

# **Admissions Policy 2020-21**

## **(2021 entry)**

<b>Name of Policy Writer/Amendments</b>	<b>Date Written &amp; agreed / Amended</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
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## 1. Admissions Policy Statement

As a member of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama (CDD), Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) is a small specialist schools with international reputations for high quality delivery and excellent success rates in the number of students gaining sustained employment in the dance, drama and circus professions. Member schools select students with the greatest talent and aptitude for training underpinned by a commitment to widening participation and to promoting programmes to young people who are unlikely to participate in further or higher education.

### **Northern School of Contemporary Dance offers the following programmes:**

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Contemporary Dance

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Cultural Dance Forms

BA (Hons) Dance (Contemporary)

MA Contemporary Dance Performance (Company Pathway)

MA Contemporary Dance Performance (Postgraduate Apprenticeship Scheme)

MA Dance & Creative Enterprise

PG Dip Arts Learning and Teaching in Higher Education

Northern School of Contemporary Dance admissions policy coheres with that of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama.

### 1.1 Conservatoire for Dance and Drama Admissions Policy Statement

The Conservatoire for Dance and Drama exists to train artists who will match the world's best and, on entering their professions, shape the future of dance, drama and circus arts. Established in 2001, the Conservatoire is a Higher Education Provider with a unique structure, comprising a group of member schools. All of these are small, specialist institutions with international reputations for high quality delivery in their respective fields.

**IMPORTANT:** The CDD Admissions Policy Statement is currently under consultation and link to the revised policy will be available on their website as soon as it is issued.

At the time issue of this document the last published CDD statement available for reference is here:

[http://www.cdd.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Admissions-policy-statement\\_January-2019.pdf](http://www.cdd.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Admissions-policy-statement_January-2019.pdf)

### 1.2 Equality and Diversity

Celebrating diversity and working to achieve the creative potential in all our students, is at the heart of the work of Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

As part of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama, the School is committed to selecting, training and supporting students, regardless of ethnicity, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or religion. Applicants to Conservatoire schools are chosen solely on the basis of their talent and potential to develop the skills required for their chosen profession. The School does, however, judge applicants on their suitability for a programme and their potential to successfully complete the training, as the work is rigorous and requires high levels of energy and commitment.

In our admissions process, we are committed to supporting students with disabilities. Disabled students are encouraged to disclose their support requirements so that we can endeavour to meet them during the audition process and subsequent training.

We recognise that everyone is an individual and we will work with students to identify potential barriers to training and do what we can to remove those barriers. We will also make any necessary reasonable adjustments, to ensure that disabled students can train at Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

## **2. Entry Requirements**

Entry requirements for all programmes, as detailed below, are available on the Northern School of Contemporary Dance website.

### **2.1 Age**

The minimum age to study;

- The Cert HE programmes are normally at least 18 years of age at the start of the programme. This programme is also suitable for the very talented 16-17 year olds as a full time alternative access route to Higher education. There is no upper age limit.
- The BA programme is normally at least 18 years of age at the start of the programme. There is no upper age limit.
- An MA programme is normally at least 21 years of age at the start of the programme. There is no upper age limit.

### **2.2 Audition and academic qualifications**

Entry for all programmes is via a successful audition, or application submissions for MA Dance & Creative Enterprise and PG Dip Arts Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, and interview as well as academic qualifications detailed in each Course Fact File on the NSCD website:

<http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/courses/>

### **2.3 English language**

Applicants are required to demonstrate a proficiency in both written and verbal English language. This will normally be at B2 Level of the Common European Framework. For more information visit:

<http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/international/entry-requirements/>

### **2.4 Overseas applicants**

The School is a UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) Student Sponsor, which allows us to recruit a specified number of international students over all programmes. International applicants who have been offered a place will need to apply for a Student Visa as soon as they accept their offer and should request further information about this process from the Admissions Manager.

## **3. Recruitment**

Target recruitment numbers are agreed annually between Northern School of Contemporary Dance and the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama. The School will normally accept approximately 150 new students each year across the Cert HE programmes (60) BA (Hons) (60) and the MA programmes (30).

### 3.1 Marketing

Marketing and promotional activities include:

- Information available on the School website: [www.nscd.ac.uk](http://www.nscd.ac.uk)
- Open Days
- Promotional material for overseas auditions
- Riley Theatre events
- Student performances
- Facebook, Twitter

### 3.2 Participation and outreach

The school has a strong commitment to widening participation and engages in a range of activities which seek to widen access to contemporary dance and target identified under-represented groups through the Learning and Participation department, including:

- Schools programme (primary, secondary and colleges)
- Open evening and weekend classes (at child, youth and adult level)
- Children and Young People's (CYP) Dance network
- Summer schools
- Centre for Advanced Training
- Application and audition toolkit workshops to support the transition from training towards a career in the performing arts.

