

Course Fact File

Access to Higher Education Diploma: Contemporary Dance

Entry 2018 | Course validated by Certa

Award:	Access to Higher Education Diploma in Contemporary Dance
UCAS Code:	At present you apply for this course directly through www.nscd.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/access-to-he-diploma
Location:	Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD), Chapeltown, Leeds.
Awarding body:	CERTA Students who complete the course successfully will receive a degree from the University of Kent. The validation of this course between NSCD and the University of Kent is reviewed every five years for developmental purposes and was last renewed in May 2017.
Duration:	1 year (full-time) only.
Academic year:	Full-time course: 10th September 2017- 6th July 2018
Entry requirements:	Entry is through successful audition and interview. Normally candidates should have gained five GCSE passes at grade C or above (including English Language) OR from 2017 Grade 4 or above. If applicants do not have the relevant academic qualifications, a special entry procedure is available. Details can be obtained from admissions@nscd.ac.uk

Course overview

The Access to Higher Education Diploma: Contemporary Dance is a full time, one-year programme, providing intensive pre-vocational training in contemporary dance. It is especially suitable for young people, normally between the ages of 16 and 23, who intend to pursue professional dance training at HE level in preparation for a career in contemporary dance performance. It enables the development of academic, technical, creative and performance skills in contemporary dance to a level that allows students to audition for conservatoire dance training programmes, including NSCD's BPA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance. 98% of students who completed this equivalent programme in 2017 progressed to further dance training either at NSCD, another conservatoire or other university.

A distinctive feature of the Diploma is the range of creative and performance opportunities that take place during the year. In choreography students develop the tools they need to explore their personal creativity, culminating in solo, collaborative and independent choreography projects. In the dance in education project during the spring term students perform work specially devised for a community audience.

Course overview contd.

During the summer term the students devise work collaboratively in the performance practice unit that is performed in the Colleges' Riley Theatre.

Please note: This course is best suited to individuals who require further technique or creative experiences before they are able to meet the criteria for entry onto our degree programme. It is also a recommended route of study for applicants who are looking for a one-year intensive programme of study, or are undecided whether they are ready to commit to three years full-time training. This programme is also suitable for very talented 16-17 year olds as a full-time alternative access route to Higher Education.

The course operates on a modular basis. Total study time includes scheduled teaching, independent study, directed study and assessment activity. All students take a total of 60 credits for the Diploma as a whole.

Level 3 (Year 1) develops the underpinning knowledge and skills in areas such as Ballet & Contemporary dance techniques, creative and choreographic practice, improvisation, performance and dance education. These modules create the foundation that you will need to apply for further training.

Progression routes from this course: Upon successful completion of 60 (level 3) credits, students can apply for entry point 1 of the BA (Hons) degree at NSCD, another conservatoire or University dance degree programme.

Module Map

This module map provides an overview of the modules that make up your course and when these are studied. Each module is worth a specified number of credits: all modules on this programme are compulsory modules, enabling you to cover key subject knowledge whilst developing your own interests. You take modules worth a total of 60 credits at level 3. Our teaching is informed by research, and module content changes periodically to reflect developments in the discipline.

The modules available on the course are as follows:

LEVEL 3		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Contemporary Dance Technique Ballet for Contemporary Dancers		Performance Practice
Fundamentals of Choreography and Creative Practice		Dance in Education
Contextualising Contemporary Dance		Embodied Practice

Timetables: Timetables are normally available one month before registration. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure that timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled teaching can take place on any day of the week. There is usually one reading week in each term, with allocated vacations at Christmas & Easter.

Teaching and learning

You are taught through a combination of practical classes and workshops, lectures and seminars. Seminars and small group tutorials enable you to discuss and develop your understanding of topics covered in lectures in smaller groups. In addition, you have timetabled meetings with your academic tutors. You use industry-standard facilities throughout your course.

At level 3 (as a guide) you typically have around 18 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 15 hours of practical classes or workshops
- 1 hour of seminars /tutorials
- 2 hours of lectures

Teaching staff

Dance students at NSCD are taught by an experienced teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes senior academics who are dance artists in their own right, professional practitioners with industry experience, demonstrators and technical officers. For more information on who will be teaching you visit our staff biography pages: www.nscd.ac.uk/about/staff

NSCD dance students have access to the very best practitioners in the dance world, with guest tutors coming from all over the UK, Europe and further a field. All technique classes are supported by some of the very best accompanists in the business.

