

Course Fact File

Postgraduate Diploma Arts Learning and Teaching in Higher Education

Entry 2021 | Course validated by University of Kent

Award:	Postgraduate Diploma Arts Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (PGDip ALTHE)
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 60 M level credits of study may choose to exit the programme after the first year with a PGCert Arts Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Students who choose to stay on for the second year (part-time) will complete an additional 60 M level credits towards the award PGDip Arts Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. The validation of this course between NSCD and the University of Kent will be reviewed every five years for developmental purposes and will be reviewed again in 2024.
Duration:	2 years (part-time) flexible study around working patterns
Academic year:	Part-time course: Taught sessions are scheduled throughout the year to allow practitioners to engage in study alongside their employment. This is supported by online study support and continuous reflexive practice.
Entry requirements:	This course is open to those who teach and those in learner support roles in Higher Education Institutions. Entry is through an online application and Skype interview. The PGDip ALTHE is open to graduates and professionals with at least one years' experience of teaching or supporting learning in Higher Education. We are looking for applicants from a range of related subject areas; Dance, Theatre, Drama, Visual Arts, Music, Circus and Media (although this list is not exhaustive). Applicants must be teaching in a Higher Education environment and be working with students from any of the following categories: Foundation (Level 4-5), Undergraduate (Level 4-6), Postgraduate (Level 7) or above. The application must be supported with a reference from the applicant's place of work with recognition and identification of who will take on the role of professional mentor for the applicant during the Autumn Term of Year 2.

Continued overleaf

Entry requirements continued

Please note: It is a requirement of the programme that applicants have regular student contact hours within their current post(s), that they are able to source a minimum number of working hours and have access to a more senior or experienced colleague within their institution, who can act as a professional mentor. We recommend a PGDip student has regular contracted hours with a student cohort to act as a valuable resource to learning. As a guide, we would advise that during the period of study, PGDip students are given access to a combination of activities which could include: curriculum planning, teaching, support of learners, tutorials and assessment of learners.

Course overview

Our PGDip ALTHE enables graduates and professionals at varying stages of their careers to evolve and advance their knowledge, skills and understanding of learning, teaching and supporting students' learning of the arts in Higher Education.

The course is designed so that participants are able to investigate aspects of teaching and learning that are particularly important to them. Some of the expected outcomes of the course are:

- greater knowledge and understanding of learning, teaching, assessment and student support in Higher Education;
- knowledge of curriculum design within clear academic frameworks;
- greater understanding of student engagement in higher education;
- increased confidence in their practice;
- an ability to think creatively and from an evidence base, about how to improve education and learner support within and beyond your own practice;
- greater understanding of the application of reflexive practice as a tool for professional development;
- understanding of action research as a mechanism for change and the development of new knowledge.

In the first year, students study for the Postgraduate Certificate (60 M level credits) and this is recommended for colleagues who are primarily engaged in teaching or supporting student learning, or who wish to focus their professional development on teaching rather than research and public engagement. The second year of the programme (the Postgraduate Diploma, an additional 60 M level credits) allows space for more in-depth reflexive practice and an opportunity to carry out a piece of action research within an area of their role.

The course is underpinned by the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF) and successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma leads to an Associate Fellowship or Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. All modules count for 30 academic Level 7 credits. Each module taken equates to a total study time of around 250-300 hours. Total study time includes scheduled teaching, independent study, directed study and assessment activity. All students study towards a maximum of 120 credits over two years.

Level 7 (Autumn & Spring Term Year 1) - Arts Based Learning, Teaching and Assessment in Higher Education, 30 credits (compulsory module): This term develops a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of learning teaching and learner support in Higher Education. There is a focus towards a comprehensive understanding of the professional role, application of pedagogy, learner support, learner profiles, teaching and learning styles and resource management which may be applicable to students' own advanced scholarship. The focus of this term is defining the role and practice of the teacher and learner support officer in Higher Education, what is special about arts pedagogy, how teachers 'teach' and how learners 'learn' efficiently within an inclusive learning environment. This term will facilitate open dialogue between practitioners and introduce various techniques for reflection and evaluation of practices within the workplace.

