

EFFECTIVE AS OF AUGUST 2025

CURRICULUM

DEN DANSKE
SCENEKUNST
SKOLE

THE DANISH
NATIONAL SCHOOL
OF PERFORMING
ARTS



BACHELOR'S PROGRAMME IN DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY

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LEGAL FRAMEWORK

LEGAL BASIS

The curriculum has been prepared pursuant to Ministerial Order on the Danish National School of Performing Arts. The legal basis of the programme is described in detail in the common study regulations of the Danish National School of Performing Arts.

DESIGNATION

The programme will give the graduate the right to the designation Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance and Choreography. The Danish designation is “bachelor i dans og koreografi”.

CAMPUS

Students will be admitted to the Danish National School of Performing Arts in Copenhagen or in Holstebro.

LANGUAGE

The programme is taught in English.

INTERIM ARRANGEMENT AND COMMENCEMENT

This curriculum is effective as of August 2025. Students, that started the programme before August 2025, must finish the programme on the 2023 curriculum until the end of 2027.

APPROVAL

The Principal approved the curriculum after recommendation from the Study Board on 19 December 2024.

OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

OBJECTIVES

Graduates from the Bachelor programme in Dance and Choreography at the Danish National School of Performing Arts will have acquired knowledge about dance and choreography based on professional practices and artistic development activities. By offering students practical and theoretical skills at the highest international level, the programme's objective is to train and qualify independent and prominent artists to work within the subject field. In addition, the programme aims to develop the subject field itself by making space for the student's own investigations whereby craft skills and artistry work closely together. The programme will equip students with the skills to function in a variety of ways within the field. This is achieved by learning about the spectrum of performing arts employment roles in terms of both process and production.

QUALIFICATION DESCRIPTION

After completing the study programme, the students will:

Knowledge

- have an artistically-founded understanding of dance and choreography, as well as methods and knowledge about scientific theory within relevant parts of the subject field.
- be able to understand and reflect on different methods and modes of artistic practice (both their own and others'), be well-versed in the relevant discourses, and be able to apply the knowledge in relevant performing arts contexts.
- have acquired knowledge and experience of various types of collaboration in collective, artistic processes within professional as well as cross-disciplinary environments.
- have a deeper understanding of the role of art in society.

Skills

- be able to identify and apply artistic and relevant methods, tools, and expressions, as well as other skills related to dance and choreography.
- be able to apply artistic and craft-related methods, tools, and expressions in various professional contexts.
- be able to assess artistic challenges, along with practical, professional, and theoretical issues, as well as substantiate and select relevant approaches and expressions.
- be capable of completing performing arts projects within the given time frames.
- be able to communicate artistic expressions and professional issues to peers as well as other target groups.

Competences

- be able to handle complex and development-oriented situations in study or work contexts.
- be able to independently and professionally participate in professional and cross-disciplinary collaborations.
- be capable of consciously organising their professional life.
- be able to identify their own learning needs and structure their own learning in various learning environments.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The Danish National School of Performing Arts admits applicants to the programme, who are assessed to be the most qualified in relation to the following criteria:

- Curiosity to explore the subject area within the framework of the programme.
- Motivation to engage in complex and collective artistic processes and learning environments.
- Ability to articulate your artistic practice.
- Clarity in understanding and executing movement.

- Ability to improvise and to perform.
- Ability to work with concentration and to incorporate feedback.
- Communicative and collaborative skills.

SUBJECT STRUCTURE

The subject structure gives an overview of the subjects based on ECTS credits.

Subject	ECTS credits
Dance Body Movement	75
Choreography	35
Projects	35
Bachelor's Project	20
Contextualisation	12
Artistic Research	5
Entrepreneurship	3
Total	180

SEMESTER STRUCTURE

The semester structure gives an overview of the distribution of subject elements on each semester. Within each semester, the subject elements are structured based on their ECTS credits.

Subject	ECTS credits
First semester	
Dance Body Movement I	20
Choreography I	5
Contextualisation I	5
Second semester	
First Year Project	10
Dance Body Movement II	10
Choreography II	5
Contextualisation II	5
Third semester	
Dance Body Movement III	15
Choreography III	10
Contextualisation III	2
Entrepreneurship	3
Fourth semester	
Second Year Project	10
Dance Body Movement IV	10
Choreography IV	5
Artistic Research	5
Fifth semester	
Bachelor's Project	15
Dance Body Movement V	10
Choreography V	5
Sixth semester	
Third Year Project	15
Dance Body Movement VI	10
Choreography VI	5

SUBJECTS

DANCE BODY MOVEMENT

Objective

The objective of this subject is to develop each student's understanding of the main subject dance. The students will be introduced to a variety of techniques, methods, tools, and expressions relevant for the history and development of the subject and its significance for present-day society.

