



MA Teaching and Facilitating (Creative Subjects)

Award:	MA Teaching and Facilitating (Creative Subjects), validated by the University of Kent
Duration:	2 years (part-time), September - July year 1, September - August year 2
Entry requirements:	<p>Entry is through an online application, teaching observation and interview. The course is open to graduates of two/three year arts courses at Higher Education level, or creative and performing artists with professional experience and equivalent vocational arts training. Applicants are usually 21+ years of age, with an enhanced DBS check required for those working with children and young people whilst on placement (processed on your behalf by NSCD). Applicants must be already teaching for 1.5 hours per week or where intensive blocks of engagement in teaching practice during the year enable you to draw practical experience toward learning and assessment.</p> <p>Students with English as a second language will need a 6.0 ESOL level (with a minimum of 6.0 in reading and writing and 5.5 in speaking and listening).</p>

Course Overview

The MA Teaching and Facilitating (creative Subjects) course provides you with opportunity to advance your knowledge and skills as a teacher and facilitator of the arts within an institution context. You will gain a greater understanding of learning, teaching, curriculum design, assessment, feedback and reflective practice. Learning is split between NSCD and or workplace or an NSCD placement provider, enabling you to advance your practice through an intertwined approach of theoretical understanding and practical experience.

Some of the expected placement options or workplace contexts of the course are: schools, academies, vocational arts provision, regional dance agencies, community groups, youth groups, colleges and Higher Education.

Please note: the course is not designed to connect to broader community settings such as the National Health Service, social care provision, rehabilitation, prisons or similar, which require a different set of professional standards.

Module Map

Each module has a credit value between 30 and 60 credits, including a final action research project worth 60 credits. Each credit taken equates to a total study time of around 10 hours. Total study time includes scheduled teaching, independent study, directed study. You will study a total of 180 credits for the MA in total.

YEAR 1		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Arts Teaching and Learning in Context (30 Credits)		Curriculum Design (30 Credits) Option module
Professional Practice 1 (30 credits)		Professional Practice 2 (30 Credits) Option module

YEAR 2		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Research Methods (30 Credits)	Independent Study and Tutorials for Action Research Project (60 Credits)	

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 directed learning week in each term, with allocated vacations at Christmas and Easter.

Module Breakdown

Arts Teaching and Learning in Context

This module introduces you to the key theories and models of practice in relation to arts pedagogy. These enables you to critically evaluate core skills and techniques relevant to teaching, set within a broader context of how participants learn and are supported in their learning. You will consider the teaching and support process from the teacher's and the learners' perspectives, so you can engage with the most appropriate techniques and approaches to use. These will enable you to develop the knowledge and skills to enhance the effectiveness of your current teaching practice and to support the practice of others.

Professional Practice 1 & Professional Practice 2 (option module)

Within these modules, you will apply the skills learnt within your other modules within the placement activity. This module is designed to enhance professional teaching skills focusing on both the theory and practice of workshop delivery in educational and professional settings. You will engage in workshop planning, learning to design sessions that foster an inclusive, student-centred environment. In professional practice 1, the module includes structured, mentored observations of teaching practice, allowing participants to reflect critically on pedagogical approaches, classroom management, and learning outcomes. Through these observations and hands-on practice, students develop and refine their teaching techniques, building confidence and expertise to excel in class-based contexts. In professional practice 2, you will develop frameworks and methodologies for reflexive practice as a means towards enhancing your professional development as a teacher.

Curriculum and Course Design in Higher Education (option module)

This module provides an in-depth exploration of curriculum and course design within the context of higher education. You will explore and connect to foundational frameworks, theories, and practical processes that inform the development of effective, relevant, and impactful arts curricula. The course begins with an introduction to academic frameworks and level descriptors in higher education, examining how this shape the structuring of curriculum content, learning outcomes, and the overall student learning experience. As part of the module you will explore appropriate assessment and feedback strategies inform and are responsive to course design and validation processes.

Research Methods

This module connects you to and builds the foundations for action research methods specifically tailored to the context of arts teaching. Designed for practitioners in fields such as dance, drama, visual arts, and music, the module focuses on developing your skills in reflective inquiry and iterative research, encouraging you to investigate and improve your own teaching practice through evidence-based methods. Emphasising participatory and practice-based approaches, you will learn to design a project and how to implement and evaluate research projects that are directly relevant to their teaching environments.

Independent Action Research Project

This module is focused on developing your practice through engaging with the action research within your teaching. This will allow you to focus on one area within your practice and follow a systematic approach to research, develop and analyse this element of your teaching. This will not only equip you with expertise within your chosen area of study, but also prepare you to have active ongoing professional development as a core part of your practice, engaging with the latest research and applying it in practical settings.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching at NSCD is tailored to the nature of the modules being taken, often combining practical and theoretical learning to best prepare you for the demands of the industry. Teaching methods include practical classes and workshops, rehearsal and performance, placement activity, lectures, seminars and tutorials. All teaching takes place within industry-standard facilities.

