

EFFECTIVE AS OF AUGUST 2025

CURRICULUM



MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN CHOREOGRAPHY

DEN DANSKE
SCENEKUNST
SKOLE

THE DANISH
NATIONAL SCHOOL
OF PERFORMING
ARTS

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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 (Ministerial Order No. 121 of 24 January 2025). 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 the designation Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Choreography. The Danish designation is kandidat i koreografi.

CAMPUS

The students will be admitted to The Danish National School of Performing Arts in Copenhagen.

LANGUAGE

The programme is taught in English.

INTERIM ARRANGEMENT AND COMMENCEMENT

This curriculum is effective for students starting in August 2025.

APPROVAL

The Principal approved the curriculum after recommendation from the Study Board on 21 April 2025.

OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

OBJECTIVES

The Master's level at the Danish National School of Performing Arts takes a starting point in the knowledge, skills and competencies from the students' bachelor's degrees. The purpose is to qualify the students to further develop and define their artistic professionalism and form the basis for the work life as professional artists. The master's level is final and preparatory in the sense that the students will be able to work at the highest artistic level and at the same time be qualified to continue their studies on PhD level.

The purpose of the Master's programme in Choreography is to educate students in the art form of choreography by focusing on two aspects and their relation: physical practice and choreographic production. The programme provides the students with knowledge of relevant practices and theories of the art form, historical and contemporary currents within the international field of choreography, and the skills and competences to apply this knowledge in their choreographic productions. The students learn to produce, discuss and document their choreographic works, reflect on their art form's role in society, and navigate in the relation between artistic development and production frameworks. All of this work is seen through the lens of physical practice, focusing on bodily and kinaesthetic experience as a form of knowledge production that can take shape in various formats of presentation.

A key element of the Master's programme in Choreography is the Nordic Choreographic Platform (NCP), which is a collaboration with relevant Master's programmes in Choreography from the Nordic region. NCP will expose students to different learning environments, diverse discourses in choreographic pedagogy and research, as well as collaboration with peers and venues in the Nordic region. The pedagogical-research collaboration, the peer exchange and meetings with the venues in each partner country will ensure the versatility of the students' education and facilitate the transition from education into professional work life. Special attention will be paid to the NCP allowing the students to widen their future professional network by meeting both peers and presenters. NCP will provide the students with the opportunity to attend events of major importance for the subject of choreography in the Nordic region and thus situate both communalities and differences within the platform.

QUALIFICATION DESCRIPTION

After completing the programme, the students will be able to:

Knowledge

- demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of selected parts of the theories, methods and artistic traditions of choreography and the relation between physical practices and choreographic production.
- understand and reflect upon theories and methods of choreographic and physical practice and place this knowledge in relevant artistic, historical and social contexts.
- identify artistic challenges and relevant theoretical issues within choreographic production and relate them to their own physical and choreographic practice.
- understand and reflect upon their own artistic practice in an international context.

Skills

- master relevant artistic methods, tools and forms of expression within the field of choreography.
- apply relevant scientific methods and tools related to the development of choreographic and physical practices.
- master general skills related to employment as a choreographer in an international context.
- assess and choose among artistic and, where relevant, scientific theories, work methods and tools.
- on an artistic and, where relevant, scientific basis, define new choreographic expressions and solution models.
- convey and document their own artistic practice.
- discuss the artistic and, where relevant, scientific issues with both professional peers and non-specialists.

Competences

- organise, manage and complete complex choreographic projects in various contexts.
- independently engage in disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration and assume professional responsibility.
- work independently and diligently with choreographic productions in an international context.
- develop their own physical and choreographic practice.

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:

- Motivation to immerse oneself into the field within the framework of the programme.
- Capacity to take responsibility for complex and collective artistic processes and learning environments.
- Ability to analyse one's own and others' artistic practices.
- Well-developed knowledge of the subject area and potential for further development.
- Ability to clearly articulate ideas through movement, speech, and text.
- Communicative and collaborative skills.
- Ability to present a plan of the physical and choreographic questions that the applicant wants to explore during the studies. The plan should be feasible within the programme structure.

SUBJECT STRUCTURE

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

Subject	ECTS credits
Master's Project	33
Choreographic Production	32
Physical Practice	31
Documentation and Publication	12
Nordic Choreographic Platform	9
Artistic research	3

SEMESTER STRUCTURE

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

Subject Element	ECTS credits
First semester	
Physical Practice I	12
Choreographic Production I	10
Nordic Choreographic Platform I	3
Artistic research	3
Documentation and Publication I	2
Second semester	
Choreographic Production II	12
Physical Practice II	10
Documentation and Publication II	5
Nordic Choreographic Platform II	3
Third semester	
Choreographic Production III	10
Physical Practice III	9
Documentation and Publication III	5
Master's Project: Initiation	3
Nordic Choreographic Platform III	3
Fourth semester	
Master's Project: Completion	30

SUBJECTS

MASTER'S PROJECT

Objective

The purpose of the Master's Project is to give the students with the opportunity to engage, either individually or collaboratively, in an in-depth investigation of a topic of their own choosing.

