



CertHE Contemporary Dance

Award: Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Contemporary Dance, validated by the University of Kent

Duration: 1 year (full-time only), September - July

Entry requirements: Entry is through successful audition and interview. Additionally candidates should have normally 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.

Exceptions may be made for 16 and 17 year olds and/or mature applicants who are noted as able to meet the learning outcomes of the course by a panel of experts at audition. Equivalent qualifications may also be accepted depending on the strength of the grades achieved. Equivalent level overseas qualifications are also accepted. Contact admissions@nscd.ac.uk for more details.

Course Overview

The CertHE in Contemporary Dance is a course specifically designed for preparing dance artists to undertake further in-depth professional training. Previously known as the Foundation/Access to HE course, this programme provides an insight into the three year full-time degree and has an excellent track record for helping students to access conservatoires and Higher Education. Our students on the CertHE in Contemporary Dance course are enriched by a range of technical, creative and performance experiences in a variety of contexts, all of which support them at the start of their journey towards a career in dance. 82% of students who completed this level of programme in 2022 progressed to further dance training, either at NSCD, another conservatoire or other university.

Throughout the programme, students embrace a range of industry-relevant modes of working, such as contemporary dance practices, ballet for contemporary dancers, improvisation, creative practice, research practice, performance practice and dance repertoire, in order to give them a thorough grounding in contemporary dance.

Level 4 (Year 1) develops the underpinning knowledge and skills in areas such as contemporary dance practices, ballet for contemporary dancers, afro-fusion and breaking, creative and choreographic practice, improvisation, performance practice and dance repertoire. These modules create the foundation that you will need to apply for further training.

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 hours. Total study time includes scheduled teaching, independent study, directed study and assessment activity. Full-time students take modules worth 30-60 credits per term. All students take a total of 120 credits for the CertHE as a whole.

Please note: This course is best suited to individuals who require further technical or creative dance experiences before they are able to meet the criteria for entry onto our degree programme. 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 would like to commit to three years full-time training. This programme is also suitable for 16-17 year olds who are noted as able to meet the learning outcomes of the course by a panel of experts at audition, as a full-time alternative access route to Higher Education.

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
Dance Practices (30 credits) Compulsory module		Performance Practice (30 credits) Compulsory module
Creative Practice (30 credits) Compulsory module		Dance Repertoire (15 credits) Compulsory module
Research Practice (15 credits) Compulsory module		

Timetables

Timetables are normally available at least one week 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 Directed Learning week every term in which there are no scheduled classes and students are encouraged to use School resources to support working on their own interests and/or engaging in optional artist residencies and workshops.

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.

On average throughout the year you have around 21 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- Practical classes or workshops
- Lectures/seminars/tutorials

In addition up to 3 hours of Directed Study time are scheduled to support engagement with independent research and practice.

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, and professional practitioners with industry experience. For more information on who will be teaching you, visit our staff biography pages: nscd.ac.uk/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. Classes are supported by high quality accompaniment.

Independent Learning

When not attending timetabled sessions you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-directed study. Typically, this involves 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 also access studios in their own time to continue practical work including rehearsals and movement 'jam' sessions. Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities, including the library, studios, video edit suite, bodywork studio, Pilates equipment, online access to NSCD VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) 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
- Sharings 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 which considers and evaluates professional and academic development.

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 18-19 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. Your contact hours may depend on the modules being delivered each term e.g. intensive rehearsal.

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
- Bodywork supervision including injury prevention and support
- Finance support

Our Student Support Services help students with needs resulting from disabilities, medical conditions or from neurodiverse learner profiles. Students have access to module learning materials through the use of Moodle.

Costs and Financial Support

For the academic year 2024-25 the tuition fees for the course are:

Home - £8,500

Overseas - £16,500

Student finance

Home fee-paying students can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to pay for Tuition Fees and for a Maintenance Loan towards living costs from the Student Loans Company, or other equivalent body.

Tuition Fee Loan up to the full cost of the course.

Maintenance Loan to contribute to living costs, as follows:

Living at home up to £8,610 (2024-25)

Living away from home up to £10,227 (2024-25)

Further details regarding eligibility and how to apply can be found at:

[gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)

Detailed guidance on how to complete an application for Student Finance can be found at:

[nscd.ac.uk/fees](https://www.nscd.ac.uk/fees)

Additional costs

You will be required to pay a one-off **Application Fee** of £20 when booking your audition (waivers are available). This fee covers the cost of processing applications and auditions.

An **Acceptance Fee** of £100 is payable at the point of accepting an offer made to any of our courses. This amount is refunded to you on completion of your third year. If you choose to withdraw or intermit your studies, then this amount will not be repaid.

Overseas fee-paying students and self-funded students **not** obtaining a course fee loan through Student Finance England (or its equivalent) need to pay a **Course Fee Deposit** of £1500. 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 year 1.

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

- Dance clothing or dance footwear a student may wish to purchase (NSCD does not require specific clothing or equipment)
- Materials which you choose to use in your creative projects
- Additional printing over and above the £50 annual allowance
- 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.

Accommodation and living costs

This information can be obtained from our admissions team or online at: nscd.ac.uk/accommodation

Bursaries & Scholarships

NSCD offers a range of bursaries for students based on household income. If you wish to be considered for a bursary, 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. You will need to give Student Finance England or its equivalent 'consent to share' so that we can view this information.

Home students: We offer financial support for Home fee-paying students based on household income. Students with household income below £42,875 may be eligible for a cash bursary of up to £1000 per year.

Overseas students: Applicants may be able eligible 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

For more information, visit: nscd.ac.uk/bursaries-scholarships

NSCD Value for Money

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

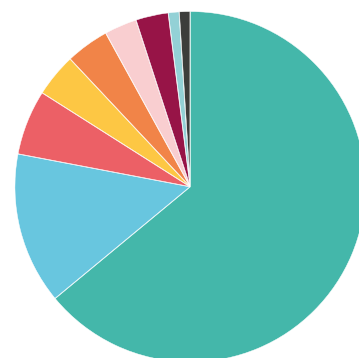
Our tutors and guest artists are subject experts who challenge students' thinking. NSCD students develop transferable skills needed for a portfolio career – critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creativity. We provide opportunities within the curriculum and beyond to help our students stand out in a crowded job market, including opportunities to network and collaborate, project-based curricular activity and enrichment, placements, workshops with 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 in receipt of 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.

- Teaching & student facing teaching resources **64%**
- Central admin services **14%**
- Student support **6%**
- Scholarship and fee waivers **4%**
- Resources, repairs and buildings **4%**
- Academic registry and student administration **3%**
- Library **3%**
- Widening access **1%**
- Legal services and auditing **1%**



Information correct at time of going to print. All course information subject to change.