## 4. Selection

Northern School of Contemporary Dance will seek to ensure that selection policies and procedures are transparent, effective, consistent and fair in accordance with the School's Equality & Diversity Statement. Information concerning applicants will be subject to the School's Data Protection Statement.

Selection for all programmes will normally be through audition and to ensure equality of opportunity the School will:

- Ensure that recruitment, selection and admissions procedures adhere to the principal of fair admissions in a professional manner by authorised and competent representatives of the School.
- Welcome all applicants regardless of disability, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or religion. We encourage students to tell us about any disabilities, impairments or conditions (for example dyslexia, a physical, sensory or mental health condition) at the earliest opportunity so that support can be put in place.
- Audition all applicants / view all applications for courses where an audition is not required.
- Offer applicants a choice of;
  - audition dates
  - remote audition for international applicants.

- Offer places based on;
  - physical ability, experience and/or potential
  - performance ability
  - creativity
  - critical thinking
  - reflective engagement
  - suitability for the programme of study
  - attainment of the academic entry requirements before the start of the programme.
- Provide successful applicants sufficient information to enable them to make an informed decision of acceptance and enable the transition from prospective student to current student.

#### **4.1 Application Procedure**

Admissions information for all programmes is available on the Northern School of Contemporary Dance website: <http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/>  
<http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/courses/>

The Equality and Diversity information, collected via a section of the application form, is considered as confidential and information is used for statistical purposes only.

Applications submitted after the deadline will be considered at the discretion of the Director of Studies. The School reserves the right to extend the deadline via the Northern School of Contemporary Dance website at short notice.

#### **4.2 Audition Fees**

The audition fee is set annually by the Director of Finance & Resources and is published on the website. This non-refundable fee is payable by applicants for all programmes. Payment is made via a secure on-line payment provider although alternative payment methods can be arranged if required.

#### **4.3 Audition Fee Waivers**

In line with NSCD and CDD's commitment to widening participation, applicants who meet the following criteria are able to apply for an audition fee waiver:

- UK Resident
- applying to an undergraduate programme
- new to higher education (no previous degree-level qualification)
- annual household income of less than £25,000

The fee waiver system is administrated by CDD. Full information is available on the NSCD website on each of the undergraduate 'How to Apply' pages.

#### **4.4 Withdrawals Prior to Audition**

Applicants must inform the School if they decide to withdraw their application and do not intend to attend audition. Applications cannot be deferred and application fees cannot be refunded. Any applicant who wishes to be considered for the next round of admissions must reapply the following year.

#### **4.5 Information to Applicants Pre-Audition**

Details of the audition procedure are available on the NSCD website and can be viewed at any time. Applicants receive an automated email to confirm their application submission and audition date which also directs them to view the relevant documents on the website.

#### **4.6 Audition and Selection Procedure**

Applicants are auditioned by the School's selection panel, which will comprise of at least two members of staff with relevant expertise as determined by the Director of Studies. The selection panel will be provided with each candidate's application information taken from their application form. The selection panel will view and score applicants against the audition selection criteria (appendix A).

Full details of the application/audition stages, including shortlisting and offer points, are available at <http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/>

#### **4.7 Remote Audition Procedure**

Applicants who are based outside of the UK may submit a video recording to demonstrate their ability to meet the practical requirements which will be viewed on pre-arranged dates by the selection panel and followed by a post-audition deliberation as with all other auditions. The remote audition information is available on the NSCD website at <http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/>

#### **4.8 Confirmation of Outcome**

Confirmation of audition outcome will be emailed to all shortlisted applicants within approximately two weeks of their final audition date/interview. This may be a place on the reserve list or a conditional offer. Offers will be conditional upon receipt of documents to prove the academic entry requirements have been met. Applicants who are offered a place will also be sent links to all relevant policies and full terms and conditions that they must agree to on acceptance of an offer. They will also receive information about arranging accommodation and the term dates.

These applicants will be asked to confirm by a given deadline whether they would like to take up their place and will be required to pay a non-refundable registration fee with their acceptance. Once an acceptance of an offer is received, the applicant will receive confirmation of receipt. For further information see the Fee Policy at <http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/student-handbook/>

Applicants who are not offered a place can request feedback from their audition by contacting [admissions@nscd.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@nscd.ac.uk) who can provide standardised feedback based on the scores that the panel awarded them for each section of the audition. An applicant cannot appeal a decision reached by the audition panel.