Building upon their core disciplinary competences, the student is required to independently define, plan and implement practice-based artistic research that meets the standards for knowledge, skills and competencies at the level of Master of Fine Arts.

Additionally, the student must also document and critically reflect on the process and potential of the project as well as explore and put into perspective related artistic works and/or development activities, methods and fields of interest within both national and international contexts. This reflection must be presented and discussed with both peers and non-specialists.

There are three outcomes of the Master's Project: A choreographic work, a portfolio and a verbal presentation.

Subject elements

Master's Project (Initiation), third semester, 3 ECTS credits

Master's Project (Completion), fourth semester, 30 ECTS credits

Learning outcomes

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

Master's Project (Initiation), third semester, 3 ECTS credits

- formulate research questions and a project description for an artistic (performing arts-related) research project.
- reflect on artistic knowledge and research relevant to the project.
- propose and present relevant artistic methods and documentation forms to be applied to the project.

Master's Project (Completion), fourth semester, 30 ECTS credits

- conduct one or more experiments related to the research questions of the project and master skills within their own field in the completed experiment – possibly in stage work format.
- demonstrate knowledge of selected field-specific areas of interest, based on recognized artistic practice and research.
- reflect on artistic knowledge related to the project, identify artistic and theoretical challenges, and contextualize the project in relation to these.
- propose and test relevant artistic methods, expressions and solutions in the research work.
- apply methods from artistic research, including documentation of the work process and critical reflection on the relationship between research questions and outcomes.
- work independently and entrepreneurially with the research project, and subsequently be able to explain how the project could potentially create progress and value for the performing arts field and the candidate's future practice.
- communicate key insights and conclusions of the artistic research project to both peers and non-specialists.

Teaching and working methods

The teaching and working methods alternate between:

- Project work with supervision

- Literature studies
- Writing assignments
- Performance/presentation

Assessment

Master's Project (Initiation), third semester, 3 ECTS credits

Active participation with assessment of absence (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by Head of Programme 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 attendance and active participation must be assessed as sufficient. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

Master's Project (Completion), fourth semester, 30 ECTS credits

Product/performance (external assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by Head of Programme and an external examiner appointed by the Ministry of Culture at the end of the subject element. The assessment is based on choreographic work, a verbal presentation and a portfolio. 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 later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

CHOREOGRAPHIC PRODUCTION

Objective

Choreographic Production and Physical Practice encompasses the keystone teaching in the programme, which aims to develop a profound and nuanced understanding of the relation between the two subjects. The purpose is for the students to initiate, develop and deepen their engagement with the relation between physical practice and choreographic production. The students will immerse in the context through own practices, by studying the works of other artists, and by learning about relevant theoretical and practical aspects of both historical and contemporary currents within choreography.

Subject elements

Choreographic production, first semester, 10 ECTS credits

Choreographic production, second semester, 12 ECTS credits

Choreographic production, third semester, 10 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the subject element, the student will be able to:

Choreographic production, first semester, 10 ECTS credits

- present a choreographic production relevant to the decided context.
- demonstrate understanding of the relation between the physical practice(s) and the choreographic production.
- demonstrate understanding of the relation between the context and the produced work.
- demonstrate knowledge of and apply relevant scientific methods and tools related to the development of a choreographic production.
- on an artistic and, where relevant, scientific basis, define new choreographic expressions and solution models.
- organise, manage and complete complex and choreographic projects in a chosen context.
- Independently engage in disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration and assume professional responsibility.

Choreographic production, second semester, 12 ECTS credits, and third semester, 10 ECTS credits

- present a choreographic production relevant to the decided context.
- demonstrate development in understanding of the relation between their physical practice(s) and the choreographic production.
- demonstrate development in their understanding of the relation between the chosen context and the produced work.
- demonstrate knowledge of and apply relevant scientific methods and tools related to the development of a choreographic production.
- on an artistic and, where relevant, scientific basis, define new physical and choreographic expressions and methods.
- organise, manage and complete complex choreographic projects in a chosen context.
- independently engage in disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration and assume professional responsibility.

Teaching and Working Methods

The teaching and working methods alternate between:

- Project work with supervision
- Lectures
- Literature studies
- Performance

Assessment

Active participation with assessment of absence (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by Head of Programme at the end of the subject element. The assessment is based on the student's professional development reflected in the quality of the choreographic work. In order to pass the subject element, the student's professional development must reflect the learning objectives, and

the student's attendance and active participation must be assessed as sufficient. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

PHYSICAL PRACTICE

Objective

Physical Practice and Choreographic Production encompasses the keystone teaching in the programme, which aims to develop a profound and nuanced understanding of the relation between the two subjects. The purpose is for the students to initiate, develop and deepen their engagement with the relation between physical practice and choreographic production. The students will immerse in the context through own practices, by studying the works of other artists, and by learning about relevant theoretical and practical aspects of both historical and contemporary currents within choreography.