Subject Elements

Dance Body Movement I, first semester, 20 ECTS credits

Dance Body Movement II, second semester, 10 ECTS credits

Dance Body Movement III, third semester, 15 ECTS credits

Dance Body Movement IV, fourth semester, 10 ECTS credits

Dance Body Movement V, fifth semester, 10 ECTS credits

Dance Body Movement VI, sixth semester, 10 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

After completing the subject element, the student will be able to:

Dance Body Movement I, first semester, 20 ECTS credits

- demonstrate a fundamental understanding of basic dance technical principles.
- demonstrate a basic insight and understanding of bodily and spatial expressions.
- demonstrate a fundamental understanding of their own movement expressions in an artistic perspective.

Dance Body Movement II, second semester, 10 ECTS credits

- demonstrate an understanding of basic dance technical principles.
- demonstrate insight and skills within bodily and spatial expressions.
- demonstrate an understanding of their own movement expressions in an artistic perspective.

Dance Body Movement III, third semester, 15 ECTS credits

- understand and apply basic dance technical principles.
- demonstrate insight and skills within bodily and spatial expressions.
- demonstrate a diverse understanding of their own movement expressions in an artistic perspective.
- demonstrate an understanding of their own responsibility concerning technical development.

Dance Body Movement IV, fourth semester, 10 ECTS credits

- understand and master basic dance technical principles.
- demonstrate expanded insight and skills within bodily and spatial expressions.
- demonstrate a diverse understanding of their own movement expressions in an artistic perspective.
- demonstrate an understanding of their own responsibility concerning technical development.

Dance Body Movement V, fifth semester, 10 ECTS credits

- understand and master basic dance technical principles.
- master and demonstrate an expanded insight into bodily and spatial expressions.
- demonstrate a diverse understanding of their own movement expressions in an artistic perspective.
- assume responsibility for their own development of technical skills.

Dance Body Movement VI, sixth semester, 10 ECTS credits

- master and challenge basic dance technical principles.

- master and demonstrate an expanded insight into bodily and spatial expressions.
- demonstrate a diverse and clear understanding of their own movement expressions in an artistic perspective.
- independently accept responsibility for the development of their own technical skills.

Teaching and Working Methods

Methods alternate between class teaching, individual work, coaching, reading studies, and written assignments.

Assessment

First semester (20 ECTS credits), Second semester (10 ECTS credits), Third semester (15 ECTS credits), Fifth semester (10 ECTS credits) and Sixth semester (10 ECTS credits):

Active participation with a maximum absence of 20% (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by the teacher responsible at the end of the subject element. The assessment is based on the student's professional development and participation. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives, and the student's absence must not exceed 20% within the subject element. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for a later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

Fourth semester (10 ECTS credits):

Active participation with a maximum absence of 20% (external assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by the head of education and an external examiner appointed by the Ministry of Culture. The assessment is based on the student's professional development and participation. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives, and the student's absence must not exceed 20% within the subject element. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for a later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Objective

The objective of this subject is to develop each students' understanding of the main subject choreography. The students will be introduced to a variety of perspectives, methods, tools, and expressions relevant for the history and development of the subject and its significance for present-day society.

Subject Elements

Choreography I, first semester, 5 ECTS credits

Choreography II, second semester, 5 ECTS credits

Choreography III, third semester, 10 ECTS credits

Choreography IV, fourth semester, 5 ECTS credits

Choreography V, fifth semester, 5 ECTS credits

Choreography VI, sixth semester, 5 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

After completing the subject element, the student will be able to:

Choreography I, first semester, 5 ECTS credits

- demonstrate a basic understanding of basic compositional principles.
- demonstrate a basic understanding of choreographic approaches to dancing.
- demonstrate a basic insight into embodying choreographic materials.
- demonstrate a basic insight into the expanded field of choreography.

Choreography II, second semester, 5 ECTS credits

- demonstrate an understanding of basic compositional principles.
- demonstrate an understanding of choreographic approaches to dancing.
- demonstrate insight into embodying choreographic materials.
- demonstrate insight into the expanded field of choreography.

Choreography III, third semester, 10 ECTS credits

- understand and apply basic compositional principles.
- demonstrate insight and skills regarding choreographic approaches to dancing.
- demonstrate insight and skills in embodying choreographic materials.
- demonstrate insight and skills concerning the expanded field of choreography.

Choreography IV, fourth semester, 5 ECTS credits

- apply basic compositional principles through their own work.
- demonstrate insight and skills regarding choreographic approaches to dancing.
- demonstrate insight and skills in embodying choreographic materials.
- reflect critically on their own work as well as that of their peers.

