

Q&A document | Master Choreography

Why should I do this programme? What makes this degree special?

Firstly, this degree offers you, an unusual level of autonomy and flexibility in designing your path towards a master's qualification, allowing you the time and space you need and want to invest in *your* artistic research.

Practically you get a master's qualification with the depth of results, sense of artistic identity and communicative skills that result from carrying out long term artistic research in a rich and supportive environment. This set of tools and qualification is something that is valued by arts colleges and universities where a masters degree is increasingly a requirement but most importantly by the working field where the ability to work from a process driven approach is key to finding funding and fulfilling the potential of any cultural context.

Another exceptional feature of this programme is that it brings together experts from three different movement based disciplines establishing a challenging context that will help you to expand your outlook and improve your ability to position yourself in an emerging interdisciplinary market.

Finally we all know that no one in the movement field makes successful work on their own and the way that you interact with significant stake-holders can determine whether you succeed or fail on a number of levels. The learning activities of this programme put emphasis on increasing your sensitivity to, and skills around, this aspect of your practice.

In short this degree will speak to your potential as a creative artist and help you to forge a more relevant and vibrant working environment in the future.

Will I still be able to work while doing this programme?

Yes the two-week intensives, scheduled 3 times a year, are intended to allow you the space to continue to pursue your work outside of these blocks. Of course you will also have to make time for reading, carrying out assignments, and working towards your final project. Have a look at the 'amount of work' question below for more specific information.

How will my current areas of expertise and interest be supported by this programme?

The flexibility in the creation and direction of assignments means that you and your coach will work together to ensure that the work you do is appropriate to your discipline related interests and research question. At the same time interaction with makers from other fields will help you think innovatively about the choices you make whether as a movement expert or a future leader in the field.

What resources will be available to me?

During intensives studio, circus and in-house theatre spaces will be made available as is appropriate to particular modules or assignments. You will also have access to the resources of the mediatheek (library) at both FHK and Codarts. In these libraries there is a wide range of theoretical resources including music, dvds, specialist books and journals in dance, dance pedagogy, theatre studies, dance therapy and other artistic disciplines. Outside the intensive blocks you will use a digital learning platform where you can easily keep in contact with your coach and fellow students, build your portfolio and access an archive of specialist lectures and research literature.

How much work will I have to do?

The programme consists of 90 European Credits (EC). These credits are achieved over the 2 years of the programme. A single EC is calculated as 28 hours of time. 40% of these hours will be spent on the development and production of a final creative project and approximately 20% on the supporting research thesis. The rest of the credits are achieved during activities carried out *in* the intensives (25%) and learning activities that need to be finished *in between* intensives (15%). All evaluated components are placed in a portfolio that helps the student and their coach track their process towards achieving the final competences and allows examiners to interrogate the process of artistic research that the student has been involved in.

What extra costs may be involved?

For students within commuting distance of Tilburg and Rotterdam extra costs will be relatively low. International Students will have to budget for accommodation costs as well as travel costs to and from the Netherlands. See question about studying in two cities below.

Where will it take place?

Intensives will be split between the FHK Fontys buildings in Tilburg and the Codarts facilities in Rotterdam, these include both the separate circus buildings and the main campus buildings all of which are easily accessible by public transport.

As an international student how will I manage studying in two cities? How will I find somewhere to live during the intensives?

Short term letting sites such as Pararius or Airbnb offer cost effective flexible accommodation that will allow you to find somewhere to live in the appropriate city for the appropriate dates. This type of rental can range from between 35 to 75 euros a night depending on the level of privacy and comfort you are looking for. The train between Rotterdam and Tilburg takes 42 minutes and costs around 13 euros one way without a discount card.

Who will the teachers be?

Teachers on the programme will come from a wide variety of fields including circus, dance and community arts and will include practitioners in the field as well as experts who will help you develop skills in how to investigate, contextualize and communicate your practice. Names of teachers will be publicized on the website as soon as they are officially engaged by the core team. In addition to teachers, coaches will play an important role in guiding students and designing their individual trajectory through the programme. Coaches will be fixed after students are registered on the programme so that a good match can be made.

Will I have to take tests?

No, not in the traditional sense. There will be a competence test in which examiners will ask you discuss assignments that have been placed into your portfolio. This is in order to determine whether you have achieved the particular learning outcomes at the end of the first and second years. You will also have to orally defend your final creative project and thesis but this is not a traditional test.

How much writing will I have to do?

The focus of the programme is on embodied learning, however over the 2 years of the programme you will be expected to write 2 essays and your thesis. All written assignments will be in English. Next to this academic style writing you will also need to produce more informal reflections, react to online blogs, experiment with creative writing and archiving techniques, annotate interviews and develop a personal artistic manifesto. The skills involved with all of this will be introduced during the intensives and you will have access to online tutorials. Depending on your previous academic background you may also be assigned an academic coach who will track your process and offer assistance where needed. The guiding principle of the programme is not to exclude anyone on the basis of academic experience but to offer everyone the benefits of engaging in different ways of thinking and communicating about their practice.