#### **4.9 Communications with a Third Party**

All communications regarding an application and audition outcome will be conducted directly with the applicant and not with a third party, including relatives.

#### **4.10 Progression to a Higher Level NSCD Programme**

Successful completion of the Cert HE courses does not guarantee direct passage to the BA (Hons) Dance (Contemporary). Cert HE students must formally apply for the BA (Hons) Dance (Contemporary) programme by following the same procedure as all applicants.

Equally, successful completion of the BA (Hons) Dance (Contemporary) does not guarantee direct passage to the MA programmes. Final year BA (Hons) students must formally apply for the MA programmes by following the same procedure as all applicants.

#### **4.11 Complaints and Appeals**

An applicant cannot appeal a decision reached by the audition panel.

For information about submitting a complaint regarding the admissions process, please refer to the Admissions Appeals and Complaints Procedures, which can be accessed here:

<http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/student-handbook/>.

#### **4.12 False, fraudulent or misleading information provided by applicants**

NSCD reserves the right to refuse admission to programme or, if already registered, terminate registration if information provided by an applicant is fraudulent, inaccurate or incomplete.

NSCD expects that all information provided to it by applicants will be complete, true and accurate, with no misleading omissions or inaccuracies. Any submission of fraudulent, inaccurate or misleading information on the application, or the omission of relevant information, will result in the immediate cancellation of the application and/or the withdrawal of any offer made. Where information comes to light that an application may contain false, fraudulent or misleading information from a successful applicant who has already registered as a student on a programme of study with NSCD, the student's registration may be terminated and student status withdrawn, or the student may be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **4.13 Criminal Records**

NSCD will not ask applicants for any information relating to a criminal record.

NSCD has a responsibility to provide a secure, safe environment for staff, students, visitors and others, and must balance this alongside any legal requirements, such as those to protect vulnerable individuals, as such where a disclosure of a criminal record is made by an applicant in accepting an offer of a place to study, this will be assessed by the school under the Conservatoire's policy which is published on the Conservatoire's website at <http://www.cdd.ac.uk/policies/student-related-policies/>

Having a criminal record is not a bar to training at NSCD, and the School welcomes applications from all individuals. Applicants should note that the School has some programmes which require an enhanced DBS check, and in certain cases whilst not preventing an individual from training with NSCD, this may preclude them from undertaking certain modules.

Where successful applicants become registered students of NSCD, if they wish to undertake modules and/or placements which involve the need for an enhanced DBS check (i.e. teaching

modules or modules where you are likely to be working in unsupervised environments with minors or vulnerable adults), applicants should be aware that spent convictions deemed as 'exceptions' under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 may be disclosed. Should a student not wish to go through the DBS checking process there are alternative study options available.

For independent advice and support regarding criminal convictions, applicants may wish to contact the charity [UNLOCK](#) who also have the following tools and guidance:

[The Disclosure Calculator](#) (for calculating when convictions become spent)  
['Is it spent?' poster](#) (with information about when convictions become spent)

## **5. Enrolment**

Place on a programme at Northern School of Contemporary Dance will be conditional on compliance with enrolment conditions including any conditions relating to fees, enrolling at the start of a programme and at the start of each subsequent academic year.

Enrolment must be at the designated session at the start of your programme, as set out in the enrolment information provided, unless agreed otherwise. If you cannot or do not enrol at the designated session you must provide NSCD with a reason for your non-enrolment which is acceptable to NSCD in order to be permitted to enrol on another occasion, otherwise you will not be entitled to enrol for that year of study (or any future year of study) and your relationship with NSCD and this contract shall be terminated.

See the Northern School of Contemporary Dance Terms and Conditions, available on the NSCD website, for further information about obligations and contracts.

### **5.1 Pre-enrolment Information**

Prior to enrolment applicants holding an offer of a place will be provided with enrolment information, normally in July and August. The induction information will include:

- Registration procedures on the first day of term
- Registration form and accompanying notes, including CDD's Data Protection Statement
- Induction Week Timetable
- Northern School of Contemporary Dance Codes of Practice & Conduct
- Other information relevant to joining the programme.

### **5.2 Registration**

At registration students are asked to submit a completed registration form, a copy of which is kept at Northern School of Contemporary Dance and a copy sent to CDD, where they are formally registered as CDD students. They are also asked to provide the following if not previously submitted:

- A working and current e-mail address and a working land-based or mobile telephone number
- Term time address
- Confirmation of loan payment from the Student Loans Company, if applicable

All registration forms are kept in secure files subject to the Data Protection Statement.

