

1. **Title of the module**

PGCD8 Professional Practice: Company

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

Northern School of Contemporary Dance

3. **The level of the module (e.g. Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 7

4. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

100 credits, 50 ECTS

5. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn, Spring & Summer Terms

6. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

Co-requisites Dance Techniques PGCD1

7. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

MA in Contemporary Dance Performance

Postgraduate Diploma in Contemporary Dance Performance

8. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.**

**On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

8.1 Demonstrate an advanced self-awareness of complex bodily structures in a dynamic process of safe alignment, while deepening and further extending range and quality of movement at a professional level.

8.2 Demonstrate an advanced, effective and refined use of breath, weight, tension and release, phrasing and musicality, to employ sophisticated understanding of the lively interplay between these elements at a professional level.

8.3 Demonstrate an advanced kinaesthetic awareness and understanding of bodily design, orientation in space and in relation to others, at a professional level.

8.4 Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the relationship between imaginative impulse and physical expression, to further enhance technical and performance skills at professional level.

8.5 Demonstrate an advanced and consistent ability to learn, retain and refine movement material, combinations, passages and sequences to a professional level.

8.6 Demonstrate an advanced and consistent level of technical, performance and interpretive skill in a range of new unfamiliar contexts.

8.7 Demonstrate an advanced and consistent ability to contribute to creative processes, whether new or revised, at a professional level.

8.8 Demonstrate an advanced personal performance qualities in contemporary dance, in either group repertoire or a solo, at a professional level

8.9 Demonstrate an advanced understanding of professional practice in learning, training and professional contexts.

8.10 Demonstrate an advanced and consistent level of independence in learning, by taking a proactive approach to seeking, exploring and applying information and feedback, and refining practice towards a professional level.

## 9. **The intended generic learning outcomes.**

**On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

9.1 Demonstrate an advanced level of self-direction and self-discipline in a variety of training and professional environments.

9.2 Demonstrate an advanced ability to work with creativity and imagination, independently and in groups, towards the realisation of practice-based work.

9.3 Demonstrate an advanced ability to manage constructively and effectively personal and interpersonal issues in a variety of training and professional environments.

9.4 Demonstrate an advanced ability to reflect upon experiential learning and personal development.

9.5 Demonstrate understanding of health and safety issues, and the management of risks in a variety of training and professional environments.

9.6 Demonstrate an advanced ability to concentrate and focus on tasks for extended periods, in a range of training and professional environments.

## 10. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module simulates professional performance practice in its delivery. Students work as a dance company through which they engage with and respond to all aspects of the professional context in which they are located. This includes regular technique classes, workshops, rehearsals and a company tour. Company class is delivered at a professional level, usually with live accompaniment, and focuses on the further extension of students' technical skills through a variety of approaches involving the study of complex and challenging movement forms/variations. Emphasis is also placed on adapting acquired skills to meet the demands of the company's performance repertoire. Students take responsibility for their own warm-up and cool-down before and after class and are expected to practice and rehearse outside of class hours. Students work with professional choreographers on the creation of new works and/or the restaging of existing works, engaging with and participating in rehearsal situations through which they experience a variety of choreographic approaches and methods offered by the different choreographers. This usually involves a range of tasks and activities embracing group and one to-one tuition, creative and choreographic workshops, learning from video and observation. During the rehearsal period, students are advised on ways to increase their stamina and fitness levels in preparation for the company tour. In addition to scheduled rehearsals, they are expected, individually or in groups, to engage in extra rehearsals to refine movement material or performance elements as required. In the development of performance skills, the emphasis is placed on the integration of students' own definitive strengths and performance qualities into the work or works. The company performs in a diverse range of venues both nationally and internationally, providing exposure to UK

and European dance audiences, professional directors, agents and dance commentators and exposing students to the practicalities of middle scale touring. These include on-going rehearsal and adaptation of the performance programme to new spaces, maintaining health and fitness whilst on tour and contributing to related educational activities such as open rehearsals, lecture demonstrations and company workshops. Throughout the module, classes, rehearsals and performances are led and overseen by a rehearsal director who rehearses the postgraduate company's repertoire. Students are expected to respond in a professional way to challenges presented by a range of situations and environments, in order to work effectively and in a professional manner.

## 11. Reading List (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)

- Boling, B. (1999) **A Dancer's Manual: A Motivational Guide to Professional Dancing** California, Rafter Publishing
- Dyke, S. (ed) (1999) **The Dancers' Survival Guide: Essential Information for Students, Dancers, Teachers and Choreographers** London, Dance UK
- Dyke, S. (ed) (2001) **Your body your risk** London, Dance UK
- Franklin, E. (1996) **Dance imagery for technique and performance** USA, Human Kinetics
- Franklin, E. (2004) **Conditioning for dance: training for peak performance in all dance forms** Champaign, Human Kinetics
- Koutedakis, S. (1999) **The Fit and Healthy Dancer** Chichester, John Wiley and Sons
- Ross, D. (1999) **High Kicks: The Essential Guide to Working as a Dancer** London, A and C Black
- Ryan, A. J. & R.E. Stephens (1988) **The Dancer's Complete Guild to Health Care and Long Career** London, Dance Books
- Solomon, R. et al (2005) **Preventing dance injuries** Champaign, Human Kinetics
- Steinman, L. (1986) **The Knowing Body: Elements of Contemporary Performance & Dance** Boston & London, Shambhala
- Teck, K. (1993) **Ear Training for the Body: A Dancers Guide to Music** USA, Dance Horizon
- Tufnell, M. & Crickmay, C (1990) **Body Space Image: Notes towards improvisation and performance** London, Dance Books Ltd.

## 12. Learning and Teaching methods

The module is taught through studio-based classes, workshops, rehearsals and a tour of professional venues, where students work individually, with partners and in groups. Learning is supported through ongoing formative feedback, tutorials and progress interviews. Students may be required to work on specific and identified tasks outside of class time and are expected to engage in practical research and personal enquiry.

Practical workshops 100 hours

Devising / Creation of New Work 400 hours

Rehearsal 100 hours

Company Tour 250 hours

Tutorials 15 hours

Personal practice 60 hours

Independent Study 75 hours

Total Study Hours 1000 hours

## MODULE SPECIFICATION

### 13. Assessment methods.

- I. Rehearsal: weighting: 35%
- II. Professional Application and Behaviour: weighting: 30%
- III. Public performance of Dance work / works: weighting: 35%

### 14. Map of Module Learning Outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to Learning and Teaching Methods (section 12) and methods of Assessment (section 13)

Module learning outcome		8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.10	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6
Learning/teaching method	Hours allocated																
<b>Practical workshop</b>	100	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X				X	X
<b>Devising creation of work</b>	400	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X			X	X
<b>Rehearsal</b>	100	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>Company tour</b>	250	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>Personal practice</b>	60	X	X		X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Independent Study</b>	75	X	X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Tutorials</b>	15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Assessment method																	
<i>Rehearsal Continuous assessment (35%)</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X
<i>Professional application and behaviour (30%)</i>								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Public Performance summative assessment (35%)</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

15. Northern School of Contemporary Dance 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

## MODULE SPECIFICATION

needs. Arrangements for students with declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the Northern School of Contemporary Dance's student support service, and specialist support will be provided where needed.

**16. Campus(es) or Centre(s) where module will be delivered:**

Northern School of Contemporary Dance

**17. Partner College/Validated Institution:**

Northern School of Contemporary Dance

**18. University School responsible for the programme:**

School of the Arts

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**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

Date approved	Major/minor revision	Start date of the delivery of revised version	Section revised	Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet)