



ENGLISH VERSION

MA in CONTEMPORARY DANCE PERFORMANCE

The first University Master's in Contemporary Dance Performance arrives in Italy, validated by the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) in Leeds (UK). A Master's programme in line with the standards of British higher education, an academic training model already recognised worldwide.

In the international dance landscape, the market increasingly requires certified, academically recognised programmes capable of guaranteeing dancers a solid, competitive education in line with international standards. Today, moreover, without an academic qualification in contemporary dance it is not possible to access teaching within the most prestigious international universities and academies. A higher academic education is no longer just an added value: it is the necessary condition for building a stable professional future, both as performers and as teachers.

Equilibrio Dinamico responds to this need by opening a pathway that unites training, creation and profession within a global horizon. A choice rooted in fifteen years of teaching experience, developed through exchanges, collaborations and an international vision of contemporary dance.

Choosing to create this Master's in Southern Italy is a culturally significant gesture. The South is a land that generates creative energy, relationships, humanity and community. Bari, in particular, over the years has won over international artists and choreographers: for its quality of life, for its rhythm that is not frenetic yet full of vitality; for that unique capacity to create authentic connections between art and territory. A city in which it is possible to study intensively but also to pause, discover, breathe and transform oneself: essential conditions for a programme of this level.

To this is added a group of teachers with important academic experience and international choreographers, figures who are active on major stages of global contemporary dance. The Master's will host first creations, re-stagings of works from prestigious repertoires, transmission practices and immersive creative processes. It offers a direct and concrete experience of the professional world, aimed at preparing dancers and future educators who are able to engage in dialogue with the whole world.

The study programme will be both practical and theoretical, with focuses dedicated to the history of dance and theatre, lighting design, dramaturgy, anatomy applied to dance, pedagogy and basic notions of performance legislation.

With this Master's, Equilibrio Dinamico opens a new chapter: a unique opportunity for Italian dancers, who can finally access in their own country a university education that is certified and recognised at international level, and a point of reference for foreign students, who will at last be able to choose Italy — and the South — as a privileged destination for their development. A place where training, creation and culture intertwine in a contemporary ecosystem that is open, inclusive and profoundly human.

We are proud to make all this happen, here and now.

In Italy.

In the South.

With our gaze directed towards the world.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Master's lasts one year, from October 2026 to July 2027, and is structured as a complete university pathway that integrates practical and theoretical training in a balanced way. The academic year is divided into three main modules, designed to accompany students on a progressive journey from technique to creation, up to the real experience of a company.

The first module is dedicated to daily study: classical dance for contemporary dancers, contemporary dance techniques, physical and holistic practices, somatic research, new languages of the body and experimental processes that reflect the trends and urgencies of the current scene. It is an intensive phase that allows students to build a strong technical and artistic foundation through encounters with different approaches, poetics and visions.

The second module is entirely devoted to choreographic residencies. For one month each, internationally acclaimed choreographers will be hosted by the Master's to create world premieres or re-stage works from the repertoires of prestigious European companies. This module allows students to enter the heart of authorial processes and to understand how a work is constructed, contributing to the transmission of contemporary repertory. It is an experience that takes place both in the studio and in the theatre, thanks to a lively dialogue with the Municipality of Bari.

The third module is dedicated to touring, offering students a real company experience. Performances in Italy and abroad are planned, through constant work on adapting to different contexts, managing performance stress, building differentiated warm-ups and gaining direct experience of triple-bill evenings.

It is a highly professional module, designed to prepare dancers for the real rhythm of the contemporary scene, with the valuable collaboration of Puglie Culture, a network for the promotion of live performance.

Throughout the year, students will be supported by an academic tutor, a physiotherapist and a counsellor, figures who offer continuous support on the physical, emotional and methodological levels. The Master's provides a library and a video library to support the development of the final thesis.

The discussion of the thesis, the final stage of the pathway, will take place in Italy, in front of the academic committee and company directors. The official graduation ceremony — with gown and cap, in keeping with British academic tradition — will be held in October 2027 at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds, symbolically celebrating the students' entry into the international academic community. This double step clearly and officially seals the full integration of the Master's within the international university system, enhancing both the link with Italy and the collaboration with one of the UK's most prestigious institutions.

There will also be Creative Weeks, periods dedicated to personal experimentation, in which students can explore their own identity, recognise their skills and deepen their imagery. The pathway also includes targeted training for professional preparation: drafting a CV, portfolio, professional photos and videos, motivational letter and support in identifying initial career directions.

Finally, thanks to the international network of the company and the Master's, students will have access to opportunities for study, exchange and dialogue with international companies, opening from the very start a concrete bridge towards the contemporary professional world.

WHO LEADS THE MASTER

The teachers of the Master's come from long experience in prestigious national and international institutions, bringing with them solid teaching practices, recognised artistic and intellectual skills and a deep knowledge of the contemporary landscape.

Many of them have worked as performers, pedagogues, researchers and choreographers within universities, companies and major choreographic centres, contributing to the development of performative and pedagogical practices at European level.

Their presence ensures up-to-date training, rooted in professional reality and capable of offering students a broad, rigorous approach that is deeply connected to the needs of contemporary dance and its future developments.

STUDYING IN PUGLIA

Here, before the text, a promotional video will appear that brings together dance and territory.

Choosing Puglia means choosing a land that lives in a rare balance between energy and stillness, between tradition and contemporaneity. Located in the heart of the Mediterranean, the region is a natural crossroads of cultures, landscapes and visions, a place capable of offering young people an authentic space in which to grow, study and reconnect.

The city of Bari, home of the Master's, is a culturally vibrant and deeply university-based reality.

It hosts several universities and important academic institutions, including:

- University of Bari "Aldo Moro", one of the main university hubs in Southern Italy, with faculties such as Humanities, Law, Education Sciences, Psychology, DAMS;
- Faculties of Medicine and Surgery and Veterinary Medicine, among the most solid and recognised;
- Polytechnic University of Bari, a centre of excellence in engineering, economics, architecture and design;
- "Niccolò Piccinni" Conservatoire of Music, an AFAM institution equivalent to a university and dedicated to higher music education;
- Academy of Fine Arts of Bari, an AFAM institution recognised as a university-level school for education in the visual and applied arts.

This rich presence of universities and higher education centres makes Bari a young, dynamic and stimulating city, where students experience a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment on a daily basis.

Bari is also a very active cultural centre:

it offers a wide network of theatres — such as Teatro Petruzzelli, Teatro Piccinni and Teatro Kismet — which host seasons of dance, music, opera and drama; numerous museums and cultural centres, including the Archaeological Museum of Santa Scolastica, the Civic Museum, Spazio Murat and the Swabian Castle; festivals and artistic programmes throughout the year, helping to create a fertile ecosystem for those studying live performance disciplines.

Here life flows at a different pace: more human, slower, better suited to supporting an intensive course of study without losing balance. It is a place where frenzy gives way to breathing space, and where it is possible to rediscover a sense of time that is often lost elsewhere.

The sea, nearby and ever-present, becomes a place of regeneration and listening. At the same time, natural parks and villages can be reached within a few kilometres, offering landscapes that broaden one's gaze and imagination.

Puglia offers a quality of life that supports study and research: affordable costs, a strong sense of community, a deeply rooted culture of hospitality. It is a region that invites you to inhabit your time, not to chase it.

For a dancer, all this means being able to develop deep research, to be permeated by the light, to work on one's own imagery and to build an artistic path without the pressure of large metropolises, but with the richness of a living, generous and culturally active territory.

In this sense, Puglia is a life choice: a place where studying also means learning to live with more presence, more awareness and more authenticity.

WHERE YOU WILL STUDY

The building that hosts the Master's has a clearly international vocation: a space conceived with a European outlook, where training, creation and production coexist organically.

The studios have been designed not only as dance studios but as real theatre spaces, equipped with licences for public performance and suitable for staging shows. This makes it possible to experience the stage from the inside, in an environment that hosts regular dance and theatre programming.

Inside the venue, students will also find a relaxation area dedicated to them, a place designed to facilitate study, rest and social interaction. There is also a space for meals, to support the most intense days in a practical and functional way. The building also houses a library and a video library, fundamental tools for research and for the lectures that complete the academic training.

One of the most valuable aspects of this environment is the possibility of living alongside the professional company Equilibrio Dinamico, a repertory company recognised by the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Puglia. During periods of creation, rehearsals, re-stagings and preparation for performances, students can observe the processes, breathe the atmosphere of professional work and directly understand the real functioning of a company. This contact makes the venue a living, dynamic place where the boundary between training and profession dissolves, offering students an immersive and authentic experience.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Roberta Ferrara: Artistic Director/Programme Director
Livia Massarelli: Programme Leader/Rehearsal Director
Luca Braccia: Research Module Leader
Beatrice Netti: Head of Student Support/Registrar's Office
Vincenzo Losito: General Manager/PR Manager
Claudio Carulli: Technical Manager
Damiana Chicco: Counselor
Claudia Milella: Physiotherapist
Franco Colamorea: Costume Designer
Stefano Sasso: Photographer/Videomaker

ENTRY CRITERIA AND HOW TO APPLY

Admission to the Master's is aimed at candidates with a basic training in dance and a defined professional orientation, but above all at those who wish to deepen, mature and transform their practice and artistic identity.

Who may apply?

- students holding a three-year Bachelor's degree, preferably in literary, artistic or related disciplines;

- dancers with proven professional experience in the field of contemporary dance;
- candidates with references from recognised institutions such as international pre-professional programmes, dance universities, young companies or choreographic centres.

Application Requirements

Admission will take place through a clear [procedure](#) accessible to all students, regardless of origin.

Applicants will be asked for:

- an improvisation video lasting two and a half minutes, allowing the panel to assess stage presence, movement quality, listening and artistic identity;
- the completion of a biography or CV, needed to understand the educational pathway and previous experiences;
- a motivational letter through which candidates can express their intentions, vision and objectives in relation to the Master's and their professional development.

All materials will be assessed by the artistic and academic direction of the Master's, which will select the profiles most suited to undertaking this international university pathway.

Applications will remain open until 1 June 2026, unless the maximum number of available places is reached earlier. If places are filled before the deadline, admissions will close in advance.

It will be possible to take part in various open days in the form of workshop/auditions held in Europe, America and Asia. For further details it will be necessary to contact the office. The dates will be online together with any forms to be completed.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The Master's is delivered in English. For this reason, students are required to have an English language certificate at B2 level (CEFR) or equivalent.

Candidates who do not yet have the certificate may obtain it during the Master's, on condition that the related proof is presented by 1 March 2027; it is required for the final examination, for the thesis itself and for the awarding of the Master's degree. This certification is at the student's expense. The Master's provides access to native-speaker teachers, with whom Equilibrio Dinamico has already collaborated, for obtaining the certificate.

During the programme, if guest teachers speak other languages, an interpreter will be provided to ensure full accessibility and understanding of the activities.

ACCOMMODATION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

The Master's provides a dedicated support service for accommodation search, designed to facilitate students' arrival and settling in the city. A reference tutor will accompany dancers in choosing their housing, putting them in contact with various solutions available in the area.

Students will be able to choose between:

- shared apartments with other Master's students;
- single rooms in shared flats;
- various options recommended by the tutor, selected according to budget, personal preferences and convenience of transport links.

Although accommodation near the venue is preferable, apartments located in more distant areas can also be considered.

The Equilibrio Dinamico venue is located close to Bari Brigata station and is therefore easily reachable both by train and by urban public transport, making travel convenient even from other districts of the city or neighbouring towns.

The tutor will offer personalised guidance, suggesting the most suitable neighbourhoods, providing contacts and facilitating the first dialogue with landlords, agencies or future flatmates.

The aim is to guarantee students a smooth arrival in their new living environment and stable, comfortable housing that supports their studies.

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Candidates are invited to carefully consult the [relevant section](#) in order to obtain a clear overview of the costs, deadlines, and available opportunities.

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