Taught hours for each module reflect the nature of the module and current professional practice. For example, creation and rehearsal modules have intensive contact and studio time, whereas research projects combine lectures, workshops, tutorials with the independent study time needed to develop your research practice. Consequently, study time varies, but average contact time is normally between 16 and 24 hours per week during directed teaching activity.

Teaching Staff

Dance students at NSCD are taught by world-leading teaching staff whose expertise and knowledge closely matches the content of the modules they teach. The team includes senior academics who are dance artists and professional practitioners, with key links into the industry. Classes are supported by high quality accompaniment.

In addition to our in-house staff, NSCD attracts the best guest artists from all over the UK, Europe and around the world, allowing you to connect with established and emerging choreographers and dance artists. For more information on who will be teaching you, visit our staff biography pages:

nscd.ac.uk/people

Independent Learning

In addition to your timetabled sessions, independent learning and directed study form a crucial part of your learning at NSCD. This takes a range of formats, from tasks directly linked to your studies, to activities that enable you to place your dance studies within a wider arts and societal context.

You will have access to a range of resources, including studio time, academic journals, articles and books, library and computer facilities, video, audio and photo editing equipment, the bodywork studio, and NSCD's virtual learning environment.

Assessment and Feedback

NSCDs employs a wide variety of feedback and assessment methods, with the aim that each approach links the subject being studied to its application within the profession. Wherever possible a range of assessment options are included to ensure that each individual student's learning preferences are catered for. Assessment modes include:

- Continuous assessment, reflecting your development of individual practice and engagement in technical and creative processes
- Summative assessment, capturing achievement at a moment in time, such as in a performance work or choreographic projects
- Essays, proposals and verbal presentations
- Practice-based and written research projects
- Reflective practice, including written or verbal presentations

Students receive extensive ongoing feedback both embedded into the learning of the modules, and at fixed times related to specific assessment items. Feedback is designed to help student's ongoing growth and development into the profession.

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

Student Support

The School provides you with a comprehensive range of support mechanisms to help you with your studies and 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)
- Academic writing (including how to reference)
- Research skills
- Critical thinking and understanding arguments
- Pastoral care and counselling services
- Bodywork supervision including injury prevention and support
- Finance support

Our Student Support Services help students with needs resulting from disabilities, medical conditions or from neurodiverse learner profiles. Students also have access to module learning materials through the use of Moodle.

Costs and Financial Support

Latest course fees can be found here: nscd.ac.uk/postgrad-fees

Eligible postgraduate students can apply for a postgraduate loan from the Student Loans Company to help with tuition fees and living costs. Students are not expected to pay a student loan back until after graduation, and only then, once earning over the repayment threshold. Information about the variety of financial support available can be found at gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study

Both home and international postgraduate students are also eligible for a number of bursaries and partial fee-waivers. More information can be found here: nscd.ac.uk/bursaries-scholarships

Students will be required to pay a one-off application fee of £20 (waivers are available). An Administration Fee of £50 is payable at the point of acceptance to offers made on all of our courses. A Course Fee Deposit of £1500 is payable by students paying overseas fees or those students not obtaining a course fee loan through Student Finance England or its equivalent. NSCD will require you to pay the deposit at the point of acceptance. The deposit is deducted from the final instalment of your course fees.

Overseas students will have the additional costs of:

- Student Visa (£363)
- Immigration Health Surcharge (£470/year)

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

- NSCD does not require any specific dance clothing or equipment to participate in the course but there may be dance clothing or footwear a student may wish to purchase
- The cost of any materials which you choose to use in your independent projects
- Additional printing over and above the £50 annual allowance
- The cost of books or IT equipment that you might wish to purchase

Accommodation and living costs not included in the fees, further information can be obtained from our admissions team or online at: nscd.ac.uk/accommodation

Health insurance

Whilst this is not mandatory, we encourage you to consider taking out private health insurance to support with any medical treatment that may be required. NSCD is unable to recommend insurance schemes, but One Dance UK provides a useful resource at:

onedanceuk.org/resource/health-insurance-dancers-companies

NSCD Value for Money

NSCD is about the time you spend with us embodying new creative and technical approaches to dance and making lifetime friendships, on the school's campus, on study placements, and in the vibrant city of Leeds.

Our tutors and guest artists are subject experts who challenge students' thinking. NSCD students develop transferable skills needed for a portfolio career – critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creativity. We provide opportunities within the curriculum and beyond to help our students stand out in a crowded job market, including opportunities to network and collaborate, project-based curricular activity and enrichment, placements, learning from our alumni, and careers advice.

Our international approach to dance education means our students are ready to operate in a global environment when they graduate. We also work in partnership with local institutions and artists to support graduates to feed into a thriving Leeds dance ecology.

How we spend your fees

Like most universities that receive public funding, Northern School of Contemporary Dance is a charity, and raises income from a wide range of sources. This income is spent on day-to-day running costs, providing teaching and other student services, undertaking enterprise activities and engaging with arts organisations and local communities. Any surplus income is reinvested back into improving facilities.

