Dans och Cirkushögskolan
University of Dance and Circus

Bachelor Programme in Circus, 180 hp/180 ECTS

Konstnärlig kandidatexamen i Cirkus/ Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts in Circus

Approved by the Board of University College of Dance for Artistic Research and Development and Education, 24 April 2009. Revised by the Board of the University of Dance and Circus for Artistic Research and Education, 3 December 2010. This programme syllabus is applicable for students admitted to the programme from the autumn semester of 2011.

Introduction
The Bachelor Programme in circus takes the artistic traditions and technique of circus as its starting point in order to ensure the acquisition of a high level of technical and artistic competence. Through the encounter with various forms of bodily expression, students are enabled to explore their chosen discipline while also developing their personal idiom. The circus programme also encompasses knowledge and understanding of artistic expression within the many forms of circus art so that, on completion of the programme, students are given the means to be able to reflect on their own practice as both performer and artist and have the capacity to relate the work they do to a historical and artistic context.

The Bachelor Programme in Circus is in accordance with general requirements of the Swedish Higher Education Act (SFS 1992:1434, 1 Ch. 8 §. Rev. 2001:1263) (Law 2006:173) and the objectives of degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts attached in the system of qualification of the Higher Education Ordinance.

Intended Learning outcomes
A Bachelor of Fine Arts is awarded after the student has met the intended learning outcomes.

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of Circus, including knowledge of the practical and theoretical foundation of the field, knowledge and experience of methods and processes in the field as well as specialised study within the field.

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Competence and skills
For a Bachelor of Fine Arts the student shall
- demonstrate the ability to describe, analyse and interpret design, techniques and content as well as to reflect critically on his or her artistic approach and that of others in the field of Circus,
- demonstrate the ability in the main field of study to create, realise and express his or her own ideas, identify, formulate and solve artistic and creative problems and to undertake artistic tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss his or her works and artistic issues in speech, writing or in other ways and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the competence and knowledge required to work autonomously in a professional capacity.

Judgement and approach
For a Bachelor of Fine Arts the student shall:
- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the field of Circus informed by relevant artistic, social and ethical issues,
- demonstrate insight into the role of art in society, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and ongoing learning.

Independent project (degree project)
A requirement for the award of a Bachelor of Fine Arts is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits in the main field of study.

Miscellaneous
Specific requirements laid down by each higher education institution itself within the parameters of the requirements laid down in this qualification descriptor shall also apply for a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a defined specialisation. These requirements are governed in the system of qualification at the University of Dance and Circus.

The Bachelor Programme
The Bachelor Programme in Circus comprises three years of full-time study and amounts to 180 higher education credits (HE) at university level.

Description of the course units
Below is a description of the course units included in the programme.

Year 1
Circus Discipline (in acrobatics, balancing, juggling and/or aerials) 15 HE
Artistic work within the discipline, 7.5 HE
Circus as a Performing Art, 7.5 HE
Dance and Music, 7.5 HE
Stage Acting, 7.5 HE
Art, Body and Culture, 7.5 HE

The Circus Performer´s Health, 7.5 HE

Year 2
Circus Discipline (acrobatics, balancing, juggling and/or aerials) 15 HE
Artistic work within the discipline, 7.5 HE
Circus as a Performing Art, 7.5 HE
Dance and Music, 7.5 HE
Stage Acting, 7.5 HE
Art, Body and Culture, 7.5 HE
Career Management, 4 HE
Artistic Research Methods, 3.5 HE

Year 3
Circus Discipline (acrobatics, balancing, juggling and/or aerials) 15 HE
Artistic work within the discipline, 7.5 HE
Circus as a Performing Art, 7.5 HE
Dance and Music, 7.5 HE
Career Management, 3.5 HE
Artistic Research Methods, 4 HE
Independent Project – Artistic Degree Project, 15
HE

A brief description of the content of the courses given (see also the respective course syllabus)

Circus Discipline
These courses cover both basic skills in the disciplines of acrobatics, balancing, juggling and aerials and advanced proficiency in one or two of these disciplines. Thematically based exercises and presentations which integrate circus technique with dance, voice, stage performance and music. Training in rigging and safety issues, as well as in strength and flexibility, form part of this course.

Artistic work within the discipline
These courses combine practical work related to individual composition with theoretical reflections on the discipline of circus. Practical work is carried out through exercises, discussions and assignments in order to integrate individual artistic vision within the chosen circus discipline.

Circus as a Performing Art
These courses consist of separate practical exercises which are continually presented in solo form, small groups and as ensemble performance. The student is expected to participate in a performance or in a combination of one or more of the following fields of art: circus, dance or theatre.

Stage Acting
Practical and theoretical courses in which students explore various methods of dramaturgy, direction, clowning and role creation through lectures, practical exercises and presentations in the form of solo work and ensemble projects.

Dance and Music
Dance training adapted to circus together with improvisation and interpretation. The courses include rhythmics, singing and instrumental exercises and ensemble workshops. Orientation in the relationship between stage acting and music.

Art, Body and Culture
These courses consist of lectures and seminars on various themes concerning the history and development of the circus. It includes encounters with various art forms which are then dramatised using the individual body.

The Circus Performer´s Health
Instruction in training and diet, first aid, various training techniques for mind and body.

Career Management
This course provides an orientation in the terms and conditions of self-employment, employment laws and -regulations, marketing, etc.

Artistic Research Methods
The course deals with the methods of artistic creation and serves as preparation for the student’s artistic degree project.

Independent Project - Artistic Exam Degree Project
Students complete a piece of artistic exam degree project which is presented through performance or other forms of demonstration. It also includes a written or other chosen method of documentation.

Tuition and examination
The studies in the programme are full-time study, which means that 30 higher education credits (HE) per semester. The tuition comprises practical workshops in circus, lectures, group work, seminars, tutorials/supervision and excursions. Some parts of the programme demands compulsory attendance which is specified in the study guides and/ or schedule for the respective course. It is also specified in the study guide what the possibilities for compensating missed any missed obligatory modules (for example if a student falls ill).

Individual examination is continuously carried out through technical presentations as well as through oral and/or written exams. Other means of examination include written papers or practical exercises in class. After every semester there will be one additional examination date. Thereafter the student is able to make up for failed or incomplete examinations once per semester or through terms agreed upon with the teacher responsible for the course. The following grades are awarded after course: Pass with Distinction, Pass or Fail. Certain courses only award failing or passing grades.

Entry requirements

General entry requirements for studies on a first cycle level in Sweden. Please visit https://www.studera.nu/studera/1636.html for more information.

Admission

The initial selection of eligible applicants takes place on the basis of application documents + Video/DVD and subsequently by admission test. The admission test takes place in front of a jury. More information regarding the admission test is available on the website.

Rules Governing the Continued Studies

In order to continue on to study in the second year of the programme, students need to pass bachelor programme courses in circus equivalent to at least 45 HE credits. In order to continue on to the third year, students need to have passed a minimum of 105 HE credits the first two academic years. Entry requirements to a course may consist in additional requirements in the form of having completed one or more specific courses in the previous semesters. The entry requirements for each course are stated in its syllabus.