

# Zurich University of the Arts

## Master of Arts in Dance

### Degree Programme Regulations (DPR MDA)

13 December 2023

Based on § 2 para. 3 of the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Zurich University of the Arts of 2 November 2021, the University Board hereby decrees:

#### A. General Provisions

##### § 1. Subject

In addition to the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at ZHdK (RF), the Degree Programme Regulations (DPR) set out here govern the Master of Arts in Dance.

##### § 2. Programme Objective

<sup>1</sup> Depending on the major, the Master of Arts in Dance develops professional choreography skills or the ability to conduct training sessions and rehearsals in professional dance companies. Coursework enables students to implement their own artistic profile in practice, to apply diverse artistic modes of expression and to position themselves in the field of dance. Students learn how to purposefully plan and implement creative processes, to situate their own areas of activity in research contexts, to conceive and carry out their own research activities, to help shape current discourses, to organise and market their own work, to secure funding and to develop a sustainable professional practice.

<sup>2</sup> The master's programme leads to a professional qualification.

##### § 3. Majors in Dance

<sup>1</sup> The master's degree programme comprises two majors, each awarded 90 credits:

- a. Major in Choreography;
- b. Major in Teaching and Rehearsing Dance Professionals.

<sup>2</sup> The Annexes to these DPR describe the MA majors in Dance.

#### B. Admissions

##### § 4. Admissions

Programme admissions are governed by the provisions of the Regulatory Framework (RF).

##### § 5. Admissions Process and Entrance Examination Committee

<sup>1</sup> The admissions process comprises four stages:

- a. The University Office establishes whether applicants meet the University's admissions requirements (i.e. previous education, fulfilment of additional requirements, language proficiency and application documents);
- b. Applications are reviewed to verify whether applicants fulfil the admissions requirements for the subject-specific aptitude test;
- c. The Entrance Examination Committee verifies whether applicants fulfil the additional requirements and conducts the subject-specific aptitude test;
- d. Admissions decision.

<sup>2</sup> The Head of Programme appoints an Entrance Examination Committee, comprising at least one member of the teaching and research staff<sup>1</sup>, one expert, the head of major and the head of programme.

**§ 6. Additional Admissions Requirements**

To be admitted to the MA Major in Choreography and the Major in Teaching and Rehearsing Dance Professionals, applicants must hold:

- a. A bachelor's degree or an equivalent qualification in dance from a recognised or an accredited higher education institution or
- b. A bachelor's degree in another area of study such as the humanities, arts or cultural studies, natural sciences, economics and life sciences. Such candidates must demonstrate professional dance skills and relevant professional experience in dance, as well as high-level aesthetic, artistic or creative working methods.

**§ 7. Evidence of Language Proficiency**

<sup>1</sup> Students must provide evidence of an adequate knowledge of the English language.

<sup>2</sup> Students can demonstrate their adequate knowledge of English in one of the following ways:

- a. Native speaker;
- b. English as a subject that was examined as part of their previous education (passed or at least grade 4) or
- c. B2 certificate in English that was earned under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or
- d. A university degree (BA/MA) in a programme that was taught and examined in English.

<sup>3</sup> Proof of the required language skills can be provided in the first two semesters. In this case, programme admission is subject to students providing evidence of their language proficiency at the latest by the end of their second semester. Students who fail to meet the language requirements may be expelled.

**§ 8. Verification**

The University Office reviews the documents listed below to verify whether applicants meet the admissions requirements (previous education, additional requirements, language proficiency):

- a. Application form;
- b. CV;
- c. Digital documentation of artistic practice (visual material, links to published projects);
- d. Motivation letter;
- e. Bachelor's degree in accordance with the RF, as well as previous education certificates in accordance with the RF and overarching legislation.

**§ 9. Admission to Subject-Specific Aptitude Test**

Students who fulfil the requirements set out in § 8 and who have submitted the required application documents are admitted to the subject-specific aptitude test.

