

Field of Study Description

Contemporary Dance - Stage Dance/Performance/Dance Pedagogy

Entrance phase

During the first two semesters, the entrance phase clarifies whether the audition committee's assessment of the student's suitability remains valid. Thus, the entrance phase decides whether the student appears to be suitable for the fulfilment of the study programme's requirements.

Through the daily training, rehearsals, and performances, the student should demonstrate the talent, personality, and approach necessary for the professional field. It should be clear that the PBA Contemporary Dance - Stage Dance/Performance/Dance Pedagogy programme is meaningful to the student from a professional perspective. Feedback is to be given responsibly to the student when a lack of aptitude becomes clear.

In this way, the necessary framework for development at a high level is created for all students from the 3rd semester onwards, and graduates are given realistic opportunities for a career in this professional field.

For positive completion of the entrance phase of study, the following courses in the Dance Techniques and Performance Techniques areas of study must be positively completed:

- ZKF¹ Contemporary Dance 01+02
- ZKF Ballet 01+02
- Course Repertoire 01+02

Failure to pass the entrance phase of studies usually leads to termination of studies after the 2nd semester. The regulations of the study and examination standards apply.

Dance Techniques

Name of the field of study

Dance Techniques

Duration of the field of study

7 semesters

Frequency of repetition of the field of study

Consecutive courses are offered each academic year.

¹ Central Artistic Subject

Admission requirements for the field of study

The entrance requirement for the Dance Techniques area of study is passing the entrance examination into the PBA Contemporary Dance -Stage Dance/Performance/Dance Pedagogy programme.

For ZKF Ballet 03 and ZKF Contemporary Dance 03, successful completion of the introductory study phase is a prerequisite. The courses Contemporary Dance 01 to 07 and Ballet 01 to 07 are consecutive and require the positive completion of the previous course as a prerequisite for admission.

Curriculum and objectives of the field of study

With a duration of 7 semesters and a high number of contact hours, the subjects Contemporary Dance and Ballet as Central Artistic Subjects (ZKF) form the largest component of the curriculum. The ZKFs are consecutive and build on each other in stages. The following description of the teaching content and objectives is to be understood chronologically and describes the content and objectives of the entire period.

In the subjects of Contemporary Dance and Ballet, students first learn the fundamentals of dance techniques, the laws of movement implicit in the various dance techniques, movement vocabulary, and principles of movement. Elaboration of individual body schema and the awareness of breathing aim at achieving organic movement sequences as well as a permeability of the body and the development of an elasticity. The integration of the individual parts of the body into a body whole as well as the articulation of the individual joints are especially considered in the different dance techniques.

The etudes/exercises/exercise series become increasingly complex. The physical implementation, the movements and movement combinations worked out in the dance techniques are deepened and further differentiated. The development of the students' technical skills aims at a more complex understanding of movement and at a physically deepening implementation of the techniques.

The range of movement is increasingly expanded, and the understanding of the individual organics and mechanics of the body continuously develops.

Along with the development of coordinative skills, the conditional parameters such as speed, agility, strength, and endurance of the dancers are further developed. With the increased endurance, in preparation for the increasing requirements of the study and later professional life, trainability also increases. The goal of this field of study is to achieve the expansion of the movement spectrum by means of technically complex sequences. The increasing complexity is based on a biomechanical and kinesthetic qualitative handling of the individual body. This is the physical substance for dance. The connection between technique and art is thematized as a crucial quality.

Dynamic coordination, movement efficiency, deepening proprioceptive training within increasingly complex movement structures, movement forms and movement sequences of various styles are later the focus, whereby the subject matter of the earlier semesters finds its continuation.

Increasingly, the complexity of the movements of the various dance techniques to be mastered in conjunction with a stabilization of the skills and organics of the body are to be brought to implementation. Questions of interpretation and performativity in the dance technical processes come to the fore. Individual solutions are encouraged in a class that is increasingly based on independence. The complexity of the sequences aims at virtuosity, but remains linked to the movement principle "form follows function" in that the inner structure of the movements and the precise anchoring in the organics of the body remain an essential orientation.

The objectives are precision, fine coordination, and independence in the training procedures, and to promote artistic interpretations and independent synthesis of the knowledge and skills generated in the previous semesters.

