

COURSE INFORMATION

2017

Welcome

Thank you for considering training with Principal Academy.

Principal Academy of Dance and Theatre Arts encourages a life-long commitment to the performing arts. It provides rigorous, unsurpassed training to career-focused aspiring performers.

Principal Academy courses are tailored to provide students with the technical and performance skills necessary to reach their full potential. Students have the option to major in dance, musical theatre or acting, choosing a path that builds on existing abilities. Courses are designed to ultimately strengthen all three disciplines to produce true “triple-threat” performers. A comprehensive range of units is available within the structure of each course, creating highly skilled and versatile graduates, armed with a valuable competitive advantage when entering the industry. Thanks to this approach, previous graduates have forged successful careers in musical theatre, touring productions, cruise ships, film and television.

Principal Academy is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) registered in Western Australia through the Training Accreditation Council (TAC). Training Services provided to students follow the policies and procedures developed to meet the National Training Framework and the Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisations (SNR). The Academy offers full & part-time courses, which include the following:

- Advanced Diploma of Performing Arts - 52749WA
- Diploma of Performing Arts - 52748WA
- Certificate IV in Dance Teaching & Management - CUACUA40211
- Certificate III in Dance - CUA30111
- Certificate II in Dance - CUA20111

Full-Time Study

The Advanced Diploma and Diploma of Performing Arts full-time courses commence in February and conclude in December. They are both delivered face to face at Principal Academy studios from Monday to Friday with approximately 40 hours contact time per week over 38 weeks.

Students will be provided with access to industry professionals and a full set of learning and assessment resources. Students will enhance and refine performance technique through an intensive curriculum that focuses on dance, musical theatre, acting, improvisation, and vocal skills. Principal Academy understands that the modern performing arts industry demands highly versatile and adaptable artists. Being skilled in multiple areas increases career opportunities, and we aim to give students every advantage when it comes to securing valuable and rewarding employment.

The Academy stages a mid-year performance, a full-scale musical or cabaret along with an end-of-year gala performance each academic year. These are presented in a professional theatre venue to ensure students not only enjoy performance opportunities but gain valuable insights into the working life within a professional environment. Each show incorporates multiple performances to mimic the demands placed upon performers when they are cast in a professional production.

Part-Time Study

The part-time certificate courses commence in February and conclude in October. Students will be required to attend sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 4.30pm - 7.30pm. In addition, all part-time students will be required to attend additional hours during production weeks. (See Semester dates for times)

Enrolling in a Course

To be accepted into any course offered at the Academy, you will need to complete the audition application form. Once this is received and checked by administration, you will be invited to attend an audition to determine your current level of expertise. If successful you will be issued an “Offer of Acceptance”. When Principal Academy receives your completed offer, you will be notified of the mandatory orientation and first training session.

Orientation

Upon acceptance into the Academy and one week prior to the first training day, all students are required to attend a mandatory Orientation information session about the course in which has been chosen and the enrollment procedures. This is also an opportunity for students to make themselves comfortable with the training environment and to answer any questions that may arise. This session will cover the following:

- Course overview
- Undertaking the training program
- Course timetable
- Assessment procedures
- OHS procedures
- Receive relevant documentation and forms
- Information on the enrolment process

Student Selection

Principal Academy is committed to ensuring that all student selection processes are fair, equitable and consistent with workplace performance, competency level and the course or training package requirements. Therefore selection into a course is based upon the applicant:

- Satisfying residency requirements
- Meeting any pre-requisite qualifications or experience
- Meeting any age requirements that may be in place
- Assessing level of language, literacy and numeracy
- Applied in the prescribed manner
- Meets the selection requirements for the relevant course
- Submitted accurate personal and previous qualification information

Getting help

At Principal Academy your Trainers and Assessors are your best support. If you are in need of some support please speak to them. Principal Academy can also arrange the following:

- Free studio use when available, during opening hours
- Assistance with injuries and private tuition where applicable
- Support for those that are experiencing concerns or difficulties relating to any part of the training
- Assistance with Language, Literacy and Numeracy skills (LLN)
- External counseling

Course Structure

Below is an overview of each course, for a more detailed outline including a full list of units contained in each qualification, please e-mail administration.