Continued overleaf

Course overview continued

Level 7 (Summer Term Year 1) - Curriculum and Assessment Design in Higher Education or Learning Support in Higher Education (option modules): There is opportunity to bring originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline. It is expected in this term that students demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level in the workplace, in order to continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level. In this term we look at approaches to curriculum design and/or supporting learning in Higher Education. The sessions will look more closely at the codes of practice and academic frameworks which facilitate quality assurance within the programmes that the lecturer delivers or how the learner support officer contributes and supports an inclusive curriculum approach. This term further develops critical understanding and analysis of students' practice and introduces action research methodologies to apply change to curriculum models, learning support and assessment. In both modules there is significant focus upon resources and effective approaches which can be adopted by the practitioner in a variety of educational settings.

Level 7 (Autumn Term Year 2) During this term, students are expected to carry out a period of professional practice which is inspired by the debate and discovery in the first year of study. We would expect students to have this agreed in their institution(s) and be able to access a professional mentor who is senior or more experienced to support their workplace practice. During this period NSCD will carry out two formal observations of teaching or learning support in the workplace. Additionally students will have access to a peer learner group for support for the duration of the module.

Level 7 (Spring & Summer Term Year 2) During the final term of study (usually early June to August) students from this programme undertake a substantial independent or collaborative action research project at an advanced level, relative to the field of study. The research project facilitates in-depth investigation into an aspect of learning, teaching or student support in Higher Education and is likely to be drawn from the experience and learning encountered through an earlier aspect of the course. Action research is carried out in connection to the workplace and as such we will introduce to students an ethics code of practice to support the research activity.

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: 90 credits of this programme are compulsory modules, with 1x 30 credit option module in Year 1, enabling you to cover key subject knowledge whilst developing your own interests. You will take modules worth a total of 120 credits at Level 7. Our teaching is informed by research, and module content changes periodically to reflect developments in the discipline.

LEVEL 7: YEAR 1		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Arts Based Learning, Teaching and Assessment in Higher Education (30 credits) Compulsory module		Curriculum and Assessment Design in Higher Education (30 credits) Option module
		Learning Support in Higher Education (30 credits) Option module
LEVEL 7: YEAR 2		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Professional Practice (30 credits) Compulsory module	Independent Action Research Project (30 credits) Compulsory module	

Timetables: Timetables are normally available one month before registration. Please note that while we will make every effort to ensure that timetables are as student-friendly as possible, with scheduled learning taking place around working patterns, the timetable may need to be adapted throughout the course.

Teaching and learning

Students are taught through a combination of workshops, lectures and seminars. Seminars and small group tutorials enable you to discuss and develop your understanding of topics covered in smaller groups. In addition, you have timetabled meetings with your academic tutors. You use industry-standard facilities throughout your course.

- The course is typically delivered through three intensive residencies each year and usually happens Friday–Sunday, Saturday to Monday or coincides with institution reading weeks where appropriate. This method of delivery best fits around lecturers' working patterns.
 - Students join NSCD Moodle (Virtual Learning Environment) and are expected to complete directed study hours and contribute to peer discussion forums and debates
 - Students work autonomously and are required to use independent study hours as prescribed to prepare, plan and deliver work accordingly, to meet the demands of study.
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Teaching staff

Students joining the course 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, 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

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 undertaking critical reflections of your work, undertaking research in the library, preparing coursework assignments and presentations, and preparing for assessments. Students use independent study time to access the library and online NSCD VLE.

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 professional practice
- 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 all avenues of their studies 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 typically consists of three taught residencies per year, in addition to independent learning (expected to be at least 5 hours per module, per week), workplace activity (varies) and assessment activity.

Student support

The School provides students with a comprehensive range of support mechanisms to help them with their 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 (in conjunction with the library)
- Critical thinking and understanding arguments
- Pastoral care and counselling services
- Finance support

Our Disability Advice and Student Support Services help any students with additional needs including those 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

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

Home £1,900 per year (Part-time, 2 year course)

Overseas £4,000 per year (Part-time, 2 year course)

Overseas students will have the additional costs of:

- student visa (£348)
- Immigration Health Surcharge (£470)

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

- cost of any materials which you choose to use in your research project
- additional printing over and above the £50 annual allowance
- the cost of books or IT equipment that you might wish to purchase
- the cost of an enhanced DBS check (approx. £58) should you be required to have one

Please note: There are no financial bursaries for this programme. We advise that applicants speak with their institutions to see if any of the fees can be supported through their staff development funds.

Residential and living costs not included in the fees. For further information contact our admissions team: admissions@nscd.ac.uk