

Course Fact File

BA (Hons) Dance (Contemporary)

Entry 2021 | Course validated by University of Kent

Award:	BA (Hons) Dance (Contemporary)
UCAS Code:	At present you apply directly through www.nscd.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/
Location:	Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD), Chapeltown, Leeds
Awarding body:	University of Kent Students who complete the course successfully will receive a degree from the University of Kent. The validation of this course between NSCD and the University of Kent is reviewed every five years for developmental purposes and was last renewed in May 2017.
Duration:	3 years (full-time only)
Academic year:	September to July
Entry requirements:	Entry is through successful audition and interview. Additionally candidates should normally have gained five 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. 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

Course overview

The BA (Hons) in Dance (Contemporary) degree is a course of study specifically designed for the education and training of professional contemporary dance artists, performers, choreographers and artist facilitators. Our students become dance artists with highly-tuned specialist knowledge, technical and creative skills, plus experience as a producer and teacher with understanding of project management and dance pedagogy. The range of technical training undertaken during the programme is designed to train the body, whilst developing artistic intelligence and an understanding of movement, that enables the dancer to respond to the varied and changing demands of contemporary choreography. Students are encouraged to be curious about the place of contemporary dance within the broader landscape of the professional arts scene. We provide opportunities for students to work in collaboration with other arts organisations and professional settings, and for them to engage with different audiences at different stages of their professional training. Through the programme students embrace a range of industry-relevant modes of practice, such as dance film, site-specific work, social responsibility in dance, collective working, somatic practice, practice as research, Ballet and Contemporary Dance techniques, placing dance in social, cultural and historical contexts, as well as a thorough grounding in traditional theatre practice. Career support and guidance is embedded into the programme, which includes professional audition preparation.

Course overview continued

The course operates on a modular basis that provides flexibility and choice. Most modules count for either 15 or 30 academic credits. Each credit taken equates to a total study time of around 20 hours. Total study time includes scheduled teaching, independent study, directed study and assessment activity. BA (Hons) students take modules worth 30-45 credits per term. All students take a total of 120 credits per level and 360 credits for the degree as a whole. The overall grade for the course and degree classification are based on the marks obtained for modules taken at Levels 5 and 6.

Placements: Placements are embedded into some modules within the programme in Levels 5 and 6. These consist of intensive periods of rehearsal and production with a visiting professional choreographer and / or through teaching modules, where students have external placements in school or community contexts. All placements at NSCD adhere to the QAA code of practice for ‘working with others’.

Level 4 (Year 1) develops the underpinning knowledge and skills in areas such as Ballet and Contemporary Dance techniques, introducing practice-led research, creative and choreographic practice, introduction to leading dance workshops and placing performance in context. These modules create the foundation that you will need to develop as an area of specialisation later in the course.

Level 5 (Year 2) continues to develop core knowledge and skills in Ballet and Contemporary Dance techniques, creative practice, practice-led research and performance. This year begins the process of specialisation in areas of production in the creation of an arts festival or as a facilitator on placement in a school or community context. During this year you further acquire knowledge and practical skills using industry-standard systems / techniques / experiences. In the first term of this year some students have the option of applying for a placement in Europe through our Erasmus+ scheme.

Level 6 (Year 3) focuses on advanced creative, technical, performance skills and/or dance pedagogy, culminating in a major project. The major project develops your ability to work independently on a piece of practice as research of your choosing. Many students have found their major project to be connected to potential employment generation. As such students can also choose to complete their major project through an intensive teaching placement, intensive rehearsal or even as a written dissertation, if they so wish.

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: you take a combination of compulsory and optional modules, enabling you to cover key subject knowledge whilst developing your own interests. You must take modules worth a total of 120 credits at each level of the course. In levels 5 and 6 you are given a choice of two option modules to support individual specialist focus as either a creator or a facilitator. Our teaching is informed by research, and module content changes periodically to reflect developments in the discipline. If we have insufficient numbers of students interested in an optional module or there are rare changes in staff availability, this may not be offered. If an optional module will not be run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative 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. The modules available on the course are as follows:

LEVEL 4		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Dance Techniques: Ballet & Contemporary Dance Practices 1 (15 Credits) Compulsory module	Research Project 1 (15 Credits) Compulsory module	Teaching Dance 1 (15 Credits) Compulsory module
Creative Practice 1 (15 Credits) Compulsory module	Dance Techniques: Ballet & Contemporary Dance Practices 2 (30 Credits) Compulsory module	
Performance in Context 1 (30 Credits) Compulsory module		

Module map continued

LEVEL 5		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Dance Techniques: Ballet & Contemporary Dance Practices 3 (15 Credits) Compulsory module		Creative Practice 3 (15 Credits) Compulsory module
Performance in Context 2 (30 credits) Compulsory module	Research Project 2 (30 credits) Compulsory module	
	Teaching Dance 2 (15 credits) Option module	
	Creative Practice 2 (15 Credits) Option module	

LEVEL 6		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Dance Techniques: Ballet & Contemporary Dance Practices 4 (15 Credits) Compulsory module		Performance in Context 4 30 credits) Compulsory module
Research Project 3 (30 credits) Option module		Performance in Context 5 30 credits) Compulsory module
Teaching Dance 3 (30 credits) Option module		
Performance in Context 3 (15 credits) Compulsory module		

Teaching and learning

Students are taught through a combination of practical classes and workshops, lectures, seminars and 'laboratory-style' practical sessions. 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 tutorials with your academic tutors. You use industry-standard facilities throughout your course. At Level 4 (as a guide) you typically have around 30 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 24 hours of practical classes or workshops
- 1 hour of seminars / tutorials
- 3 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/people

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

Independent learning continued

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 editing 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
- Lecture demonstrations
- Written essays and dissertations
- Written / verbal project reports and evaluations / reflections
- Individual and small group verbal presentations
- Observation of teaching practice
- Viva Voce

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 30 hours per week), in addition to independent learning (expected to be at least 2 hours per module), rehearsals (varies) and assessment activity. Each credit taken equates to a total study time of around 36 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

Level 5: 85 per cent of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Level 6: 84 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.

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

Student support continued

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 for BA (Hons) students. 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. You will need to give Student Finance England 'consent to share' so that we can view this information.

For the academic year 2021-22 the tuition fees for this course are:

UK / EU Full-time £9,250*

EAA / Overseas £17,500

*Tuition fees for our course may rise in line with inflation, as permitted by law.

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

- the estimated cost of your dance clothing over three years
- the cost of any materials which you choose to use in your creative projects
- additional printing over and above the £50 annual allowance
- the cost of books that you might wish to purchase
- the cost of enhanced DBS checks if you choose teaching modules (£58 approx.)

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: www.nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance

EAA/International students: Applicants may be able to apply for a fee waiver of up to £3,000. Details can be obtained from our admissions team or online at: <http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance/undergraduate/>

'NSCD value for money' (based on a comparison with other HE dance degrees of the same price) NSCD is 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:

- Visiting workshops with guest choreographers and companies
- Cost of travel to 'site' work
- Career development workshops including audition preparation
- Sponsored theatre visits
- Health and well-being days
- On-site injury intervention and support
- Reduced price 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
- Intensive 'special projects' during the year