Advanced Diploma of Performing Arts - 52749WA

The one-year full-time course comprises of 4 core units and 10 electives (14 units in total).

Achievement at this level reflects the ways in which students have acquired a comprehensive range of skills, knowledge and understanding to demonstrate the disciplined attitude necessary for a professional dancer, singer and actor. Students will demonstrate a highly sophisticated vocabulary of movement, technique and artistry showing confidence, assurance and professional awareness in application. In addition, a comprehensive understanding of professional contexts will be demonstrated and applied in performance and practice.

Diploma of Performing Arts - 52748WA

The one-year full-time course comprises of 5 core units and 11 electives (16 units in total).

Achievement at this level reflects the ways in which students have built upon a range of skills, knowledge and understanding to demonstrate the disciplined attitude necessary for a professional dancer, singer and actor. Students will demonstrate an increasingly sophisticated vocabulary of movement, technique and artistry showing confidence, assurance and professional awareness in application. In addition, a thorough understanding of professional contexts will be demonstrated and applied in performance and practice.

Diploma of Dance Teaching & Management - CUA50313

The one-year full-time course comprises of 8 core units and 7 electives (15 units in total).

This qualification reflects the role of dance teachers and dance studio managers with the cognitive and communication skills to transmit skills and knowledge to others. At this level individuals are expected to apply theory and creative skills in a range of situations and to display initiative and judgment in planning activities. They have autonomy in performing complex technical operations and can be responsible for planning, coordinating and evaluating the work of others within broad but generally well-defined parameters.

Certificate IV in Dance Teaching & Management - CUA40313

The one-year part-time Course comprises of 8 core units and 6 electives (14 units in total).

This qualification reflects the role of individuals working in a variety of dance teaching contexts, including private dance studios. They apply solutions to a defined range of unpredictable problems, and analyse and evaluate information from a variety of sources. They may provide leadership and guidance to others and have limited responsibility for the output of others.

Certificate III in Dance - CUA30113

Course comprises of 6 core units and 7 electives (13 units in total).

This two-year part time course further develops skills in jazz, classical ballet, contemporary, tap and industry related skills and knowledge. The course is particularly suitable for those who might be considering full time training.

Certificate II in Dance - CUA20113

Course comprises of 7 core units and 3 electives (10 units in total).

This one-year part time course provides foundation skills in jazz, classical ballet, contemporary, tap and industry related skills and knowledge. The qualification can be used as a pathway to specialist qualifications.

Making the most of a course

As students, learning is your responsibility. All professional teaching staff are here to facilitate your learning and to offer you all the help and encouragement you need to succeed in this industry, however this will not guarantee you will have successful outcomes. You have to ensure that you use the resources available and allow sufficient time for self-directed learning. Therefore to optimize your own learning and successful completion, aspire to do the following:

- Attend all sessions and complete all required tasks
- Prepare well in advance of each session
- Be a willing participant
- Work with fellow students
- Respect other people's opinions
- Ensure you have a clear understanding of the assessment requirements
- Take responsibility for the quality of evidence that you submit for assessment
- Keep track of your progress
- Complete and submit all assessment tasks using clear and concise language
- Ask questions

Method of Assessment

Depending on the Unit of Competency, assessment evidence will be gathered from a variety of sources throughout the duration of the unit/s enrolled. These include the following:

- Written assignments and examinations
- Practical and performance assessments
- Mandatory theatre based assessments
- Written assignments and examinations
- Oral questioning
- Projects & Presentations

Once accepted and enrolled into the Academy, all students will be provided their own unique access to the student portal where the unit outline and tasks to be undertaken for assessment clearly available.