**§ 10. Subject-Specific Aptitude Test**

<sup>1</sup> The subject-specific aptitude test has two parts.

<sup>2</sup> The first part of the aptitude test involves the assessment of the application documents. The positive assessment of these documents is a prerequisite for applicants being invited to the second part of the aptitude test.

<sup>3</sup> The second part of the aptitude test comprises an admissions interview and a workshop lasting one or two days.

<sup>4</sup> Programme admission is subject to the positive overall assessment of the application documents and of candidates' performance at the subject-specific aptitude test.

<sup>5</sup> Candidates who fail their subject-specific aptitude test may repeat this only once for any degree programme.

**§ 11. Assessment Criteria**

The following criteria are used to assess candidate aptitude:

- a. Dance and artistic skills and potential;
- b. Motivation, interests, curiosity and work attitude;
- c. Independence and personal responsibility;
- d. Reflective thinking skills and self-competence;
- e. Team, communication and interpersonal skills;
- f. Relevance of candidates' artistic concerns and questions.

## **C. Student Performance**

### **§ 12. Credit Requirements**

The number of credits required to pass the majors in dance is stipulated in the respective programme structures (see Annexes).

### **§ 13. Assessment Criteria**

<sup>1</sup> The following criteria are used to assess student performance:

- a. Concept and goal;
- b. Artistic independence;
- c. Implementation of artistic projects;
- d. Profession-related and technical skills in theory and practice;
- e. Reflective thinking skills;
- f. Communication skills, transfer skills, teaching skills.

<sup>2</sup> These criteria are assessed in terms of the programme outcomes stipulated in the Annex.

## **D. Programme Organisation**

### **§ 14. Programme Interruption**

Students may interrupt their studies for no more than two consecutive semesters to ensure their previous achievements are fully credited when they resume their studies.

### **§ 15. Practical Experience (Internship)**

<sup>1</sup> In their final year, students should, whenever possible, gain practical experience in institutional dance companies, educational settings or projects.

<sup>2</sup> The Head of Programme must approve the type, content, duration and crediting of an internship prior to commencement.

<sup>3</sup> Internships are credited only if they meet the content and organisational requirements, which must be specified in a corresponding agreement.

<sup>4</sup> Students must arrange internships themselves.

## **E. Graduation**

### **§ 16. Graduation Requirements**

Students who wish to graduate with a master's degree in dance must complete at least three semesters of the Master of Arts in Dance at ZHdK. Exceptions may be granted in consultation with the Head of Programme.

### **§ 17. Major Graduation Requirements**

<sup>1</sup> Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Dance must fulfil the following requirements:

- a. Written master's thesis;
- b. Practical master's project.

<sup>2</sup> The Head of Programme appoints an Examination Committee, comprising the respective head of major and at least one expert.

<sup>3</sup> Students who wish to graduate from the MA Major in Dance must be awarded a "Pass" or at least a grade of 4.0.

<sup>4</sup> Students who are awarded a "Fail" or a grade below 4.0 may repeat their final examinations only once, at the next possible examination date.

## **F. Intellectual Property Rights**

### **§ 18. Copyright Ownership**

<sup>1</sup> Copyright in all inventions, designs and copyrighted works created in degree programmes is owned by ZHdK.

<sup>2</sup> ZHdK reserves the right to decide on the licensing and transfer of intellectual property rights.

### **§ 19. Production**

<sup>1</sup> The Head of Programme represents ZHdK in its functions as a producer.

<sup>2</sup> The responsibilities, rights and duties of students involved in project development are set out in the «Fact Sheet: Working in Project Modules» for the Master of Arts in Dance.

## **G. Final Provisions**

### **§ 20. Enactment**

<sup>1</sup> These Degree Programme Regulations were enacted on 1 February 2024.

<sup>2</sup> These Regulations apply to all students who enter their programme in the 2024/25 autumn semester or thereafter.