Choreography V, fifth semester, 5 ECTS credits

- understand and master basic compositional principles.
- demonstrate diverse insight and skills concerning choreographic approaches to dancing.
- demonstrate diverse insight and skills in embodying choreographic materials.
- demonstrate expanded insight and skills within the expanded field of choreography.

Choreography VI, sixth semester, 5 ECTS credits

- master and challenge basic compositional principles.
- master and demonstrate diverse insight into choreographic approaches to dancing.
- master and demonstrate diverse insight and skills in embodying choreographic materials.
- demonstrate awareness of their own position within the expanded field of choreography.

Teaching and Working Methods

Methods alternate between class teaching, individual work, coaching, reading studies, and written assignments.

Assessment

Active participation with a maximum absence of 20% (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by the teacher responsible at the end of the subject element. The assessment is based on the student's professional development and participation. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives, and the student's absence must not exceed 20% within the subject element. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for a later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

PROJECTS

Objective

The objective is to enable each student to participate in the development of a performing arts work and to acquire practical experience and theoretical knowledge about a selected field within dance and choreography. In combination, this will provide a fundamental understanding of existing knowledge and practice.

Subject Elements

First Year Project, second semester, 10 ECTS credits

Second Year Project, fourth semester, 10 ECTS credits

Third Year Project, sixth semester, 15 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

After completing the subject element, the student will be able to:

First Year Project, second semester, 10 ECTS credits

- integrate their acquired knowledge and skills, actualizing their acquired artistic competence by demonstrating a fundamental understanding of artistic methods, tools, and expressions in relation to dance and choreography.
- assess artistic challenges, practical and theoretical issues, as well as substantiate and select relevant expressions and approaches.
- participate in a professional collaboration with an artistic approach.
- show a developed and embodied comprehension of the craft of performing.

Second Year Project, fourth semester, 10 ECTS credits

- integrate the acquired knowledge and skills, actualizing their acquired artistic competence by demonstrating an understanding of artistic methods, tools and expressions in relation to dance and choreography.
- assess artistic challenges, practical and theoretical issues, as well as substantiate and select relevant expressions and approaches.
- participate in a professional collaboration with an artistic approach.
- show a developed and embodied comprehension of the craft of performing.

Third Year Project, sixth semester, 15 ECTS credits

- demonstrate awareness of their own position in relation to the artistic and discursive currents within a given field of dance and choreography
- demonstrate a diverse understanding of their own position in relation to the history of dance and choreography
- integrate the acquired knowledge and skills in an individual or collective scenic expression which actualizes the student's acquired artistic competence
- demonstrate a clear and diverse understanding of artistic methods, tools, and expressions as well as general skills related to employment within dance and choreography
- assess artistic challenges, practical and theoretical issues, as well as substantiate and select relevant expressions and solution models
- participate in a professional or cross-disciplinary collaboration with an artistic approach
- master the craft of performing.

Teaching and Working Methods

Methods alternate between class teaching, project work, individual supervision, and presentations in front of a public or internal audience.

Assessment

Second semester (10 ECTS Credits) and Sixth semester (15 ECTS Credits):

Active participation with a maximum absence of 20% (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by the teacher responsible at the end of the subject element. The assessment is based on the student's professional development and participation. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives, and the student's absence must not exceed 20% within the subject element. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for a later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

Fourth semester (10 ECTS Credits):

Active participation with a maximum absence of 20% (external assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by the head of education and an external examiner appointed by the Ministry of Culture. The assessment is based on the student's professional development and participation. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives, and the student's absence must not exceed 20% within the subject element. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for a later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

ARTISTIC RESEARCH – INVESTIGATION, REFLECTION AND SHARING

Objective

The subject strengthens the student's ability to develop, reflect on and document independent artistic investigations. The basis for the investigation is the student's own interests, and the student acquires tools to generate and work independently with their ideas, reflect on the nature and development of an investigation and document significant steps in the process.

The subject prepares the student for the Bachelor's Project and sets the framework for the student's opportunity to make independent artistic or methodological investigations and experiments that emanates from the student's own interests.

Subject Elements

Artistic Research, fourth semester, 5 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

After completing the subject element, the student will be able to:

Artistic Research, fourth semester, 5 ECTS credits

- formulate and motivate a research question within their own subject area.
- formulate a project description for an artistic or performing arts professional development project with a focus on content, method and process.
- carry out one or more experiments that relate to the research question.
- demonstrate skills within their subject area in the completed experiment.
- document their own work process and reflect critically on the relationship between research question and result.

Teaching and Working Methods

The project is mostly carried out individually or in groups and may include lectures, supervision (individual and in group), as well as presentations for relevant recipients.

