Dance

About this area of study

Dance is a very dynamic part of Australian performing arts culture. It can provide a rich performance experience, merging the imagination and skill of choreographers, dancers, composers, and musicians. In addition to this, people work in dance as community dance practitioners, teachers, promoters, managers, producers, designers, publicists, technicians, physiotherapists, medical and alternative practitioners, therapists, writers and academics.

Dance also plays a central or supporting role in commercial and performing art such as musicals, and in opera, film, television, live music and video, corporate events, variety shows, clubs and many other industries.

There are numerous dance companies in Australia, including national and state troupes. You will need to be equipped to initiate independent projects, particularly working across disciplines. Dance teachers in the school system and in private studios are also in strong demand.

It is unlikely that a graduate in a subject other than dance and with little involvement in dance would be able to enter a dancing career, even in an administrative capacity. That said entry without a degree or vocational study in dance is sometimes possible, as long as experience and skill can be demonstrated.

Courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Creative Arts (Dance)
- Bachelor of Arts (Dance)
- Bachelor of Film and Digital Media (Dance as a minor sequence)

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

Choreographer

A choreographer creates original dances and dance programs and offers suggestions as to how the dancer should interpret and perform them.

Dance teacher

A dance teacher may teach in their area of specialisation in private dance studios, or they may own and run their own dancing schools. Dancers with appropriate qualifications can teach in secondary schools or tertiary institutions.

Dance therapist

A dance therapist is specially trained to use dance as part of a therapy program. These programs are used for a wide range of people, including the elderly, children and adults with special needs or specific movement disabilities.

Actor

Actors portray characters in live and recorded or filmed productions. In the live performance area, an actor may perform in theatre, opera or variety. In the recorded medium, an actor may perform roles in theatre, film, radio or television, or commercials.

An industry career profile, salary and other employment information can be obtained from the My Future website www.myfuture.edu.au

Descriptions of occupations can be found at The Job Guide www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

Employers

Melbourne Theatre Company www.mtc.com.au

Arena Theatre www.arenatheatre.com.au

Melbourne Playback www.melbourneplayback.com.au

Somebody's Daughter Theatre www.somebodysdaughtertheatre.com

Tas Dance www.tasdance.com.au

The Dance Works www.thedanceworks.com.au

Chunky Move www.chunkymove.com

Kage Physical Theatre www.kagephysicaltheatre.com

Fox Studios Australia www.foxstudiosaustralia.com

Roving Enterprises www.rovingenterprises.com

Fremantle Media www.fremantlemedia.com.au

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites

Deakin University Jobshop www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Arts Hub www.artshub.com.au

Graduate Opportunities www.graduateopportunities.com

Uni Grad www.unigrad.com.au

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Career One www.careerone.com.au

Professional associations

Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres www.vapac.org.au

Australian Major Performing Arts Group www.ampag.com.au

Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance www.alliance.org.au

Regional Arts Australia www.regionalarts.com.au

Australian Government Culture and Recreation Portal www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au

Australian Dance Council www.ausdance.org.au

Australia Council for the Arts www.australiacouncil.gov.au

Dance-Movement Therapy Association of Australia www.dtaa.org

Australia Art Directory www.art-search.com.au