Independent learning

When not attending timetabled sessions you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-directed study. Typically, this will involve reading books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library, preparing coursework assignments and presentations, and preparing for assessments. Students use independent study time for using the gym and attending / having rehearsals. Students also access studios in their own time to continue practical work. Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities, including the library, studios, video editing suite, Gymnasium, Pilates equipment, online access to NSCD VLE and access to the Riley Theatre.

Assessment and feedback

NSCD employs a wide variety of assessment methods including formative, continuous and summative assessment.

Assessment evidence is collected through:

- Continuous and summative assessments in technique modules, creative and performance modules
- Assessed rehearsal processes
- Showings of performance, choreographic work, improvisation.
- Essay and / or written reflection

Students receive ongoing feedback in practical classes and through the tutorial system in which professional and academic development are considered and evaluated.

Achievement is measured against module assessment criteria and in accordance with programme and module learning outcomes. Students must meet the specific attendance requirements for the programme.

Overall workload

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours, (around 18 hours per week), in addition to independent learning (expected to be at least 1.5 hours per module), rehearsals (varies) and assessment activity. Each credit taken equates to a total study time of around 25 hours. While your actual contact hours may depend on the modules being delivered each term e.g. intensive rehearsal, the following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

Level 4: 90% per cent of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Student support

The School provides students with a comprehensive range of support mechanisms to help them with their studies and their professional development. All students have access to academic support and guidance from tutors who maintain an overview of students' progress and development.

Our student support team and academic tutors help in the following areas:

- Study skills (including reading, note-taking and presentation skills)
- Written English (including punctuation and grammatical accuracy)

Contd. overleaf

Student support contd.

- Academic writing (including how to reference)
- Research skills (in conjunction with the library)
- Pastoral care & counselling services
- Injury prevention and support
- Finance Support

Our Disability Advice and Student Support Service helps students with additional needs resulting from disabilities such as sensory impairment or learning difficulties such as dyslexia. Students have access to module learning materials through the use of Moodle (our Virtual Learning Environment or VLE).

Cost and financial support

The Conservatoire offers a range of scholarships. If you wish to be considered for a Conservatoire Scholarship, please indicate this on your application to NSCD. In addition, you should complete an application to Student Finance England or its equivalent as early as possible. You can apply for income assessments from Student Finance England even if you are not eligible for a loan. The Conservatoire uses household income to determine the level of support for some of its scholarships.

For the academic year 2018-19 the tuition fees for this course are:

UK / EU Full-time £4,000

EAA / Overseas £6,000

It is not possible to confirm fees for future academic years, as these are dependent on Teaching Excellence Framework outcomes, but the maximum increase in each year will not exceed the rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- Estimated cost of your dance clothing
- Cost of any materials which you choose to use in your creative projects
- Additional printing over and above the £50 annual allowance
- Cost of books that you might wish to purchase.
- Cost of initial DBS checks (£28 approx.)

Accommodation and living costs not included in the fees This information can be obtained from our admissions team or online at: www.nscd.ac.uk/study/student-life/accommodation

Sources of financial support If you receive funding from Student Finance you may be eligible to apply for additional benefits. Details can be obtained from our admissions team or online at: www.nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance

'NSCD Value for Money' Based on a comparison with other level 3 programmes of the same price. We are devoted to the experience we give our students and to what we try to offer them as 'value added' for their course fees:

- A full term extra of tuition (May-July) including classes, support and guidance
- More access to practical work (both creative workshops and technique classes)

Plus:

- Enrichment classes, offered in the evening, some of which are free to all NSCD students – these have included pointe work, fitness, men's ballet vocabulary, yoga, percussion and lighting for dance
- Visiting workshops with guest choreographers and companies
- 'mock audition' preparation for applying for further training.
- Sponsored theatre visit
- Health and well-being days
- On-site injury intervention and support
- Reduced-priced theatre tickets and deals

Contd. overleaf

Cost and financial support contd.

- On-site counselling service
- Access to additional rehearsal spaces
- Access to projects and research run by staff and our network of partner organisations