

MA Contemporary Dance Performance: VERVE & Postgraduate Apprenticeship Scheme (PAS)

Application and audition information

NSCD welcomes applicants to the **MA Contemporary Dance Performance** who can demonstrate understanding, knowledge and skill in the following aspects of their dance practice (with the potential for further development):

- 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
- 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

Step 1: Apply

Make an on-line application by Sunday 7th January 2018

You will be required to enter / upload the following information:

1. **Select the MA course/s that you are applying for.** You have the option of applying for either or both of the MA Contemporary Dance Performance courses. If you select both you will only be required to attend 1 first round audition after which you may be invited to either or both of the VERVE/PAS recall auditions. You also have the option to select to apply to the MA Dance & Creative Enterprise with Step 2 submissions for that course to be made by 20th May.
2. **Personal Details** (name, contact details etc)
3. **Most recent place of education**
4. **Highest qualification level** you expect to have completed by course entry
5. **A Personal Statement** (Please use a minimum of 250 words to a maximum of 1000 words.)
Include
 - Your reasons for applying for an MA course
 - Your reasons for choosing Northern School of Contemporary Dance
 - What you hope to achieve after completing your training

6. **An academic task** which should be in the form of EITHER

- a written document (report/essay/mode of your choice) of between 1000-1500 words or
- a link to a your online verbal presentation (lecture/presentation/mode of your choice) between 5-7 mins long

Present an informed discussion focused on a particular aspect of contemporary dance and/or performance that interests you. For example you might choose to explore ideas around stage presence by comparing the work of specific artists, or to investigate the audience/performer relationship. We are interested to see and hear what interests you so you can choose to discuss anything at all that in some way relates to contemporary dance practice.

Whilst you are welcome to draw on personal experience, we would also like to see how you can support your ideas through research and the use of relevant primary and secondary sources, ie. we will expect you to draw on published research material. We therefore ask that you please include a bibliography (a list of resources).

7. **Equality and Diversity Information** (ethnicity, disability and household income).

8. **Select your audition** Type/Date: see **Audition Types, Venues and Dates: September 2018 Entry** for full details before starting your application.

9. There is an **application fee of £50** which is paid via PayPal after you have submitted your application. *Applications received without payment will not be considered.*

10. After you have submitted your application you will receive an **email confirmation** which will include your selected audition type/date. *Please check and save this email.*

Step 2: Audition

Auditions for these courses are held at NSCD or, for VERVE international applicants, at overseas auditions or by remote audition.

Auditions held at NSCD: MA Contemporary Dance Performance: VERVE & PAS

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.

The Audition

Stage 1: All Candidates (9am-12.30pm)

(You are not required to perform a pre-prepared solo at the audition)

- Improvisation
- Ballet for contemporary dancers
- Contemporary
Break

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.

Stage 2: Shortlisted Candidates only (1.30pm to approx. 5.30pm)

- Creative task
- Repertory
- Individual interviews

Auditions held at overseas venues: MA Contemporary Dance Performance (VERVE)

Arrival

The audition day starts at 9.30am so please arrive between 8.45am – 9am to register and then warm up for the first session. We do not need you to bring a photo or any references.

The Audition *Parts of your audition may be filmed to be viewed by the VERVE Artistic Director.*

Stage 1: All Candidates (9.30am-1pm)

- Improvisation
- Ballet for contemporary dancers
- Contemporary
- Perform a pre-prepared solo at the audition

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.

Stage 2: Shortlisted Candidates only (1.30/2pm to approx. 5.30pm)

- Creative task
- Group discussion & Individual interviews

Remote Audition content: MA Contemporary Dance Performance (VERVE)

Your remote audition submission

After you have submitted your application you will receive an email confirmation which will include a link to the **Remote Audition Submission Form**; you should use this to submit your URL links to your YouTube upload or Vimeo links. The date by which you must send your remote audition is **Sunday 7th January 2018**

Remote Audition content

1. Technique

15 minutes of 'technique class-work' including:

- an extended warm-up phrase
- a phrase which demonstrates understanding and physical control of line and form
- a floor-based phrase
- a travelling phrase

2. Solo dance

a 1-1.5 minute solo which demonstrates ability to perform detailed repertory movement (it is **not** necessary to have choreographed the solo yourself)

3. Creative work

5 minutes of improvisation based on a task of your choice to be made clear to the audition panel within your filmed footage. The improvisation must include some voice work, and show you interacting with other dancers in the space.

4. Footage of you talking

This should include:

- The reasons why you have chosen to audition for this course.
- The relevance of the course to your aspirations and needs.
- Your understanding of the course.
- Examples of your motivation and commitment to pursuing a career in contemporary dance.

Please note: If the technique work is filmed in a class with other dancers, you should be clearly identified in some way (e.g. by wearing a particular colour). Unitards / leotards / tights, bare feet or socks (for contemporary) and soft ballet shoes or socks (for ballet) should be worn. Please ensure that you have obtained permission of other dancers in the filming. Any film sent to us will be used for the applicant audition purposes only.

Please also see MA Audition Outcomes