Subject elements

Physical practice, first semester, 12 ECTS credits

Physical practice, second semester, 10 ECTS credits

Physical practice, third semester, 9 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the subject element, the student will be able to:

Physical practice, first semester, 12 ECTS credits

- demonstrate knowledge of theories and methods of physical practice.
- situate their physical practice in relation to historical and contemporary developments.
- identify artistic challenges and relevant theoretical issues in relation to a specific presentation format and relate them to their own physical practice.
- understand their own physical practice(s) in relation to a specific presentation format.

Physical practice, second semester, 10 ECTS credits

- understand and reflect upon theories and methods of physical practice.
- develop their physical practice in relation to historical and contemporary developments.
- understand relevant scientific methods and tools related to the development of physical practices.
- identify artistic challenges and relevant theoretical issues in relation to a specific presentation format and relate them to their own physical practice.
- develop their own physical practice(s) in relation to a specific presentation format.

Physical practice, third semester, 9 ECTS credits

- understand and critically reflect upon theories and methods of physical practice.
- shape and develop physical practices in relation to historical and contemporary developments.
- apply relevant scientific methods and tools related to the development of physical practices.
- identify artistic challenges and relevant theoretical issues in relation to a specific presentation format and relate them to their own physical practice.
- demonstrate and articulate physical practice(s) in relation to a specific presentation format.

Teaching and Working Methods

The teaching and working methods alternate between:

- Workshops
- Lectures
- Project work with supervision
- Literature studies

Assessment

Active participation with assessment of absence (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by Head of Programme 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 attendance and active participation must be assessed as sufficient. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

DOCUMENTATION AND PUBLICATION

Objective

The subject aims at developing the students' capacity for critical reflection on their own work and prepare them for the Master's Project. The students will collect and produce documented materials from the choreographic work and conceive a form in which to make it public. The publication can be both a digital and a physical object and is not limited to text production. At the end of the module, the students will produce a choreographic work in a context that will be decided upon through negotiation with the educational supervisors.

Subject elements

Documentation and publication, first semester, 2 ECTS credits

Documentation and publication, second semester, 5 ECTS credits

Documentation and publication, third semester, 5 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the subject element, the student will be able to:

Documentation and publication, first semester, 2 ECTS credits, second semester, 5 ECTS credits, and third semester, 5 ECTS credits

- gather and categorize documented materials from their own work in the previous modules.
- make the gathered documented materials public.
- demonstrate understanding for a chosen way of documenting, selecting and publishing in a relevant format.
- present and discuss artistic and, where relevant, scientific issues with both professional peers and non-specialists.

Teaching and Working Methods

The teaching and working methods alternate between:

- Own work with supervision
- Lectures
- Writing assignments

Assessment

Active participation with assessment of absence (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by Head of Programme 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 attendance and active participation must be assessed as sufficient. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.

NORDIC CHOREOGRAPHIC PLATFORM

Objective

The objective of the subject is to expose the students to different learning environments and diverse discourses in choreographic pedagogy and research. The students will participate in joint teaching periods and peer exchange and extend their network in the educational and professional field of choreography. The students have an opportunity to attend events of major importance within the field of dance and choreography in the Nordic countries. The module aims to build a bridge between the educational and professional field of dance and choreography.

Subject elements

Nordic choreographic platform, first semester, 3 ECTS credits

Nordic choreographic platform, second semester, 3 ECTS credits

Nordic choreographic platform, third semester, 3 ECTS credits

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the subject element, the student will be able to:

Nordic choreographic platform, first, second and third semester, 3 ECTS credits

- develop choreographic discourses in interaction with the art field and society.
- demonstrate an increased understanding of the educational and professional field of choreography in the Nordic countries.
- demonstrate knowledge about relevant Nordic venues and presenters.
- present and discuss own work (in progress) and research within the NCP.

Teaching and Working Methods

The teaching and working methods alternate between:

- Own work with supervision
- Lectures
- Workshops
- Student presentations
- Literature studies and writing assignments

Assessment

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

The pass/fail assessment is made by Head of Programme 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.

ARTISTIC RESEARCH

Objective

The subject introduces the student to artistic research within the field of performing arts, and provides the student with basic knowledge of theory and the working and documentation methods associated with conducting artistic research.

Subject elements

Artistic research, first semester, 3 ECTS credits

Learning outcomes

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

- demonstrate knowledge of theory and methodology in artistic research.
- work with different approaches to documenting performing arts practice.
- critically reflect on performing arts practice with peers.

Teaching and Working Methods

The teaching and working methods alternate between:

- Own work with supervision
- Lectures
- Workshops

Assessment

Active participation with assessment of absence (internal assessment)

The pass/fail assessment is made by Head of Programme 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 attendance and active participation must be assessed as sufficient. If the student does not pass, a plan must be drawn up for later follow-up of the learning objectives that have not been satisfactorily met.