Completion of the field of study

Courses ZKF Contemporary Dance 01-06 and ZKF Ballet 01-06 conclude with semester examinations at the end of each semester. The courses ZKF Contemporary Dance 07 and Ballet 07 are completed without semester examinations.

Passing all ZKFs requires 75% attendance in each course. Absences due to illness or injury are considered absences. In case of special accomplishments in the respective ZKF – despite lack of attendance – the course can be evaluated positively.

The overall assessment of the ZKF in the semester takes into account the intrinsic examination character of the course and, with the semester examination, at the same time takes into account the demands of dance and to be able to deliver a performance at specific points in time and in front of an audience.

Notes on the field of study

Performance Techniques

Name of the field of study

Performance Techniques

Duration of the field of study

8 semesters

Frequency of repetition of the field study

Annually

Admission requirements for the field of study

Admission requirements for the Performance Techniques area of study are passing the entrance examination to the PBA Contemporary Dance - Stage Dance/Performance/Dance Pedagogy programme.

Curriculum and objectives of the field of study

Course content in this area of study includes composition, improvisation, partnering, interdisciplinary approaches of new music and dance, and repertoire and choreographic processes. In this field of learning and experience, improvisational techniques are taught using a variety of concepts, and improvisation is used both as a tool for approaching themes in artistic processes and for generating step material. After the primary confrontation with themselves, the students should further develop skills in handling music and space and learn to interact with them compositionally. Partnering and improvisation techniques such as contact improvisation will expand the spectrum of movement

repertoire through interactions with other partners. In duets, trios, etc., this includes lifts of varying degrees of difficulty, jumping at one another, throwing and catching partners.

Through the courses New Music Ensemble and Dance and Choreographic Processes in Repertoire – which takes place each semester – , the students experience and learn a comprehensive range of dance-artistic performance.

From interpreting existing choreographies to co-developing them and designing artistic-choreographic tasks, both in the development of their own pieces and for the context of the artistic work of other choreographers, the students learn and develop in various contexts and styles. The kinesthetically and organically conscious movements are thus brought into connection with artistic forms of design.

This is where the artistic transfer of the physical technical skills to the interpretive practice and the application of the skills to practice and design takes place and leads to the acquired techniques permeating the artistic application/performance.

Audience communication accompanies daily learning. Regular performances and showings in the university's performance halls and in guest performances provide the necessary practical experience.

The objective of the 4th year of study is to bridge from the degree programme to professional work experience. In the 7th and 8th semesters, the subjects of this field of study are structured in a project-oriented way, so that students can work independently and take responsibility for their own personal development outside the university as well as for the responsibilities of their studies. Learning how to plan/execute/evaluate projects is necessary for real and successful professional practice. This relates to both artistic and pedagogical professional practice and sets the stage for the professional field, which requires artistic (dance technique/performativity) and pedagogical skills (reflection/education).

The specifics of students' skills and professional objectives shall be recognized in the programme. Corresponding, short-term professional projects should be eligible for credit within the subjects, especially during the summer semester of the 4th year, thus assuring students the opportunity for auditions and professional preparation.

Completion of the field of study

The area of study concludes with the completion of the designated courses and the practical work required for them. Completion of the repertoire courses includes the public performance as an examination. Examination preparation (final rehearsal weeks, stage rehearsals, dress rehearsal, etc.) can, and ideally should, take place during the examination period.

Notes on the field of study

For the students of the Institute of Dance Arts, with its clear contemporary orientation, regular engagement and interaction with developments in contemporary dance is indispensable. For this reason, the Institute's budget is regularly used to invite guest choreographers or to carry out cooperative projects with international dance institutions in order to facilitate this exchange.

Physical Theories and Practices

Name of the field of study

Physical Theories and Practices

Duration of the field of study

5 semesters/1st-5th semester

Frequency of repetitions of the field of study

Annually

Admission requirements for the field of study

The entrance requirement for Physical Theories and Practices is the successful completion of the entrance examination for the study programme PBA Contemporary Dance - Stage Dance/Performance/Dance Pedagogy.

Curriculum and objectives of the field of study

The Physical Theories and Practices field of study encompasses the areas of knowledge of the human body, its anatomy, physiology, and basic training principles necessary for the Dance Techniques study area. The goal of this field of study is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the structure and function of the body as it relates to movement, dance, training, and recovery.

