

MODULE SPECIFICATION

1. KentVision Code and title of the module

NCA101 Circus Discipline 1

2. Division and School/Department or partner institution responsible for the module

National Centre for Circus Arts

3. The level of the module

Level 4

4. The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

60 credits (30 ECTS)

5. Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)

Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms

6. Delivery of the module

6.1. Mode of study

In person

6.2. Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered

National Centre for Circus Arts

7. Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any module restrictions

n/a

8. The course(s) of study to which the module contributes

BA (Hons) in Circus Arts

8.1. The module is compulsory for the following courses

BA (Hons) in Circus Arts

8.2. The module is optional for the following courses

n/a

9. A synopsis of the curriculum

This holistic module is the backbone of the first year of the Foundation Degree, with work undertaken in each term preparing the students stage by stage for future development on the course.

In the Autumn Term (Term 1) students will look at the expectations of the course and be provided with the fundamental tools and basic principles of circus training and be

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introduced to the process of self-assessment with regards to physical preparation and pedagogy. Alongside specific circus training introducing students to a range of disciplines (discipline trial sessions), students will attend lesson in Anatomy and Physiology, biomechanics and a range of supplementary classes such as Pilates, Condition, Trampolining and Acrobatics. Students will begin devising a warm up/cool down or conditioning plan that will be delivered to students in term 2 to assess their understanding of physical preparation.

In the Spring Term (Term 2) students will begin training in their chosen discipline selected from the previous terms discipline trial sessions. Students will work with a teacher in scheduled classes and be allocated independent practice time where they will hone their skills in autonomous learning. Students will continue to have lectures in Anatomy and Physiology as well as attending supplementary classes that best compliment their chosen discipline (e.g. handstands, acrobatics, trampoline, Pilates etc.) these will assist the student in the progression of their discipline by helping them to develop physically (e.g. core control, alignment, posture, line, timing, dynamics etc.)

The Summer Term (Term 3) will be a continuation of term 2 with a focus on the development of the students independent training practices, students will also begin to synthesize the skills they are learning in performance modules and applying them to their technical training. Students are assessed on both their technical progress in their discipline during the summer term and their approach to their discipline training (or professional practice). The latter will take into account their engagement, attendance and management of their training in both discipline and supplementary classes as well as their ability to work independently outside of teacher led classes, skills which are essential to the development of a professional circus artist and key to their progression through the course.

10. Contact Hours

Private Study: 300 hours

Contact Hours: 300 hours

Total: 600 hours

11. Learning and teaching methods

This module will be delivered via studio based physical coaching lessons, lectures and seminars.

12. The intended subject specific learning outcomes

On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

12.1 An understanding of Anatomy and Physiology related to the demands of the physical outputs connected with circus.

12.2 Apply concepts of physical preparation to their chosen discipline, including Warm up/cool down, mobility and conditioning, physical maintenance, injury prevention (prehab) and rehabilitation.

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12.3 Understand how the biomechanics of their chosen discipline can be applied directly to skill progression.

12.4 Develop kinaesthetic, proprioceptive and spatial awareness commensurate with their discipline choice.

12.5 Understand the importance of independent training and self-led practice to complement tutor led sessions and ensure continued progression.

12.6 Understand the essential safety protocols related to specific circus disciplines.

12.7 Understand the fundamental principles of specific circus discipline training.

13. The intended generic learning outcomes

On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

13.1 Demonstrate understanding of professional conduct in a creative environment

13.2 Work productively with others to achieve common goals

13.3 Respond to feedback and use it to adjust their work.

13.4 Demonstrate the levels of engagement required in high level training in preparation for the profession, including attendance, punctuality, and engagement

13.5 Maintain concentration and focus for extended periods

14. Assessment Strategy

14.1. Main assessment methods

Assessment of the Module is split over 3 terms, with students receiving 1 grade for each term. The final module grade is reached through aggregating these 3 grades based on the weightings below.

Autumn term assessment: 33.3% of overall module grade.