Assessment

Active participation with a maximum absence of 20% (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by the teacher responsible at the end of the subject element. The assessment is based on the student's professional development and participation. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives, and the student's absence must not exceed 20% within the subject element. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for a later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

BACHELOR'S PROJECT

Objective

The subject strengthens the student's ability to develop, reflect on and document independent artistic investigations. The overall purpose of the independent projects is therefore to strengthen the student's ability to develop, reflect on and document an independent artistic or methodological investigation.

The Bachelor's Project includes an entrepreneurial aspect that considers the project's potential in a professional context after graduation. The projects should contribute to the students' independent toolbox and strengthen their confidence in their artistic and/or methodological capacities after graduation.

The students are welcome to work within the same subject as in 'Artistic research – investigation, reflection and sharing', but should in this case formulate a new research question. The Bachelor Project is independent and can be carried out individually or in groups.

Subject Elements

Bachelor's Project, fifth semester, 15 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

After completing the subject element, the student will be able to:

Bachelor's Project, fifth semester, 15 ECTS credits

- formulate and motivate a research question within their own subject area.
- formulate a project description for an artistic or performing arts professional development project with a focus on content, method and process.
- carry out one or more experiments that relate to the research question.
- demonstrate skills within their own subject area in the completed experiment.
- document their own work process and reflect critically on the relationship between research question and result.
- situate the project in relation to relevant knowledge and practice.
- analyse opportunities for how the project can develop and create momentum and value in their own professional working life.
- communicate important findings to colleagues and other recipients.

Teaching and Working Methods

The project is carried out individually or in groups with supervision. Showing/presentation for relevant recipients.

Assessment

Product/performance (external assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by the head of the education and an external examiner appointed by the Ministry of Culture on the basis of dialogue with any supervisor(s) at the end of the subject element. The assessment is based on three presentations of the project: performance, portfolio and verbal presentation. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for a later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

CONTEXTUALISATION

Objective

The objective is to provide students with basic knowledge within the field of performing arts - including theatre history, production methods, collaboration formats, and artistic perspectives – and to situate performing arts within a broader context of arts and society.

Subject Elements

Contextualisation I, first semester, 5 ECTS credits

Contextualisation II, second semester, 5 ECTS credits

Contextualisation III, third semester, 2 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

After completing the subject element, the student will be able to:

Contextualisation I, first semester, 5 ECTS credits

- demonstrate understanding of basic dramaturgical/compositional approaches.
- demonstrate understanding of various perspectives within performing arts.
- demonstrate basic knowledge of production methods and collaboration formats within performing arts.

Contextualisation II, second semester, 5 ECTS credits

- demonstrate a fundamental understanding of the core artistic and discursive currents within a given field of dance and choreography.
- demonstrate a basic understanding of the history of dance and choreography

Contextualisation III, third semester, 2 ECTS credits

- demonstrate a capacity to reflect on the subject verbally and in writing.
- demonstrate a developed understanding of the history of dance and choreography.

Teaching and Working Methods

Methods alternate between presentations, exercises, and project work.

Assessment

Active participation with a maximum absence of 20% (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by the teacher responsible at the end of the subject element. The assessment is based on the student's professional development and participation. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives, and the student's absence must not exceed 20% within the subject element. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for a later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Objective

The subject of entrepreneurship deals with various aspects of how to establish and develop sustainable careers within the performing arts field. Through selected knowledge, methods and work tools, the subject focuses on how one can translate and work with one's artistic and professional skills in a labour market that can include freelance employment, project employment and self-producing work.

The subject's main purpose is to support the students' entrepreneurial mindset and toolbox and thus strengthen their confidence in their own actions and entrepreneurship. The teaching within the subject takes different perspectives on the performing arts working life (knowledge-based, practice-oriented, reflective, analytical), which will support the students' insights into external realities as well as their own entrepreneurial fields of competence. There will be a focus on strengthening the students' opportunities to link acquired knowledge and insight with concrete career management and opportunities to act in practice.

Subject Elements

Entrepreneurship, third semester, 3 ECTS credits

Learning Objectives

After completing the subject element, the student will be able to:

Entrepreneurship, third semester, 3 ECTS credits

- analyse own entrepreneurial and artistic work and reflect on what a professional and sustainable working life can contain.
- demonstrate selected knowledge of the performing arts labour market, including different conditions and structures.
- use selected administrative tools that relate to the self-producing working life.

Teaching and working methods

- Team teaching, including presentations, presentations, dialogue and debate
- Task-based work
- Individual guidance
- Written work, individually or in groups

Assessment

Active participation with a maximum absence of 20% (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by the subject supervisor at the end of the subject element. The assessment is based on the student's professional development and participation. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives, and the student's absence must not exceed 20% within the subject element. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for a later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.