

## Course Fact File

# MA Dance & Creative Enterprise

Entry 2021 | Course validated by University of Kent

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**Award:** MA Dance & Creative Enterprise

**UCAS Code:** At present you apply directly through  
[www.nscd.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/](http://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 120 M level credits of study may choose to exit the programme in June with a PGDip in Dance & Creative Enterprise. Students who choose to stay on until August will complete an additional 60 M level credits towards the award of MA. 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:** 1 year (full-time) or 2 years (part-time)

**Academic year:** September - August

**Entry requirements:** Entry is through an online application, the submission of a showreel and a piece of written work, and a Skype interview. The MA Dance & Creative Enterprise is open to graduates of two / three year dance training programmes at Higher Education level, who would therefore usually be 21+ years of age, or to dance artists with some professional experience and equivalent vocational dance training at an appropriate level.

**Please note: This course is for independent artists or dance graduates who are looking to become a creative independent artist/producer. Fifty per cent of this programme focuses on business, funding and marketing skills development, for this reason it is very different to our other MA programmes (VERVE/PAS) where performance within a contemporary dance company is the primary focus.**

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### Course overview

**The MA in Dance & Creative Enterprise enables dance graduates and professionals at varying stages of their careers to evolve and advance their artistic practice, whilst gaining further understanding of its value and application as a creative enterprise.**

## *Course overview continued*

At NSCD we believe dance artists in the 21st Century need to understand the ‘business’ of dance in parallel with developing their creative practice. This programme enables dance graduates and professionals to gain a broader perspective on the arts sector, realise their ideas and find a potential market for their work, while encouraging further development as a creative artist through its use of individual and collaborative approaches to arts practice and entrepreneurship.

Artistic principles and theoretical concepts closely related to the art form are explored, as well as the practices of project management, publicity and marketing (including digital technologies), funding within the arts and audience engagement. Alongside the creation and performance of work during the course, which can be individually-led, focus will be given to developing academic and entrepreneurial skills by framing work as a collective, with guidance from some of the UK’s leading dance academics and practitioners.

The course operates on a modular basis. Most modules count for either 15 or 30 academic Level 7 credits, with the final major research project being 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 and assessment activity. Students on this programme take modules worth 60 credits per term. All students take a total of 180 credits for the MA as a whole.

**Level 7 (Autumn 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 the dance discipline. There is a focus towards a comprehensive understanding of creativity, business skills, research methodology and resource management which may later be applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship. The focus of this term is developing an understanding of the individual creative practice, the situation of this in a wider context, the development of advanced practice as research methodologies, alongside exploration into creative modes of enquiry, project management and funding streams within the Arts.

**Level 7 (Spring & Early Summer Term)** 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 order to continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level. The focus of this term is the further development and application of collaborative approaches to performance work, through intensive periods of rehearsal and performance. In this term we look at approaches to marketing the self and performance work and research.

**Level 7 (Extended Summer Term)** During the third term of study (usually early June to August) students from all of our MA Programmes undertake a substantial independent or collaborative project and carry out research at an advanced level, relative to the field of study. The research project facilitates in-depth investigation into an aspect of contemporary dance practice, likely to be drawn from the experience and learning encountered through an earlier aspect of their course. The MA stage of study is characterised by practice as research, with the guidance of a supervising tutor or mentor. Students who do not complete this term of study (Stage Two) may be eligible for an award of Postgraduate Diploma.

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## Module Map

This module map provides an overview of the modules that make up the course and when these are studied. Each module is worth a specified number of credits: you will take modules worth a total of 180 credits at level 7. Our teaching is informed by research, and module content changes periodically to reflect developments in the discipline.

LEVEL 7			
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Early Summer Term	Extended Summer Term
Arts and Project Management (15 credits)	Marketing and Digital Representation (15 credits)		Final Major Research Project (Practice and/or Dissertation) (60 credits)
Creative Modes of Enquiry (15 credits)	Professional Practice: Project (30 credits)		
Fundraising for Creative Industries (15 credits)			
Dance Research & Perspectives in Practice (30 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 reading week in each term, with allocated vacations at Christmas and Easter.

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## Teaching and learning

You are taught through a combination of practical classes and 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 pedagogical approach of each module is tailored to the learning aims including:

- Practical classes focusing on your development as individual artists
- Workshops developing your professional practice and creative approach
- Seminars and tutorials
- Lectures, directed study and independent learning
- Project based assessment activity that relates to real-world outcomes

Actual contact hours may vary depending on aspects of delivery.

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## 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, a wide variety of 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](http://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.

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## 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 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, Black box lighting studio, Gymnasium, Pilates equipment, online access to NSCD VLE and access to Riley Theatre.

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## 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 within modules
- Assessed project-based work
- Showings of performance, choreographic work, improvisation & 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
- Digital website creation

Students receive ongoing feedback in all 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.

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## Overall workload

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours (around 16 hours per week), in addition to independent learning (expected to be at least 9 hours per week), rehearsals/project (varies) and assessment activity. Each credit taken equates to a total study time of around 10 hours. While your actual contact hours may depend on varying aspects of delivery e.g. intensive rehearsal period or project, 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 7: 88% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity**

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## 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 Service helps 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).

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## Cost and financial support

Eligible postgraduate students can apply for a postgraduate loan from the Student Loans Company to help with tuition fees and living costs, based on household income. Students are not expected to pay a student loan back until after graduation, and only then, once earning over the repayment threshold (currently £21,000 a year). Information about the variety of financial support available for Postgraduate/MA applicants can be found here:

- Government grants and loans [www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study](http://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study)

Students will be required to pay a one-off application fee of £20 (waivers are available). An **Administration Fee** of £100 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.

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

**Home** £8,000 (full-time) or £4,500 (part-time over two years)

**Overseas** £17,500

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:

- NSCD does not require any specific dance clothing or equipment to participate in the course but there may be dance clothing or dance footwear a student may wish to purchase
- the 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

**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](http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/student-life/accommodation)

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: [www.nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance/postgraduate](http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance/postgraduate)

### Health insurance

Whilst this is not mandatory, we encourage students 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: <http://www.onedanceuk.org/resource/health-insurance-dancers-companies/> (costs vary dependent on cover).

### *Cost and financial support continued*

**'NSCD value for money'** (based on a comparison with other HE Dance Masters 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:

- Additional tuition including classes, support and guidance

Plus:

- Workshops with guest choreographers and companies
- 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