



DEPARTMENT OF WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES/DANCE
Master of Fine Arts in Dance – For Fall 2017 Admission

Dear Graduate Applicant,

We are happy that you have chosen to apply to our Master of Fine Arts in Dance program, with an emphasis on choreography, in the Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance at UCLA. The MFA program in Dance provides a unique emphasis on the ethics and aesthetics of art-making, exploring the cultural and political issues that arise for any contemporary artist, especially with regards to interculturality and interdisciplinarity. Our MFA is organized around a series of intensive courses in which students are encouraged to develop an individual artistic ‘voice,’ to create innovative and challenging work, and to explore the relationship between intuition and analysis, politics and performance. The faculty’s goal is to identify an entering group of students with diverse interests, experiences, and movement practices who would benefit from our department’s mission.

The application process has two phases. In order to complete Phase 1 of the admissions application for the MFA in Dance, you will need to complete the UCLA Application for Graduate Admission (www.gradadmissions.ucla.edu), which includes a section to submit the “Experiential Background Questionnaire.” If you are selected to continue to Phase 2 of the application process, you will be invited to participate in an audition either in person or by video. Information regarding supplemental material, as well as the audition, can be found in this document. Please use this document to complete the “Experiential Background Questionnaire” to upload to your online application.

The deadline for Phase 1 of the application process is **November 1**. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact our Student Affairs Officer, Hayley Safonov, hsafonov@arts.ucla.edu.

Most sincerely,

Lionel Popkin, Chair
David Delgado Shorter, Vice Chair, Graduate Affairs
UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance



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Application Checklist

This list does not have to be included with your supplemental materials; rather, it is provided for you to help organize your application.

_____ Experiential Background Questionnaire, which includes:

_____ Cover Sheet

_____ Questionnaire

_____ Videos of work (2 original pieces: (1) video solo, (2) group)

_____ Audition Response Form (if invited)

_____ Written statement on choreographic material submitted in application

_____ Official Bachelor's Degree Transcript and any additional transcripts showing work completed at other higher education institutions (must be sent in a sealed envelope by the institution or the transcripts will not be accepted; international students are also required to send degree certificates and English translations of transcripts and degree certificates sent from their institutions)

_____ Statement of Purpose

_____ 3 Letters of Recommendation

_____ International applicants only: Passing TOEFL or IELTS scores (official scores mailed to department by the testing agency by December 30)

Questions or concerns? Contact Hayley Safonov, hsafonov@arts.ucla.edu



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EXPERIENTIAL BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

Although a bachelor's degree is required for graduate admission, the degree need not be in dance. Your experience may have been gained outside the academic setting through such avenues as public performance, or private dance studies. Other experiences that might prepare you for World Arts and Cultures/Dance could include involvement in production; community/site-specific based work; studies in the arts, humanities, and social sciences; and/or community service. In order to assist us in assessing your background, please complete the following form. Applicants are recommended to obtain dance experiences after receiving their bachelor's degree and before starting the MFA program.

Under each heading, we ask that you identify any learning experience you may have had that fulfills that description. If you have no experience in a particular area, you may leave that section blank. The final paragraph may be used to describe other related experiences which you feel have prepared you for this degree program.

Full Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Undergraduate Major Degree: _____ Date received: _____

Undergraduate degree from: _____ Overall GPA: _____

TOEFL score (if applicable): _____

I. DANCE TECHNIQUE

Experiences in a movement practice from beginning to intermediate/advanced levels, western and/or nonwestern movement forms, movement analysis, anatomy; somatic training.

II. CHOREOGRAPHY

Experiences in beginning to intermediate/advanced levels of improvisational skills, choreographic studies (including solo and/or group work), use of music, and use of varied performing spaces.

III. DANCE STUDIES

Experience in critical analysis of dance as a creative experience, historical perspectives, dance criticism, dance education, etc. Academic work in areas relevant to the study of dance and performance in cultural context (e.g. anthropology, art history, ethnomusicology, gender studies, psychology, sociology, queer studies, women studies, studies of specific world cultures, etc.).

IV. PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Experience in the producing aspect of performance, including costuming, lighting, set design, stage managing, budget preparation, etc.

V. OTHER CREATIVE/ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Training and/or creative activity in other fields of the arts (for example, theater, visual and plastic arts, creative writing, music, video, film, and digital arts).

VI. COMMUNITY SERVICE/OUTREACH

Practical/applied work in the public or private sectors, including internship experience, volunteer work in the community, etc.

VII. OTHER EXPERIENCE

Any additional information you feel relevant to your experiential background.

PRIVACY NOTICE: The California Information Privacy Act requires the University to list the following information for individuals who are asked to provide information about themselves.

1. The principal purpose for requesting the enclosed information is to consider your application for admission to World Arts and Cultures/Dance at UCLA.
2. This information is solicited in accordance with University policy, adopted pursuant to Article IX, Section 9, of the California Constitution.
3. Failure to furnish each item of information will delay or may prevent completion of the purpose for which this questionnaire is intended.
4. Information furnished in this questionnaire may be used by various University departments and may be transmitted to State and Federal government agencies if required by law.
5. This questionnaire is maintained by the Counselor for the Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance, UCLA, 148 Kaufman Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1608.



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PHASE 1 of the admissions process includes submission of two samples of your choreographic work:

The faculty will assess your movement skill and creative/performance work, academic work, and prior experience. The choreography presented should show a range of approaches to movement, thematic development, and originality of ideas. One should be a group piece (trio or larger). It is preferred that one piece not include you as a performer. Approximately 10-15 minutes of work total should be submitted.

