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Confirmation that this version of the module specification has been approved by the School Learning and Teaching Committee:
18th May 2015
........................................................................................................(date)

MODULE SPECIFICATION

1. **Title of the module**
   Business of Being a Performer (CA204)

2. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**
   National Centre for Circus Arts

3. **Start date of the module**
   This revised version will run from: Autumn Term 2015 (*Original Specification: 2005, Revised 2010*)

4. **The number of students expected to take the module**
   18 - 22

5. **Modules to be withdrawn on the introduction of this proposed module and consultation with other relevant Schools and Faculties regarding the withdrawal**
   N/A

6. **The level of the module (e.g. Certificate [4], Intermediate [5], Honours [6] or Postgraduate [7])**
   Level 5

7. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**
   15 (7.5 ECTS)

8. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**
   The module will be delivered over the three terms of the year, though assessed during the Summer term

9. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**
   None

10. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**
    Foundation Degree in Circus Arts
11. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes**

On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

11.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the requirements and standards of a particular area of circus performance (traditional touring, cabaret, street performance, etc) through the production of a professional website targeted at relevant employers.

11.2 Collect and categorise information to a given format (a website) and apply critical reasoning and analysis (with limited guidance from tutors).

11.3 Evaluate their practice and apply their understanding of learning as a life-long approach in order to progress, technically and creatively in a career as a circus performer.

12 **The intended generic learning outcomes**

On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

Utilise IT and web design skills in order to communicate with potential employers and respond to the needs of employer demand

13 **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module requires the students to focus on particular aspects of performances relating closely to, but looking beyond the confines of, their specific area of vocational circus practice. After a series of lectures and face-to-face discussions led by relevant professionals with extensive knowledge of a range of circus topics, they will personally evaluate their position within the world of professional circus.

The students will then conduct independent research in an area of circus performance relevant to their future aspirations promoting their development as enquiring and reflective practitioners. On completion of this module students will have presented a personal portfolio, in the form of a website, containing all the material required to demonstrate their professional competence in their specialist field (risk assessments, promotional material etc).

14 **Indicative Reading List**

N/A

15 **Learning and Teaching Methods, including the nature and number of contact hours and the total study hours which will be expected of students, and how these relate to achievement of the intended module learning outcomes**

Learning and Teaching methods to be used will be:

- Lectures, seminars and discussions led by Visiting Lecturers from a variety of backgrounds pertaining to the professional aspects of the circus performer (circus proprietors, agents, specialists in funding organisations or insurance matters, as well as professional performers from a range of performing contexts). These will constitute approximately 45 hours of the module, in the form of 3 hour lecture/discussion sessions over a period of 15 weeks, and will address learning outcomes 11.1 and 11.3

- Practical tutor-led workshops in web design. These will constitute approximately 15 hours, in the form of weekly 3 hour workshops over 5 weeks, and will address learning outcomes 11.2 and 12.1
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- Independent study work including research, reflection and tasks set by module tutors leading to the presentation of a Professional Website for assessment. This will constitute approximately 90 hours of the module and will address all learning outcomes (11.1, 11.2, 11.3 and 12.1)

The module is comprised of 150 hours of study across the three terms of the year.

Total Contact Hours: 60
Independent Study Hours: 90
Total Study Hours: 150

16 Assessment methods and how these relate to testing achievement of the intended module learning outcomes

Students will create a website which will constitute 100% of assessment for the module. This assessment addresses all of the learning outcomes of the module (11.1, 11.2, 11.3 and 12.1).

A summative assessment of the website will be made by two markers – one the tutor responsible for the delivery of website design workshops and the other a professional with experience in circus-related performance.

Assessors will have access to all website dashboards which will enable them to see if any changes have been made to the website after the submission deadline.

A minimum attendance rate of 80% is required. Failure to achieve a minimum of 80% in this module will result in a Fail (0).

All elements for assessment must be submitted.

17 Implications for learning resources, including staff, library, IT and space

A tutor with relevant experience will be required to deliver web design workshops. This may be a member of staff at the National Centre, or if necessary a visiting lecturer. Depending on the number of students the year group may need to be divided into two and workshops duplicated, to allow equal access to the IT resources required.

18 The Collaborative Partner recognises and has embedded the expectations of current disability equality legislation, and supports students with a declared disability or special educational need in its teaching. Within this module we will make reasonable adjustments wherever necessary, including additional or substitute materials, teaching modes or assessment methods for students who have declared and discussed their learning support needs. Arrangements for students with declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the Collaborative Partner’s disability/dyslexia support service, and specialist support will be provided where needed.

19 Campus(es) or Centre(s) where module will be delivered:

National Centre for Circus Arts
If the module is part of a programme in a Partner College or Validated Institution, please complete sections 20 and 21. If the module is not part of a programme in a Partner College or Validated Institution these sections can be deleted.

20 Partner College/Validated Institution:
National Centre for Circus Arts

21 University School responsible for the programme:
School of Arts