Continuous assessment of progress in supplementary classes: 50% of grade for term

Continuous assessment of Professional Practice: 50% of grade for term

Spring term assessment 33.3% of overall module grade.

Continuous assessment of progress in supplementary classes: 50% of grade for term

Continuous assessment of Professional Practice: 50% of grade for term

Summer term assessment 33.3% of overall module grade.

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Continuous assessment of progress in discipline and supplementary classes: 50% of grade for term

Continuous assessment of professional practice: 50% of grade for term

How the assessment methods outlined above fit with the course assessment strategy?

Continuous Assessment of Progress in Discipline and Supplementary Classes (50% of the grade for the term)

This aligns with NCCA's assessment strategy with emphasis on practical performances and diverse assessment methods. Regular practical assessments ensure continuous monitoring of students' technical proficiency and creativity, promoting ongoing development.

Incorporating continuous assessment accommodates different learning styles and provides a fair representation of students' progress over time.

Continuous assessment allows for timely feedback and emphasised in the strategy, swift and constructive feedback after each lesson can guide improvement and facilitate continuous learning.

Continuous Assessment of Professional Practice (50% of the grade for the term)

This assessment method corresponds to the practical performances and problem-solving projects outlined in the strategy. It evaluates students' ability to apply knowledge and skill to real-world challenges in the circus profession, contributing to authenticity and alignment with academic and industry standards. Continuous assessment in professional practice allows for ongoing feedback, enabling students to understand expectations and make improvements throughout the year.

The continuous assessment methods for progress in discipline and professional practice are well aligned with the NCCA's assessment strategy. They contribute to a dynamic, inclusive and supportive learning environment, fostering students' achievement of their full potential.

15. Mapping of Learning Outcomes

Map of module learning outcomes (sections 12 & 13) to learning and teaching methods (section 11) and methods of assessment (section 14).

15.1. Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods

Module learning outcome	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	13.1	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.5	13.6
Private Study				x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
Contact hours Studio Based	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

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Module learning outcome	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	13.1	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.5	13.6
<i>Tutor-Led Sessions</i>													
<i>lectures</i>	x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x

15.2. Module learning outcomes against assessment methods

Module learning outcome	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	13.1	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.5	13.6
<i>Continuous Assessment of Progress</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						
<i>Continuous Assessment of Professionalism</i>								x	x	x	x	x	x

Both *Continuous Assessment of Process* and *Continuous Assessment of Professionalism* must be passed in order to pass this module.

16. Reading list

NCCA is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are available in the NCCA library or in electronic format available on Microsoft Teams.

The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the specific module Channel in TEAMS.

Demey, S & Wellington, J., *Theory, Guidance & good Practice for Training*, FEDEC, 2010
<http://www.fedec.eu/file/248/download>

Students are encouraged to watch as much circus related material as possible. The Following Links are recommended (list not exhaustive)

FEDEC: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSFIKngz_srmWjK5sFgGW3Q/videos

FEDEC RESOURCES: <https://www.fedec.eu/en/resources/>

National Centre for Circus Arts: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CircusSpaceLondon>

École National de Cirque (Montreal): <https://www.youtube.com/c/ecolenationaledecirque>

Cirque Eloize: <https://www.youtube.com/@cirqueeloize>

The Gandinis: <https://www.youtube.com/@gandinijuggling>

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Barely Methodical Troupe: <https://www.youtube.com/@barelymethodicaltroupe1744>

Complicite: <https://www.youtube.com/@CompliciteCompany/videos>

DV8: <https://www.youtube.com/@DV8PhysicalTheatre/videos>

17. Inclusive module design

The National Centre for Circus Arts recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

- a) Accessible resources and curriculum
- b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

18. Partner College/Validated Institution

National Centre for Circus Arts

19. University Division responsible for the course

Division of Arts and Humanities

MODULE RECORD

All revisions for this module are recorded in the table below for student and staff information.

Date approved	New/ Material/ Major/ Minor revision	Start date of delivery of this version	Applies to new cohorts and/ or existing students	Sections revised (if applicable)