Constitutional and conditional differences are addressed, especially in the first semesters, to help students work with their individual situations. Subjects in this area of study identify individual imbalances and deficits and address them through deep centering of the body's core, working with intrinsic muscles close to the joints, conscious breathing, working with the lymphatic system, myofascia, mobilizing the spine and activating the nervous system. Themed bodywork with partner techniques and hands-on techniques expands body awareness and teaches strategies for injury prevention.

Students receive an introduction to nutrition, personalized training programmes, and one-on-one coaching so that they specifically learn to identify and work on their deficiencies. Fitness classes train the conditional parameters, complementing and balancing the ZKFs and rehearsal processes.

Through a fundamental understanding of sports science training principles and findings from Dance Science research, students will acquire competencies to understand training planning and dance-specific specialties. They should be able to better interpret the signals of their body and differentially analyze their individual training condition and their training behavior. The goal is to achieve a balanced and healthy relationship with their own recovery-stress ratio in order to increase performance and reduce the risk of injury.

Completion of the field of study

This field of study is concluded by completing the individual subjects existing in this area of study and the written and practical work required for them.

Notes on the field of study

Dance-Performance Theory

Name of field of study

Dance-Performance Theory

Duration of field of study

7 semesters

Frequency of repetitions of the field of study

Annually

Admission requirements for the field of study

The admission requirement for the Dance-Performance Theory field of study is passing the entrance examination to the PBA Contemporary Dance – Stage Dance/Performance/Dance Pedagogy programme.

Curriculum and objectives of the field of study

The Dance-Performance Theory field of study provides students with a complex foundation for contextualization and theoretical exploration. It runs through the entire degree programme and, with its theoretical and informational components, is always directly related to the practical exploration of dance, its environment, and its possibilities. The necessary prerequisites for this are established by means of theoretical areas of knowledge in the fields of scholarly work, dance theory, dance studies, performance theory, media in dance, professional strategies, cultural history and body studies.

Dance Studies 01-04

Topics offered include Introduction to Dance Studies, Fifteenth- to Nineteenth-Century Dance History, Twentieth-Century Dance History, Dance and Media, and Dance Notation. Students are provided with knowledge of dance, terminology, and a basic understanding of historical and present-day dance vocabulary. The acquisition of knowledge serves as a reflective tool in the practice of dance. The goal is to add value to the artistic development and understanding of dance, providing students with orientation in the diversity of dance practice. The foundations and connections between the theory and practice of dance are developed. Theoretical knowledge of the body and dance is linked to the practice of dance. Students must select 4 of 6 offered topic blocks to for particular focus in this area. These represent the minimum requirement of the course Dance Studies.

The course Scholarly Writing teaches the basic handling of knowledge and prepares students for a critical engagement with literature and teaching materials. Students learn how to work with primary, secondary, and tertiary literature, how to quote, summarize, and paraphrase texts, as well as how to correctly cite and prove sources. Supporting citation software, research tools, and databases are introduced and their use explained. In preparation for and alongside the bachelor thesis, the Bachelor Thesis Seminar again addresses the topics of the Scholarly Writing course, and supports the students with specific topics as required. The students receive assistance with the basic structuring of

documents, the search for topics and the defining the scope of topics for the bachelor thesis and the structuring of text content.

The Professional Strategies course provides students with skills for living and working in the independent scene and as a freelance artist and educator. Topics covered in this course include budgeting, grant applications, insurance, tax, contracts and administration, as well as organizing artistic processes, performances, school performances.

Completion of the field of study

The area of study concludes with the completion of the subjects specified in this area of study and the completion of the written and practical work required for them.

Notes on the field of study

Dance Pedagogy

Name of the field of study

Dance Pedagogy

Duration of the field of study

7 semesters

Frequency of the repetitions of the field of study

Annually

Admission requirements for the field of study

The prerequisite for admission to the Dance Pedagogy area is passing the entrance examination to the PBA Contemporary Dance - Stage Dance/Performance/Dance Pedagogy programme.