### **§ 21. Transitional Provision**

<sup>1</sup> Master's students who began their studies before the 2024/25 autumn semester will graduate from their programme in accordance with the Degree Programme Regulations for the ZHdK Master of Arts in Dance of 24 January 2018 and with the respective curricular concept.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with previous legislation, students must complete their degree programme before the end of the maximum period of study.

<sup>3</sup> Students who interrupt their studies are subject to the new legislation. The terms and conditions of resumption as well as the accreditation of previous achievements are governed by § 34 of the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Programmes.

---

<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the University Board of 16 October 2024. In Effect since 1 November 2024.

# Master of Arts in Dance

## Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

### Major in Choreography

**Level of Study:** Master

**Credits:** Major (90 Credits)

**Qualification:** «Master of Arts ZHdK in Dance with a Major in Choreography»

### Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will possess:

- Previous knowledge of and work experience in professional dance;
- First experiences in the field of choreography.

### Programme Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Be able to assert themselves in the field of dance based on their individual artistic profile, which they will be able to implement in practice;
- Possess in-depth dance skills and reflective thinking skills, in addition to which they will be able to assess, position and implement their personal aesthetics in the field of dance;
- Be able to purposefully plan and implement creative processes;
- Know their professional field and be able to shape it through their own work;
- Be able to communicate their work and contribute to current discourses as reflective practitioners;
- Be able to organise and market their work, secure funding and maintain a stable income.

### Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Choreography must earn at least 90 credits.	
In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below:	
Dance Reflection	min. 8 Credits from CE-Modules <sup>1</sup>
Communication	min. 8 Credits from CE-Modules <sup>1</sup>
Inbetween Arts	min. 6 Credits from CE-Modules
Project One	min. 12 Credits from C-Modules
Choreography Practice	min. 6 Credits from CE-Modules <sup>1</sup>
Artistic Investigation	min. 12 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 30 Credits from C-Modules

Key: C = Compulsory Module; CE = Compulsory Elective Module

### Enactment and Effectiveness

<sup>1</sup> This Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations was enacted on 1 February 2024. It was approved by the University Board on 13 December 2023.

<sup>2</sup> This Annex applies to all students who enter their programme in the 2024/25 autumn semester or thereafter.

<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the University Board of 14 January 2026. In Effect since 1 February 2026.

# Master of Arts in Dance

## Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

### Major in Teaching and Rehearsing Dance Professionals

**Level of Study:** Master

**Credits:** Major (90 Credits)

**Qualification:** «Master of Arts ZHdK in Dance with a Major in Teaching and Rehearsing Dance Professionals»

#### Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will possess:

- Previous knowledge of and work experience in professional dance;
- First experiences in conducting training sessions and rehearsals.

#### Programme Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Be able to assert themselves in the field of dance based on their individual teaching profile, which they will be able to implement in practice;
- Possess in-depth dance competencies and reflective thinking skills, in addition to which they will be able to assess, position and implement their teaching style in the field of dance;
- Be able to purposefully plan and implement creative processes;
- Know their professional field and be able to shape it through their own work;
- Be able to communicate their work and contribute to current discourses as reflective practitioners;
- Be able to organise and market their work, secure funding and maintain a stable income.

#### Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Teaching and Rehearsing Dance Professionals must earn at least 90 credits.	
In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below:	
Dance Reflection	min. 8 Credits from CE-Modules <sup>1</sup>
Communication	min. 8 Credits from CE-Modules <sup>1</sup>
Inbetween Arts	min. 6 Credits from CE-Modules
Project One	min. 12 Credits from C-Modules
Teaching Practice	min. 6 Credits from CE-Modules <sup>1</sup>
Artistic Investigation	min. 12 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 30 Credits from C-Modules

Key: C = Compulsory Module; CE = Compulsory Elective Module

#### Enactment and Effectiveness

<sup>1</sup> This Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations was enacted on 1 February 2024. It was approved by the University Board on 13 December 2023.

<sup>2</sup> This Annex applies to all students who enter their programme in the 2024/25 autumn or thereafter.

<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the University Board of 14 January 2026. In Effect since 1 February 2026.