

## Course Fact File

# MA Contemporary Dance Performance (Professional Placement Scheme - PPS)

Entry 2022 | Course validated by University of Kent



**Award:** MA Contemporary Dance Performance (PPS)

**UCAS Code:** At present you apply for this course through [nscd.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/](https://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). Students who complete 120 M level credits of study may choose to exit the programme in June with a PGDip in Contemporary Dance Performance.

**Academic year:** September - August, but exact dates will depend on company placement activity

**Entry requirements:** Entry is through successful audition and interview, plus completion of a written task. Our postgraduate programmes are 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.

**Overseas Applicants:** Citizens of the EU, EEA and Switzerland will be included in the new points-based system and will require a visa to study in the UK. For full details, visit [nscd.ac.uk/study/overseas-students/](https://nscd.ac.uk/study/overseas-students/). Overseas applicants are welcome to apply for PPS as we are able to offer a limited number of placements to students who require a visa at **Phoenix Dance Theatre**. Placements with other participating companies based outside Leeds are unfortunately not open to students who require a visa due to UK Visa and Immigration restrictions.

## Course overview

The distinctiveness of this programme lies in the offer of a work placement with a professional dance company of between five and nine months. Students work alongside professional dancers at their chosen host company, experiencing the creation, rehearsal, production and touring of a professional performance programme or project, including any related education and community outreach work. Should a touring opportunity not be possible due to Covid-19 or other circumstances, students will be offered an experience of the equivalent depth and educational value. Whilst on their placement, students are supported by a tutor at NSCD. The placement experience is supplemented by a wide range of technical and creative work delivered at NSCD, which can include performance platforms, classes with VERVE and research-based activities. Crucially, students develop an understanding of the wider skills required of a professional dance artist, through small-scale projects, introductions to local networks and workshop teaching.

**Choreographers who have worked with the company include: tanzmainz, 2Faced Dance Company, ACE Dance and Music, Company Chameleon, Phoenix Dance Theatre, Protein Dance, Black Box Dance Company (Denmark), Tavaziva, Candoco Dance Company, Mark Bruce Company, Stopgap Dance Company and Motionhouse.**

The course operates on a modular basis. Most modules count for 30 or 60 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 10-20 hours. Total study time includes scheduled teaching, independent study, directed study and assessment activity. Students on this programme take modules worth approximately 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 techniques and creativity which may later be applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

**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 advancing their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level. All the learning within this term is framed within the context of placement-based learning where students develop and apply these skills within a company

**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 (PGDip).

## 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, enabling you to cover key subject knowledge whilst developing your own interests. 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
Technical Practice (30 credits)			Final Major Research Project (Dissertation) (60 credits)
Company (60 credits)			
Performance Practice (30 credits) Optional module			
Artist as Facilitator (30 credits) Optional module			

**\*During induction week the programme leader will support students in their option choice, depending on the content and experience available with the individual company to which the student has been assigned.**

**Timetables:** They 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. While on placement, day-to-day scheduling will be overseen by the company.

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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.

At Level 7 (as a guide) you typically have around 24-30 contact hours per week, typically consisting of 24-30 hours of work-based placement activity, constructed through an individually negotiated learner plan (INLP)

**Placements:** Placements are embedded into the whole programme. These consist of intensive periods of rehearsal and production with an assigned company and/or through teaching outreach activities, 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'.

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## Teaching staff

You will be 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. NSCD typically commissions around six companies to offer placements, as well as inviting a significant number of visiting guest artists to deliver aspects of the curriculum including daily classes and workshops. For more information on who will be teaching you visit our staff biography pages:

[nscd.ac.uk/about/people](https://nscd.ac.uk/about/people)

## Independent learning

When not attending timetabled sessions you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. Typically, this will involve reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research via the library, preparing coursework assignments and presentations, and preparing for assessments. Students also use independent study time for using the gym and attending / having rehearsals. Your independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities, including online library resources and online access to Moodle (our Virtual Learning Environment or VLE).

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## Assessment and feedback

NSCD employs a wide variety of assessment methods including formative, continuous and summative assessment. Assessment evidence includes:

- 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. Through placement, students have a professional mentor within the company who will offer formative feedback in all areas of their placement activities. 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 24-30 hours per week plus independent learning which is expected to be at least 2 hours per module, rehearsals (varies according to each company's schedule) and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While your actual contact hours may depend varying aspects of delivery e.g. intensive rehearsal periods or technical weeks or touring, 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: 90% per cent of your time is spent in teaching and learning activities in combination with the companies and/or at NSCD.**

## 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
- Financial 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 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 at [gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study](https://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 2022-23 the fees for this course are:

**Home** £10,000

**Overseas** £18,000

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: [nscd.ac.uk/study/student-life/accommodation](https://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: [nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance/postgraduate](https://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: [onedanceuk.org/resource/health-insurance-dancers-companies/](https://onedanceuk.org/resource/health-insurance-dancers-companies/) (costs vary dependent on cover).

## 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.