Curriculum and objectives of the field of study

Dance Pedagogy extends through all 4 years of the programme. It accompanies and complements the training and development as a stage dancer and performer and promotes the examination of what has been learned and one's own dance development on a pedagogical, didactic, and mediating level from the very beginning.

Pedagogical laboratory 01 - 02

The aim of the course is to train the attention of the first and second semester students in didactic aspects. In the context of the course Teaching Practice - Dance, these are taught by 3rd year students. In these processes, perceptions and findings are to be reflected and communicated in discussions and feedback.

General Didactics 01, 02, Didactics of Contemporary Dance 01, 02

Students should become familiar with a wide range of different didactic possibilities and be able to consciously place them in the context of specific learning objectives. Logical methodical structure

should be able to be planned conclusively and later independently, even for longer teaching cycles. Students gain experience with practical implementation, exercises and etudes are adapted for different levels via alternatives.

Teaching practice - Dance

The knowledge and experiences of the previous pedagogical courses are put into practice. Students create concepts and reflect on the implementation as well as their conduct while teaching.

Complete teaching units and a cycle of several interrelated teaching units should be able to be planned and implemented. In interaction with the Pedagogical Laboratory, a self-critical view of one's own teaching and conduct in the classroom is developed here.

Key qualifications are the ability to reflect and a consequent ability to develop in order to optimize teaching concepts and approaches based on accumulated experience in teaching.

Psychology

Various concepts and aspects of educational psychology are to be understood theoretically and practically. The objective is to be able to analyze and reflect on one's own pedagogical actions in this context and to draw conclusions relevant to practice.

Pedagogical Seminar

Building on the previous pedagogical courses, a larger pedagogical project (at least 15x 90 min teaching units) is planned, presented, and discussed in relation to a clearly defined pedagogical goal. The optimization possibilities identified from the discussions in the Pedagogical Seminar are to be undertaken independently and implemented in the concept of the Pedagogical Project independently. In this way, the Pedagogical Seminar ensures that the concept for the Pedagogical Project is didactically coherent after critical review prior to implementation.

Completion of the field of study

The field of study is completed by attaining positive results in its courses.

The Pedagogical Laboratory (1st year) is completed with written reflections on the teaching of the students of the LV Teaching Practice - Dance (3rd year).

Teaching Practice - Dance concludes with a teaching sample. This teaching sample must be taken in front of a commission consisting of the course instructor and two other teachers. This is to ensure the diversity of qualitative feedback for the students through the different pedagogical perspectives and approaches of the commission members. For positive completion of the course, at least 2 out of 3 committee members must evaluate the teaching sample as passed.

Notes on the field of study

Electives

Name of the field of study

Electives

Duration of the field of study

The area of study is designed for 8 semesters. With motivated study, the required 16 elective required courses can also be completed within 6 semesters.

Frequency of repetition of the field of study

11-12 elective required courses (electives) are offered each semester, 22-24 per academic year.

Entrance requirements to the field of study

No entrance requirements

Curriculum and objectives of the field of study

The content of the electives is based on the profile of the programme with its sub-areas of stage dance, performance and dance pedagogy. Complementing and deepening the basic studies, this gives the professors and teachers the opportunity to offer courses according to the needs of the students, current requirements of the job market, and the developments of contemporary dance. This flexibility in content allows the curriculum to incorporate the demands of the ever-changing contemporary dance scene. Thus, guests from the worldwide dance scene and teachers from ERASMUS+ partner universities can be invited to speak on different topics and contribute to the international networking of the programme.

In the area of stage dance and performance, for example, the field of study allows for various choreographic processes that not only vary stylistically, but also place different demands on the dancers. In a spectrum from solos, duets and trios etc. to group sequences, the ability to interpret as well as creative engagement in creating movement and development of pieces is thus promoted.

Experimental processes, movement research, and looking at and exploring compositional ideas and parameters may be offered, as well as different types of improvisation and improvisational techniques. In terms of content, further explorations of technical media, the body as a medium, as well as space and different stage spaces can also be offered and thus support performance.

The opportunities to choose and the necessity to make decisions, which exist during the entire course of study, are intended to promote the personal and intrinsically motivated further development of the students. They are thus regularly asked about their personal orientation, interest, and motivation. This is intended to promote maturation processes and support students in their personal development.

