

Programme Specification (undergraduate)

Programme	Cert HE Foundations of Musical Theatre
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban
Location of study	Laurie Grove and King Charles Court
Mode and duration	1 year full time
UK Credits	120 (Cert HE Level 4)
ECTS	N/A

Summary Description

Designed to provide an entry on to specialist three-year programmes in a related discipline (either degree or diploma level), this programme offers the opportunity to develop and build on your performance skills, discover more about musical theatre, and explore possibilities for your personal, artistic and professional development. The course is designed to broaden the horizons of its students, and previous students have progressed on to BA (Hons) or Professional Diploma programmes in Musical Theatre, Acting, Acting for Screen, Actor Musicianship, Music, and Dance.

The Cert HE Foundations of Musical Theatre is designed for aspiring artists who wish to develop their skills and techniques through a dedicated programme of study rooted in studio and practice-based activity. It is an opportunity for students to access high-quality conservatoire study and may provide an entry route to further specialist/vocational training (e.g. undergraduate degree programmes within the conservatoire or wider higher education sectors) or a platform for a dedicated period of personal study and reflection with a vocational focus.

For international students it may additionally provide a route to develop their English Language skills alongside intensive vocational training.

Students may also wish to use the programme as a platform for access to London's vibrant cultural life.

On successful completion of this programme, participating students receive a transcript including a full listing of the learning undertaken.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme, a student will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- Knowledge and understanding of the technical requirements of the different musical theatre core skills (singing, acting, dance);
- Knowledge and understanding of how to relate vocal and physical performance technique to character and style;
- Knowledge and understanding of how analysis techniques can be used to deconstruct a script/song;
- Knowledge and understanding of how research and contextual information can be used to inform performance;
- Understanding of healthy and safe practices.

Skills

- The ability to use critical and analytical skills to select appropriate material for performance;
- The ability to retain and retain basic technical skills in singing, acting, and dance;
- The ability to connect acquired vocal and physical technical skills with character and performance style;
- The ability to establish meaningful connections between disciplines and use this to enhance practice;
- The ability to respond effectively to feedback from peers, tutors, creative teams, and to own discoveries made during personal evaluation processes;
- The ability to employ research skills in order to investigate historical and theoretical information and use the findings to support practical work;

Values and attitudes

- Display awareness of professional conduct, including:
 - Presentation
 - Excellent attendance and punctuality
 - Self-discipline;
- Recognise and value healthy and safe practices;
- Work with tutors/a Creative Team and as part of a supportive company towards the shared goal of a high-quality end product;
- Provide evidence of the development of various strategies for personal maintenance and wellbeing;
- Manage own time and workload efficiently and effectively.

Graduate Attributes

In achieving institutional learning and teaching goals, Trinity Laban aims to produce graduates from our Undergraduate programmes who (variously through their differing programmes of study):

1. Are highly creative and resourceful and exhibit technical excellence within their field
2. Have outstanding performance skills
3. Are familiar with the possibilities offered by and through collaborative forms of working
4. Have extensive knowledge of the context within which dance/music work is created and performed
5. Are confident in the creative use of technologies within their art-form
6. Have the skills to develop as effective project leaders, able both to devise and manage their own performance projects, workshops, research, and to participate as team members in such activities
7. Have the capacity to recognise the applied potential of their art form to engage with a variety of contexts such as social, community, performance, business, education
8. Have the potential to articulate persuasively and encourage and direct the participation of others in their art form;
9. Are equipped to take advantage of the wide range of employment opportunities available within the arts industries, and who understand how to generate their own work and have the skills to manage a sustainable and enriching career.

These attributes relate also to the Cert HE, acknowledging what should be achieved by the end of Level 4.

Curriculum

Structure

The *Preparing to Perform* module activities take place primarily during an intensive 5-week period during the Summer term.

All other programme elements contained within the *Skills and Techniques* and *Preparing to Audition* modules take place over the first two terms. Summative assessments take place at the end of the *Skills and Techniques*, *Preparing to Perform*, and *Preparing to Audition* modules.

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
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Skills and Techniques	M40105	90	Core	No	4
Preparing to Audition	M40106	10	Core	No	4
Preparing to Perform	M40107	20	Core	No	4

Learning and Teaching

Total contact hours 561 hours

Total self-directed study hours 639 hours

Total learning and teaching hours 1200 hours

Module	Teaching Component	Contact Hours	Self-directed Study Hours	Total Student Learning Hours
Skills & Techniques	Individual Singing Lessons (one to one teacher)	15 hours (per student)		15
	Skills classes	421	464	885
Preparing to Audition	Tutorials	20		20
	Vocal Repertoire	30		30
	Personal research/preparation		50	50
Preparing to Perform	Project rehearsal/production	75		75
	Independent study and preparation		125	125
	Totals	561	639	1200

Learning and teaching methods

Learning takes place through a blend of formal tuition, experiential learning and personal study.

Singing, dancing and acting tuition is the central element of the provision, with the ***Skills & Techniques*** module consisting of a range of individual one-to-one lessons, intensive group tuition in singing, dancing and acting, and performance workshops. You will refine your audition technique during the ***Preparing to Audition*** module, and you will develop and contextualise your individual learning within rehearsal and performance settings during the ***Preparing to Perform*** module, and engage with cross-disciplinary working through participation in Trinity Laban's renowned annual CoLab festival.