For a list of the core and electives units applicable to each course and major, please contact administration for a “**Course Outline**”.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Principal Academy aims to maximise the recognition of a students prior skills and knowledge whilst at all times maintaining the integrity and standards of the defined learning outcomes of the specific qualification or unit of competency. All students are able to have their competency from prior learning and work experience recognised in this qualification through the following arrangements:

The following guidelines are to be followed when an application for recognition is received:

- Any student is entitled to apply for recognition in a course or qualification in which they are currently enrolled.
- Students may not apply for recognition for units of competency or qualification, which are not included in Principal Academy of Dance’s scope of registration.
- Whilst students may apply for recognition at any time, they are encouraged to apply before commencing a training program. This will reduce unnecessary training and guide the student down a more efficient path to competence.
- Students who are currently enrolled in a training program are eligible to apply for recognition in that program at no additional charge.
- Assessment via recognition is to apply the principles of assessment and the rules of evidence.
- Recognition may only be awarded for whole units of competency.

Forms of evidence

Recognition acknowledges that workplace skills and knowledge may be gained through a variety of ways including both formal and informal learning or through work-based or life experience. In evaluating assessment evidence, Principal Academy of Dance applies the following rules of evidence:

- Sufficient,
- Valid,
- Authentic, and
- Current.

Like assessment, recognition is a process whereby evidence is collected and a judgment is made by an assessor or assessment team. The judgment is made on evidence provided by students of the skills and knowledge that they have previously learnt through work, study, life and other experiences, and that they are currently using.

It also includes evidence to confirm a student's ability to adapt prior learning or current competence to the context of the intended workplace or industry.

Forms of evidence toward recognition may include:

- Recordings of performance;
- Records of workplace training;
- Records of other non-accredited training;
- Assessments of current skills;
- Assessments of current knowledge;
- Third party reports from current and previous teachers or employers;
- Observation by an assessor in the workplace or classroom;
- Performance appraisal;

Many of these forms of evidence would not be sufficient evidence on their own. When combined together with a number of evidence items, the student will start to provide a strong case for competence. Principal Academy of Dance reserves the right to require student's to undertake practical assessment activities of skills and knowledge in order to satisfy itself of a student's current competence.

Complaint and Appeals

Principal Academy aims to avoid assessment appeals by ensuring students are satisfied with the training and assessment process. If you have a complaint, grievance or wish to appeal any decision while completing your training program, Principal Academy has a documented process for you to access and follow. Full details on this are available upon acceptance.

Confidentiality

All student information stored by Principal Academy will not be disclosed to any unauthorised person. Student information will remain confidential at all times & will only be accessible by the CEO & Administrative Director. (Please see Confidentiality Policy accessible through the Academy web-site)

Equal Opportunity & Code of Conduct

POLICY

It is the policy of Principal Academy to promote and encourage positive relationships in an environment of equal opportunity, free from harassment, bullying and unlawful discrimination. Principal Academy affirms commitment to the Principles of current Equal Opportunity legislation and fosters this philosophy through the following objectives.

- To create a working and learning environment which is free from harassment and discrimination, where all people, regardless of position or status, are treated with dignity courtesy and respect
- To implement awareness-raising strategies to ensure that all employees and students are aware of their rights and responsibilities
- To encourage the reporting of behaviour which breaches policy and, where such behaviour occurs, to provide fair, effective and timely resolution based on the principles of confidentiality and natural justice.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct is a set of rules and regulations to ensure a working and learning environment that is both pleasant and structured. This will make certain that all students and personnel attending Principal Academy will have complete knowledge of behaviours expected of them. When all students and staff of Principal Academy are aware of their rights and responsibilities in conduct it begins in creating a fair and safe surrounding in which to train.

Consequences in breaches of conduct also co ordinate in creating this environment (see Disciplinary Policy and Procedures and Complaint Resolution Policy and Complaint Resolution Procedures)

Semester Dates 2017

Semester 1

Term 1: Monday 6th February - Friday 7th April
Break: Saturday 8th April - Sunday 23rd April

Term 2: Wednesday 26th April - Friday 30th June
Break: Saturday 1st July - Sunday 16th July

Semester 2

Term 3: Monday 17th July - Friday 22nd September
Break: Saturday 23rd September - Sunday 8th October

Term 4: Monday 9th October - Saturday 16th December

Productions:

Term 2:

Mid-Year Performance: Friday 30th June

Term 3

Cabaret: Friday 22nd September

Term 4

Gala Performance: Monday 11th December - Saturday 16th December
