Northern School of Contemporary Dance

University of Kent

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Course Fact File

CertHE Cultural Dance Forms

Entry 2022 | Course validated by University of Kent

Award:	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Contemporary Dance
UCAS Code:	At present you apply for this course through nscd.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/
Location:	Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD), Chapeltown, Leeds
Awarding body:	University of Kent
Duration:	1 year (full-time only)
Academic year:	September - July
Entry requirements:	Entry is through successful audition and interview. Additionally candidates should have normally gained four 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. Exceptions are made for very talented 16 year olds and mature applicants. 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 Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in Cultural Dance Forms is specifically designed to prepare a diverse range of dance artists for further in-depth professional training in Higher Education.

Cultural Dance Forms focuses on four key elements: Hip Hop, Vogue, Carnival and Western Theatre Dance techniques, which are explored through cultural and social contexts, a variety of technique classes/ workshops, creative practice and performance opportunities. Students study modules comprising cultural dance styles, creative practice, Western theatre dance techniques, and performance projects. Half of the programme is devoted to dance techniques that prepare the body, offering a foundation for creative and performance work, whilst creative practices include improvisation and freestyle, alongside structures and choreographic tools which cross over all four key elements. All of the practical work is understood through historical, social, political, and cultural contexts including questions of race and gender, adding background, meaning and discussion to the students' and other professional works.

The course enables students to explore a breadth of dance styles which form close connections to popular and youth culture, communities and cities. Through its diverse curriculum, students encounter the voices of past generations, connect to the stories and migration of people and understand the impact these have had in shaping our global society. Students on the course engage with a range of technical, creative and performance experiences. In a practical way, students examine the role of a number of cultural dance styles as a means to tell the stories of individuals, communities and regions.

Students study Cultural Dance Forms through a variety of styles from Africa, the Caribbean and across the globe such as Hip Hop (including popping, locking, breaking/BBoy, krumping) House, Dancehall and Vogue. Western dance techniques including Contemporary enrich the focus on cultural perspectives, so that students can develop their own movement language and so tell their own stories in both theatre and other social arenas.

Please note: This course is suited to individuals who need more time to develop their technique and creative skills within a breadth of styles, in order to meet the criteria for entry onto degree programmes. It is also a recommended route of study for applicants who are looking for a one-year intensive programme of study, or are undecided as to whether they are ready to commit to three years' full-time training. This programme is also suitable for very talented 16-17 year olds as a full-time alternative access route to Higher Education.

The programme provides an insight into three year full-time undergraduate study. Our CertHE programmes have an excellent record for helping students to access Conservatoires and Higher Education institutions. 98% of students who completed this level of programme in 2018 progressed to further dance training, either at NSCD, another conservatoire or other university.

The course operates on a modular basis. Most modules count for either 15 or 30 academic credits. Each credit taken equates to a total study time of around 10-20 hours. Total study time includes scheduled teaching, independent study, directed study and assessment activity. Full-time students take modules worth 37-45 credits per term. All students take a total of 120 credits for the CertHE as a whole.

Level 4 (Year 1) develops the underpinning knowledge and skills in areas such as Cultural Dance Forms, creative and choreographic practice, improvisation, performance, Contemporary Dance techniques, and cultural perspectives on dance. These modules create the foundation that you will need in order to apply for further training.

Progression routes from this course: Upon successful completion of 120 (Level 4) credits, students can apply for entry point 1 of the BA (Hons) degree at NSCD, another conservatoire or university dance degree programme. In exceptional circumstances where students have excelled in their progress and attainment, NSCD may consider applicants for direct entry to Level 5 (entry point 2).

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; all modules on this programme are compulsory modules, enabling you to cover key subject knowledge whilst developing your own interests. You take modules worth a total of 120 credits at Level 4. Our teaching is informed by research, and module content changes periodically to reflect developments in the discipline.

The modules available on the course are as follows:

LEVEL 4		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Cultural Perspectives on Dance (15 credits) Compulsory module		Performance Practice (15 credits) Compulsory module
Cultural Dance Styles 1 (15 credits) Compulsory module	Cultural Dance Styles 2 (15 credits) Compulsory module	Cultural Dance Styles 3 (15 credits) Compulsory module
	Western Theatre Dance Techniques (15 credits) Compulsory module	
Creative Practice and Performance (30 credits) Compulsory 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.

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 lectures in smaller groups. In addition, you have timetabled meetings with your academic tutors. You use industry-standard facilities throughout your course.

