

Audition Information (Leeds & Overseas)

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in Contemporary Dance and BA (Hons) Dance (Contemporary)

Our auditions are combined for these two courses as many candidates may wish to apply for both and this way they only need to attend one audition. The audition panel will consider which course would be most suited to the candidate, at this stage in their dance study, and will shortlist for each course accordingly. We limit each audition group to a maximum of 25 candidates which we believe enhances the experience and provides a good insight into what life as a student at NSCD would be like. It also means that the audition panel gains a good insight into the work of each candidate and we therefore do not need to hold recalls auditions.

Arrival

The audition day starts at 9am* so please arrive between 8.15am – 8.45am to register and then warm up for the first session. We do not need you to bring a photo or any references. **Starting times may vary slightly for auditions outside the UK; it will generally be a 10am start but exact times will be available at the point you book your audition.*

For auditions at NSCD there will be a tour of the school, for shortlisted candidates and any accompanying parents, at around 3.30pm. Parents are most welcome to stay in our foyer seating area throughout the day. The school café will be open unless you are advised otherwise in the reminder email we send a week or two before your audition. There is limited free parking on site but further free parking on the adjacent roads.

Clothing

Full length sleeves and leg wear/layers are advisable for creative and contemporary sessions, to allow for ease of movement in floor work, with unitards / leotards / tights worn underneath. Bare feet or socks (for contemporary) and soft ballet shoes or socks (for ballet) should be worn.

The Audition

Places are offered to candidates demonstrating the greatest potential to benefit from the course regardless of their previous dance experience. The audition will seek to assess physical potential, performance ability, creativity and also critical thinking and reflective engagement. You will be given the opportunity to demonstrate your skills and abilities through:

Stage 1: All Candidates (9am-2.30pm)

- **Creative/Improvisation/Ice-breaker session**
 - **Dance technique classes;** Contemporary and then Ballet
- Lunch break*
- **Presentation of your pre-prepared solo** (maximum of 1½ minutes duration). This should include elements of contemporary dance and preferably be your own choreography.
If music is used, a CD, iPod or phone should be brought to the audition (we recommend using 2 of these formats so that you have a back-up). If you use a CD-R please ensure you burn it as an Audio File and finalise the disc, otherwise it will not play on the NSCD CD players (files stored as 'data' will not work either).

At the end of Stage 1 the Audition Panel will inform candidates if they have been selected to stay for Stage 2 of the audition (please see [The Selection Process](#) section)

Stage 2: Shortlisted Candidates only (2.45pm to approx. 5.30pm)

- **Creative task**
- **Group discussion** based around excerpts of filmed performance shown in the session.

At the end of the audition day shortlisted candidates will be provided with details about a short written task, in relation to the audition, to be submitted within 1 week from the audition day. We will also ensure that you understand the audition selection and outcome process.

The Selection Process

In each section of the audition the panel agree a score for each candidate and this score reflects the panels view on the candidate's ability to meet the demands of the course applied for, at this time, based on what they see on the audition day. The scores equate to the following 4 descriptions:

0. a response to the tasks/movement material set which demonstrates insufficient ability to meet the demands of the course applied for at this time
1. a response to the tasks/movement material set which inconsistently demonstrates an ability to meet the demands of the course applied for at this time
2. a response to the tasks/movement material set which consistently demonstrates that the candidate would be able to meet the demands of the course applied for
3. a response to the tasks/movement material set which consistently demonstrates that the candidate would be able to achieve at a high level in relation to the demands of the course applied for

The information below summarises the areas that the panel consider:

Creative/improvisation

- Openness to exploration of ideas
- Appropriate response to instruction
- Ability to collaborate with peers
- Development of ideas through improvisation
- Spatial awareness
- Assimilation of information and feedback

Solo

- Expressive/performance abilities
- Musicality – rhythm, phrasing and timing
- Spatial awareness
- Presence/focus
- Development of movement ideas
- Engagement with material

Technique

- Coordination
- Alignment
- Range of motion and potential for increase
- Balance/Proprioception
- Strength and control
- Elevation
- Musicality – rhythm, phrasing and timing
- Expressive/performance abilities
- Spatial awareness
- Assimilation of information and feedback

Group discussion and post audition reflective writing task

- Capacity for reflection and critical thinking
- Self-awareness
- Interaction with a group
- Articulation of ideas
- Capacity for original thought

Audition Outcomes

- If you are shortlisted for either course from your audition you will receive confirmation of this by email after we have scored the writing tasks.
- Offers are then made at three main points in the audition cycle; at the end of January, in early March and at the end of April.
- Shortlisted candidates who are not initially offered a place at the next offer point after their audition will continue to be considered alongside the remaining candidates and will be notified of this by email.
- Any shortlisted candidates who are not offered a place in one of the above offer points will then be placed on our reserve list with potential further offers being made in May or beyond.
- Shortlisted candidates who are offered a place will be given 3 weeks to accept.
- Audition feedback is available on request to admissions@nscd.ac.uk and will be provided after each offer point.