and work here, ensuring a global perspective within a close knit, safe and historic campus.