At Level 4 (as a guide) you typically have around 21 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 18 hours of practical classes or workshops
- 1 hour of seminars / tutorials
- 2 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: 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 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 edit 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
- Essay and / or written reflection
- Individual and small group verbal presentations

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 21 hours per week), in addition to independent learning (expected to be at least 1.5 hours per module), rehearsals (varies) and assessment activity. Each credit taken equates to a total study time of around 28 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

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

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 based on household income. 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 or its equivalent 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 or its equivalent 'consent to share' so that we can view this information.

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 undergraduate 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 2022-23 the tuition fees for this course are:

Home £8,000
Overseas £16,500

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
- Cost of any materials which you choose to use in your creative projects
- Additional printing over and above the £50 annual allowance
- Cost of books or IT equipment that you might wish to purchase

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: onedanceuk.org/resource/health-insurance-dancers-companies/ (costs vary dependent on cover).

Accommodation and living costs not included in the fees

This information can be obtained from our admissions team or online at: 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 at: nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance

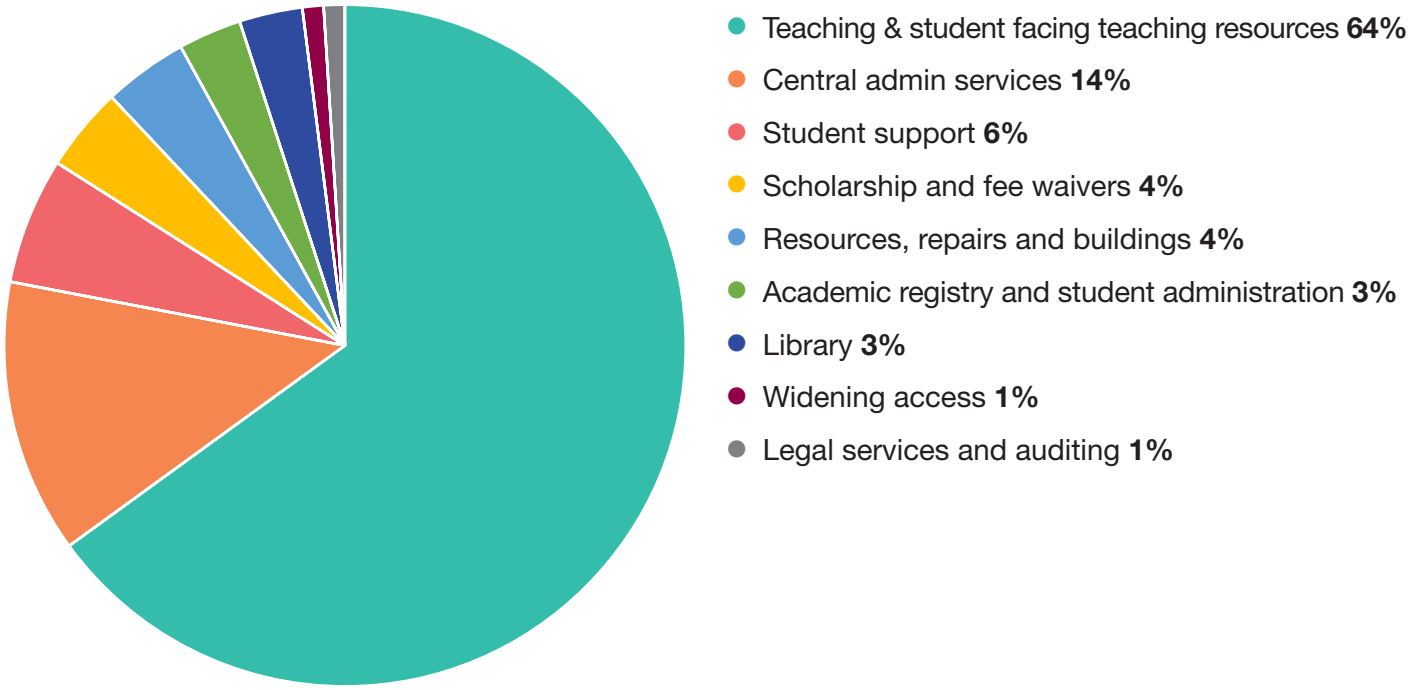
Overseas students: Applicants may be able to apply for a fee waiver of up to £3,000. Details can be obtained from our admissions team or online at: nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance/undergraduate/

NSCD value for money

NSCD is about the time students spend with us, embodying new creative and technical approaches to dance and making lifetime friendships, on a school campus they call home and in a city they often make home once their course has finished.

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 Leeds Dance Partnership, 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 - both current facilities and proposed new premises.