

DAS Graduate School

The master's programmes of DAS Choreography and DAS Theatre are part of DAS Graduate School together with DAS Creative Producing and DAS Research. The graduate school brings together master's, doctorate, and research programmes to create an environment where new ideas, approaches and practices can be instigated. DAS Graduate School is part of the Academy of Theatre and Dance of Amsterdam, which altogether offers 14 BA and 3 MA programmes in the field of theatre, dance, and performance.

Within DAS Graduate School, we share curriculum elements and co-curate public events across the departments. We also seek to relate to guests, colleagues, and peers from the international field, and to collaborate with local and international art institutions, aiming to contribute to the discourse about contemporary performing arts.

Below you can find more information about DAS Choreography and DAS Theatre.

About DAS Choreography

Artists who have established a professional practice, and seek possibilities for further reflection and development can increase their research skills at DAS Choreography. This two-year low-residential master's programme of the Amsterdam University of the Arts aims to contribute to the field of critical and contemporary dance practice.

DAS Choreography aims for diverse student and staff bodies. Diversity is understood in terms of both access and inclusivity. We are aware of the need to address and make ongoing investments in intersectional diversity. Within the small community of peers the diversity of orientations strongly affects the collective effort and culture in the programme.

A transdisciplinary approach to practice-led research

DAS Choreography provides the support structure and organization to facilitate choreographic practice-led research. DAS Choreography subscribes to the view that the discipline of dance and approaches to choreography are inherently diverse and evolving. In the area of practice, dance can be seen to encompass a wide range of genres: these developments have led to new understandings of the concept of (expanded) choreography as an open cluster of tools that can be used in a generic capacity for both analysis and production. Choreographers experiment with models of production, staging formats and contribute to a broadening of a transdisciplinary understanding of what choreography can do, they investigate new forms of self-organization, social mobilization and engagement.

The collective practice of inventing artistic research

The study programme is designed to support the practice-based artistic trajectories of artists in the international context of dance and performance, and is low-residential to allow an ongoing international practice and investment in the infrastructure on which individual practice depends. In order to provide support for the research trajectories, conditions are created for concentrated

dialogical commitment to each participant. There is no standard syllabus of the curriculum. Each student enters the programme on the basis of a preliminary research plan. The individual artistic practice is the point of departure and will be the guiding thread of the course design.

The programme will allow to develop an intensive and sustained dialogue and to work in a continuing artistic practice. It offers a place in the words of graduates: “to slow down the chaos”, “to allow for being overwhelmed and not know”, “to allow time for insisting on one thing”. A place to create conditions for generating artistic practices, the collective practice of inventing modes of developing and sharing artistic research.

The admission procedure is designed to engage prospective applicants in an exploration of relevant research propositions, transdisciplinary perspectives and conceptual / empirical methods.

About DAS Theatre

DAS Theatre is a full-time, two-year Master of Art programme in performing arts. DAS Theatre welcomes theatre makers, performance artists, curators... of all nationalities who wish to deepen, broaden or shift their existing practices. DAS Theatre is an environment where a temporary community of peers are invited to become sensitive to each other and to the world; a community that uses theatre as a space for reflection, transformation and action. As a postgraduate school, DAS Theatre focuses on knowledge generation rather than knowledge transmission, while also seeing itself as a learning institute.

DAS Theatre acknowledges that it has a long way to go towards diversifying the school, decolonizing, feminizing, and queering it – and this is a primary commitment.

Sustainable artistic practices

Recognising the precarious conditions many artists face today, we are committed to rethinking artists careers through the lens of sustainability. By shifting the attention from products and production to education, research and development, students are empowered to reimagine how they work and how their artistic careers can have diverse and sustainable outcomes and implementations.

Peer-Learning and commoning

In response to an artistic field ruled by temporality and individuality, we see the school as a place concerned with people, ideas, forms of togetherness and commoning. Individual trajectories benefit from a community of peers, tutors and advisors, and a broad international network. Students are encouraged to share and co-generate artistic tools and knowledges. The resources of the school – both material and immaterial - are a commons: spaces, support, equipment are shared and cared for together, in order to make it possible for each other.

Regenerative reflexes

We live in extractivist times. The colonial-capitalist way of living is based on taking and consuming without providing for regeneration. This drama plays out not only at the level of natural resources, but also through culture as well. As a programme we want to commit to the development of *regenerative* artistic attitudes, as a way of countering extractivism. Regeneration means providing the means and context for repair, healing and growth. This is a speculative practice – meaning that we do not yet know what regenerative cultures may look like, however together we can attempt to bring them into being.

Diversity of practices and backgrounds

DAS Theatre embraces the wide range of practices covered by the term Theatre. We are not a specialist programme, nor are we a 'school' that produces a homogenous aesthetic spectrum.

DAS Theatre is a place where people from various cultural backgrounds question and learn from each other. We see our educational programme as a space where one is exposed to difference and learns to listen deeply to one's surroundings, in order to shape one's own voice and point of view from a broad awareness of the different lived experiences that make up the fabric of our society.

Agency and Responsibility

Throughout the programme collectivity and autonomy are constantly negotiated. The individual learning goals of each student are a driving force behind the study programme. While collective trajectories and collaborations nourish and expand these goals. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning process and for the learning capacity of the group, through formulating artistic questions, through sharing, by showing a capacity for self-organization and by initiating both, individual and collective activities.

Being part of something bigger

DAS Theatre cultivates and expects an open attitude from its participants towards the larger circles and environments we are part of. Participants engage critically with artistic and curatorial practices that may be radically different from their own, with the purpose of feeding their work and reinforcing their artistic position. Guests fuel the curriculum with intensive labs around relevant topics for the theatre field.

Contact

Please contact us if you have questions, for example about the programme, the admission procedure or specific accessibility needs.

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