The **two** works should be uploaded to either Vimeo or YouTube. Please provide us with the direct links for your videos. If your videos are password protected, please provide us with the passwords. Please test your videos before you send us the links. We no longer accept DVDs or individual video files. If Vimeo or YouTube are not available in your geographic region, please contact the Department for further instructions: hsafonov@arts.ucla.edu.

Video submissions should show clips that are well lit, with clear picture quality and steady cameras. Capturing full body movement with full choreographic intent should be the goal of the presentation. Aim for minimal video editing or special effects, unless the clip was created with the intent of a 'Dance for Camera.'

A **written statement** concerning all the choreography you are submitting should accompany your video presentation of work. Please write no more than one page and upload the document onto the "World Arts and Cultures/Dance" section of your online application. Briefly summarize your approach to your choreography. This could include personal processes in creating your works, aesthetic values, dance idea(s), influences, choreographic interests, political concerns, and the context in which you made the work and/or motivations. The statement should include the titles of the works, composer(s) of the music/sound (if any), and any other credits as needed. Please include brief information about the performers (i.e. a high school group for whom you choreographed, dance students, freelance professional dancers, or a company you worked with, etc.), and indicate if you are a performer in the group.

Provide video link: _____ **Provide password:** _____

Provide video link: _____ **Provide password:** _____

PHASE 2 of the admissions process: After the initial review of your application you will be informed by December 8 if you are invited to attend the in-person/live audition in January, scheduled for January 13, 2017.

For applicants who will attend the live audition:

The faculty will assess your movement skill and creative/performance work, and includes an in-person interview. The choreography presented should show a range of approaches to movement, thematic development, and originality of ideas.

At the audition, present **one** live solo performance (approx. 3-4 min). If you plan to bring music for your audition, the department will provide speakers with .mp3 ports (3.5 mm headphone jack) and a CD player for your use. If you use live music accompaniment, please make your own arrangements.

****For applicants who are invited to participate in Phase 2 of the application process but cannot attend the live audition at UCLA: you may submit an additional video work sample (see below).**

Instructions for additional video work sample (only if you cannot attend live audition for Phase 2):

Facing the camera, introduce yourself and give a brief description and title of the piece(s) and the title and composer of the music (if any), and/or any additional credits. Work sample should be 5-7 minutes in length and should begin at the point you want the faculty to consider. This work sample should best represent an expanded view of your choreographic range and technical proficiency.

Upload the piece to either Vimeo or YouTube. Please provide us with the direct link for your video. If your video is password protected, please provide us with the password. Please test your video before you send us the link. We no longer accept DVDs or individual video files. If Vimeo or YouTube are not available in your geographic region, please contact the Department for further instructions: hsafonov@arts.ucla.edu.

As with Phase 1, a written statement concerning the choreography you are submitting should accompany your additional video work sample. Please write no more than one page and upload the document onto the "World Arts and Cultures/Dance" section of your online application. Briefly summarize your approach to your choreography. This could include personal processes in creating your works, aesthetic values, dance idea(s), influences, choreographic interests, political concerns, and the context in which you made the work and/or motivations. The statement should include the titles of the works, composer(s) of the music/sound (if any), and any other credits as needed. Please include brief information about the performers (i.e. a high school group for whom you choreographed, dance students, freelance professional dancers, or a company you worked with, etc.), and indicate if you are a performer in the group.

Provide the URL and password, if any, for your additional video work sample:

Video link: _____ **Provide password:** _____

Phase 2 applicants who are not able to attend the live audition will be contacted by the Department to schedule a Skype interview with the MFA faculty. This would take place at or around the time of the in-person/live audition date.



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PHASE 2: INVITED AUDITION INFORMATION

The audition will be **Friday, January 13, 2017**. Please arrive promptly at Kaufman Hall by 8:00 AM (PST). The day's schedule will include:

- (1) A warm-up (prior to the composition / improvisation session)
- (2) A composition / improvisation session
- (3) Individual showing of work (please refer to the enclosed guidelines)
- (4) Faculty Interview

The interview provides the opportunity for faculty members to get to know you, your needs, and your interests. You will be meeting with one or two faculty members. This is also a time for you to get more detailed information about our program, and to determine if your needs and expectations will be met at UCLA. Interviews last about twenty minutes.

We will also provide lunch for you, at which time you will have the opportunity to informally speak with faculty and students currently enrolled in the major.

Please note that although the faculty will be occupied throughout the day, there may be pockets of time when you will be waiting for the next part of the screening process. We will have materials (videos and publications) available for you to view. Current students will also be available for you to talk to.

Directions to World Arts and Cultures/Dance

The closest entrance to Kaufman Hall is off Sunset Blvd. at Westwood. It's a signaled entrance onto campus. Shortly after you turn onto campus, you will see a driveway that leads into an underground parking lot (lot #4). If you look to your left as you go down the driveway, you will be looking at Kaufman Hall. Parking is \$12 for the day.

UCLA Campus Map: www.ucla.edu/map

*We recommend using the UCLA Campus Map for orientation. Google Maps and GPS often display incorrect information.

For more information, including lodging for travelers:

UCLA Visitor Information: <http://www.ucla.edu/audience/visitors.html>

UCLA Community Housing Office: www.cho.ucla.edu



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PHASE 2 INVITED AUDITION INFORMATION: AUDITION RESPONSE FORM. *Upon receipt of an invitation to attend, please complete and return this form to hsafonov@arts.ucla.edu.*

FULL NAME _____

PHONE _____

(DAY)

/ _____
(EVE)

EMAIL _____

- I CAN ATTEND THE AUDITION ON **FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017** _____

We would like to provide the proper flooring surface for your audition. ***Will you be wearing shoes for your individual performance?***

____ No

____ Yes - type of shoe _____

- I WILL BE AUDITIONING BY VIDEO _____

Provide video link: _____ Provide password: _____