

Course Fact File

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Contemporary Dance

Entry 2019 | Subject to validation by the University of Kent in November 2018

Award:	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Contemporary Dance
UCAS Code:	At present you apply for this course through www.nscd.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/undergraduate
Location:	Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD), Chapeltown, Leeds
Awarding body:	University of Kent
Duration:	1 year (full-time only)
Academic year:	10th September 2019 - 6th July 2020
Entry requirements:	<p>Entry is through successful audition and interview. Additionally candidates should have normally gained four GCSE passes (grade C/4 or above), which must include English Language, and two A Level passes or a L3 BTEC National diploma or professional/vocational training at an appropriate level.</p> <p>Exceptions are made for very talented 16 year olds & mature applicants. Equivalent qualifications may also be accepted depending on the strength of the grades achieved. Equivalent level overseas qualifications are also accepted. Further details can be obtained from admissions@nscd.ac.uk</p>

Course overview

The CertHE in Contemporary Dance is a course specifically designed for preparing dance artists to undertake further in-depth professional training. Previously known as the Foundation / Access to HE course, this programme provides an insight into the three year full-time degree and has an excellent record for helping students to access conservatoires and Higher Education. Our students on the CertHE in Contemporary Dance course are enriched by a range of technical, creative and performance experiences in a variety of contexts, all of which support them at the start of their journey towards a career in dance. 98% of students who completed this equivalent programme in 2017 progressed to further dance training either at NSCD, another conservatoire or another university.

Through the programme, students embrace a range of industry-relevant modes of working, such as Ballet and Contemporary techniques, improvisation, choreography, contextual studies, performance and dance repertoire, in order to give them a thorough grounding in traditional theatre practice.

Course overview continued

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 as to 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. Most modules count for either 15 or 30 academic credits. Each credit taken equates to a total study time of around 10-20 hours. Total study time includes scheduled teaching, independent study, directed study and assessment activity. Full-time students take modules worth 37-45 credits per term. All students take a total of 120 credits for the CertHE as a whole.

Level 4 (Year 1) develops the underpinning knowledge and skills in areas such as Ballet and Contemporary Dance techniques, creative and choreographic practice, improvisation, performance and dance repertoire. These modules create the foundation that you will need to apply for further training.

Progression routes from this course: Upon successful completion of 120 (Level 4) credits, students can apply for entry point 1 of the BA (Hons) degree at NSCD, another conservatoire or university dance degree programme. In exceptional circumstances where students have excelled in their progress and attainment, NSCD may consider applicants for direct entry to Level 5 (entry point 2).

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 120 credits at Level 4. 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 4		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Dance Techniques: Ballet & Contemporary Dance (30 credits) Compulsory module		Dance Performance (30 credits) Compulsory module
Creative Practice (30 credits) Compulsory module		Dance Repertoire (15 credits) Compulsory module
Contextual Studies (15 credits) Compulsory module		

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 and 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 4 (as a guide) you typically have around 21 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 18 hours of practical classes or workshops
- 1 hour of seminars / tutorials
- 2 hours of lectures
- 2 hours directed study

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 afield. 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 journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, filming and editing video work, 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 as a movement 'jam' session. Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities, including the library, studios, video edit suite, gymnasium, Pilates equipment, online access to NSCD VLE and access to 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 and movement research
- Essay and / or written reflection
- Individual and small group verbal presentations

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 21 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 28 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: 87% 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.

Student support continued

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

Our Disability Advice and Student Support Services help 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 2019-20 the tuition fees for this course are:

UK / EU Full-time £6,000

EAA / Overseas £16,500

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

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 4 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

Cost and financial support continued

- On-site injury intervention and support
- Reduced priced theatre tickets and deals
- On-site counselling service
- Access to additional rehearsal spaces
- Access to projects and research run by staff and our network of partner organisations