In keeping with the flexible nature of this field of study (see below: Notes on the field of study), the content and learning objectives naturally vary. Specifically, these are presented in the descriptions of each elective and are planned and presented in advance for each academic year.

Completion of the field of study

The area of study is concluded when the minimum of 16 electives have been positively completed.

Notes on field of study

Electives should be understood in the context of the rest of the fields of study and should counteract what may appear to be a school-like nature of the programme. In dance studies, this can be perceived as such due to the typically high contact time and the necessary schedules. The Electives thus have the important task of granting a further place to the autonomy and individual development of our students.

Content choices and adaptability of the curriculum

The broad spectrum of content offers students the opportunity to pursue topics that correspond to their personal interests. As a result, students who have chosen specific content come together; cohort-based instruction is suspended for electives. In addition, cross-institutional and interdisciplinary work can be undertaken.

Time Flexibility

With a minimum requirement of 16 electives, with 4 years of standard study time, 2 electives per semester are anchored in the curriculum. Fixed week dates and block weeks, during which no other courses may take place, even allow up to three electives to be attended per semester. This area of study can, therefore, be studied flexibly in terms of time, and thus offers room for personal planning and a more individual design of the course of study. Certain electives are offered repeatedly each year and can thus be taken at earlier or later times.

Forum for the further development of teaching, contemporary dance, and artistic research.

Space for our international team of teachers and artists to further develop their teaching and a space for artistic creation is provided. Electives create a forum for different formats, group sizes, and content, as well as for artistic research and open-ended processes in which students directly participate. This flexible playing field is essential to the ongoing development of contemporary dance.

Quality assurance and organization

The fixed available teaching load of the faculty and parts of the workshop budget form a basis for creating sufficient elective options. In order to ensure the necessary spectrum and a consistently high quality, the individual electives must be agreed upon and approved by the institute's management.

Before the beginning of each academic year, 22-24 electives (11-12 per semester) are announced. Together with information sessions at the beginning of each semester, students are given an overview, planning opportunity, and opportunity to exchange ideas before the electives are released online for enrollment.

Final Examinations

Name of the field of study

Final Examinations

Duration of the field of study

2 semesters

Frequency of repetition of the field of study

Annually

Admission requirements to the field of study

Admission to the Bachelor's Examination PBA Contemporary Dance - Stage Dance/Performance/Dance Pedagogy is granted when all other areas of study with all associated courses have been completed.

Curriculum and objectives of the field of study

The final examinations of the field of study represent the three areas of the programme: stage dance, performance, and dance education at the level of a Bachelor of Arts degree at universities of arts and music.

Accordingly, the final artistic performance is divided into two parts: A selected repertoire piece or a piece from the process with a choreographer will be performed publicly, and for the second part of the artistic examination, students will create their own pieces and organize to bring them to public performance. The premises of the ABPU are available to the students for this purpose. As publicly advertised events, these processes lead to public performance on the stages of the ABPU with dress rehearsal, professional lighting, and stage technology. Performances in external similar contexts can also be part of the final artistic examination in consultation with the IDA management and IDA lecturers, as long as the commission is able to attend live performances.

The Didactics Examination consists of the presentation of the pedagogical project, which was conceptually prepared in the course Pedagogical Seminar. The independent organization, implementation, documentation, and presentation of the pedagogical project with an accompanying analytical and self-critical reflection is the subject of the Didactics Examination. Here, the objectives, the approach with the chosen methods, and the justified pedagogical procedure with the experience of implementation should be presented in a clearly structured, analytical, and self-reflective manner. The Didactics Examination requires the student to demonstrate a high degree of independence in terms of analysis, critical self-reflection, and structured presentation in the context of the overall field of study of Dance Pedagogy.

The bachelor's thesis generates knowledge in an area that the bachelor's student considers particularly beneficial to their dance knowledge in theory and practice. The choice of topics is open and broad, but agreed upon with first and second advisors. The thesis must meet the academic standards of a Bachelor of Arts degree at a university and is concluded with a defence before the examining commission.

Completion of the field of study

All final examinations must be taken before a commission as described in the curriculum and objectives. The final artistic performance and the Didactics Examination may be scheduled as early as the 7th semester under certain circumstances.

Notes on the field of study