Throughout the programme your learning will be consolidated through extensive self-study which is aided by access to the College's many learning resources. The programme aims to enable you to begin developing independent learning strategies for lifelong learning. Your tutors will regularly encourage you to reflect on your learning and to formulate personal programmes of study and targets for learning.

Certain modules/components in the programme will involve studying with other students in a collaborative way (e.g. creating work with other musicians, dancers and/or other artists). This may involve working alongside students from other programmes at a variety of levels. Collaboration is considered to be at the heart of professional artistic life and opportunities such as these represent valuable learning experiences.

The learning and teaching methods are designed to meet the programme aims and learning outcomes. A wide range of methods is used to support the diverse learning approaches of the student and to provide the breadth and depth of learning experiences essential for the rigorous training of multi-skilled artists who will be able to maximise their professional opportunities in the highly competitive field.

Teaching/learning methods:

- Studio based practical classes
- Lectures and seminars
- Individual and group tutorials
- Tutor- and guest artist- led workshops
- Self-directed study
- Individual and group projects
- Self and peer feedback
- Hands-on practical task-based activities

Assessment

Overview

The CertHE Foundations of Musical Theatre is divided into three modules: *Skills and Techniques*, *Preparing to Audition*, and *Preparing to Perform*.

In the ***Skills and Techniques*** module, you will be assessed in the form of a mock audition on the development of your singing, dancing and acting skills and the submission of a Skills and Techniques portfolio which reflects on your progress.

For the ***Preparing to Audition Module*** assessment you will prepare and submit a portfolio of audition material designed to support your application for further study at Level 4-6. Your portfolio submission will be designed to support your learning by engaging you with preparatory and research activities including the development of audition repertoire.

Although the ***Preparing to Perform*** module will culminate in a number of public performances, only the rehearsal element of the module is formally assessed. Gratings are agreed between the Creative Team using formal assessment criteria. The rehearsal assessment will reflect your own and directed preparation; punctuality/time-keeping; the quality of your participation and contribution to ensemble; your adaptability and responsiveness to direction (from any of Creative Team).

You will receive regular formative feedback in class from teachers, and written feedback (including an indicative grading) following each formal assessment point.

A wide variety of assessment methods is used to reflect the diverse learning experiences you will encounter on the programme and to give you the opportunity to demonstrate your acquisition of a broad range of skills, knowledge and understanding in the depth necessary for you to become a rounded and versatile dance artist. These include:

- Practical tasks
- Performance presentations
- Rehearsal
- Research based academic writing
- Reflective writing

What do I have to do to pass?

To pass the year and receive a formal certificate of participation, you must satisfactorily PASS (40%) each of the modules that constitute the Programme. The mark awarded for each assessment will be based on the module-specific assessment criteria and the Institutional Generic Marking Criteria.

Failed assessments may be retrieved by resitting. The Assessment Board will determine resit opportunities and arrangements based on the Assessment Regulations for Taught Programmes.

Awards

This Programme of study leads to a Level 4 CertHE award. The CertHE is awarded without classification.

Admissions criteria

The programme is designed for less experienced students and those who wish to develop their skills before pursuing additional vocational training. A wide variety of candidates may find this programme to be suitable, for example: gap-year students preparing for entry to a conservatoire or university; those seeking to further develop their musical theatre skills before auditions; those wishing to consolidate their interest in musical theatre prior to university interviews; those seeking to develop their artistic identity whilst enjoying London's cultural scene; or those seeking to establish a more secure technique or understanding of the industry before making decisions about further study.

Trinity Laban places greater emphasis on its own auditions than on formal qualifications. As a guide, please note that the course is aimed at students considering entry to undergraduate study at conservatoire or university, and places are offered to candidates who demonstrate the potential to reach that level within the year. The audition for the CertHE Foundations of Musical Theatre takes the same form as the audition for the BA (Hons) Musical Theatre Performance degree, but the expected levels of attainment are different.

For students whose first language is not English, an English language assessment will be undertaken on application/audition, on the basis of which a recommendation for further study may be made. The normal minimum standard for entry to the programmes is IELTS 5.5 in all four areas. This is also the minimum requirement for Tier 4 student visas. Alternative English Language accreditation will be considered.

International students benefit from all the facilities and performance opportunities available at the Conservatoire and enjoy the unique experience of living and studying within our vibrant international community. Successful applicants will normally qualify for a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.

Careers

Trinity Laban's programmes of study include extensive preparation for a professional career in the performing arts; the CertHE programme provides an introduction to such vocational training. The career trajectory of an individual student will be (in part) determined by the type of degree programme s/he progresses to on completion of the CertHE programme.

Through our tutorial system, students receive regular advice from the Programme Leader on their potential next steps and the options available to them for further study, based on their interests and their strengths and weaknesses. Outside speakers are regularly invited to deliver sessions on a range of careers related topics.

It is anticipated that graduates from this programme will develop their career based on their subject area focus, most choosing to audition for further study on three-year courses. Students from this type of programme have gone on to perform, direct/choreograph, compose, write and to teach in schools, colleges and universities.