### **5.3 Withdrawals**

Applicants who hold an offer of a place and wish to withdraw prior to the start of their programme of study must inform the Admissions team as soon as possible. Any applicant who wishes to be considered for the next round of admissions must reapply the following year. Students who withdraw after the start of the programme will be subject to pay tuition fees in line with the NSCD Fee Policy available on the website.

### **5.4 Intermission (interruption of studies)**

Please refer to the Intermissions Policy for information about interrupting periods of study at NSCD.  
<http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/student-handbook/>

## **6. Allocation of Scholarships and Bursaries**

Full information on scholarships and bursaries available to students is available here:  
<http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance/>

## **7. Monitoring and Review of Policies and Procedures**

This policy is subject to periodic review by Academic Board. Academic Board also monitors the following annually, all of which are relevant to admissions:

- recruitment, marketing and the prospectus/information on the NSCD website
- data related to admissions and the methods used to collect that data
- support for students and applicants with disabilities
- external requirements of the University of Kent, which validates all other NSCD programmes and CDD.

In certain exceptional cases we reserve the right to vary these procedures. When we do so, the circumstances will be monitored and recorded through quality assurance measures.

## Appendix A: Audition Criteria and Scoring

### Undergraduate Course Criteria (CertHE and BA)

- a) Demonstrates insufficient ability to meet the demands of the course applied for at this time.
- b) Inconsistently demonstrates an ability to meet the demands of the course applied for at this time.
- c) Consistently demonstrates that the candidate would be able to meet the demands of the course applied for.

When scoring each element of the audition the following criteria should be taken into account. To denote potential, or particular aptitude in any/all of these areas a score of +1 can be awarded to further distinguish between candidates.

#### **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

#### **Technique**

- Coordination
- Alignment
- Range of motion and potential for increasing range of motion
- Balance/Proprioception
- Strength and control
- Elevation
- Musicality – rhythm, phrasing and timing
- Expressive/performance abilities
- 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

### **Group discussion/interview and Personal Statement**

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

### **MA Contemporary Dance Performance criteria**

- a) Demonstrates insufficient ability to meet the demands of the course applied for at this time.
- b) Inconsistently demonstrates an ability to meet the demands of the course applied for at this time.
- c) Consistently demonstrates that the candidate would be able to meet the demands of the course applied for.
- d) Consistently demonstrates, to a high level, that the candidate would be able to meet the demands of the course applied for.

When scoring each element of the audition the following criteria should be taken into account.

### **Choreography, Creative work and Technique**

- Performance quality – the ability to transcend basic technical execution, layering material with individual creative interpretation whilst retaining original detail
- The ability to work with and manipulate energy/dynamic
- Physical form/control of physical form
- Ability to pick-up complex movement material
- Creative responses to set tasks in improvisation and in the devising of movement material
- Appropriate responses to direction
- Strong observational skills
- An ability to relate to others

### **Academic Task**

- The selection and evaluation of relevant materials to support your discussion
- The way in which you have considered and interpreted those materials within your discussion
- How you have established, developed and explored your idea
- Your ability to effectively communicate your idea, whilst accurately acknowledging your research sources (adhering to academic conventions)

## **MA Dance & Creative Enterprise criteria**

- a) Demonstrates insufficient ability to meet the demands of the course applied for at this time.
- b) Inconsistently demonstrates an ability to meet the demands of the course applied for at this time.
- c) Consistently demonstrates that the candidate would be able to meet the demands of the course applied for.
- d) Consistently demonstrates, to a high level, that the candidate would be able to meet the demands of the course applied for.

When scoring each element of the audition the following criteria should be taken into account.

### **Choreography, Creative work and Technique**

- A strong interest in creating and devising movement based artwork
- A desire to learn about and implement the production of dance works in a variety of settings
- An awareness of where these works sit within the wider artistic landscape
- The ability to contribute in a performance capacity to artworks created either by yourself or others with a high level of artistic and technical skill
- A curiosity to investigate aesthetics and context
- The ability to work well as part of a team in a variety of roles

### **Written Personal Statement**

- The selection and evaluation of relevant materials to support your discussion
- The way in which you have considered and interpreted those materials within your discussion
- How you have established, developed and explored your idea
- Your ability to effectively communicate your idea, whilst accurately acknowledging your research sources (adhering to academic conventions)