An Approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Policy owner:	Northern School of Contemporary Dance: Leadership Team
Lead contact:	Head of Quality & Compliance
Audience:	Students/Staff/partners for Northern School of Contemporary Dance Courses of higher education
Approving body:	Northern School of Contemporary Dance: Senate
Date approved:	July 2025
Policy Implementation date:	September 2025
Supersedes:	N/A
Previous approved version(s) dates:	N/A
Review cycle:	Annual
Next review due date:	July 2026
Related Statutes, Ordinances, General Regulations	Validating Universities' Academic Regulations Equality Act 2010
Related Policies, Procedures and Guidance:	Academic Misconduct, Student Complaints, Learning Culture & Codes of Practice
UK Quality Code reference:	
OfS Conditions reference:	Conditions: B & C
Equality and Diversity Considerations:	Policy should be available in accessible format for all students.
Date Equality and Diversity Assessment Completed:	
Further information: All queries relating to this document should be referred to quality.office@nscd.ac.uk	

An Approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Introduction

As a small specialist dance conservatoire, Higher Education Provider and arts organisation we recognise that artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the creative industries and higher education landscape. In line with best practice from the arts and University sector including Arts Council England and One Dance UK, we are committed to adopting an approach to AI that aligns with our mission, supports our community, and upholds the principles of creativity, inclusion, and sustainability.

Purpose

This document sets out our approach to the integration of AI, ensuring that its use is ethical, equitable, and environmentally responsible, while enhancing the creative and educational experiences of our staff, students, and collaborators. This should be read alongside the AI Guidance for Staff & Students (see Appendix A).

Guiding Principles

Creativity and Human-Centred Practice

Our work in dance is grounded in the body, collaboration, and live exchange. AI will be used to complement and extend artistic inquiry, not to replace human creativity and agency.

Ethics and Transparency

We commit to ethical and transparent use of AI, with clear accountability for how AI is deployed across our work. We will ensure that AI use adheres to relevant data protection, privacy, and intellectual property standards and is referenced when used in NSCD work.

Equity and Access

We recognise that AI can reinforce existing inequalities. We will work actively to ensure AI use does not disadvantage any member of our community and will challenge any bias or discriminatory impacts.

Experimentation and Innovation

AI will be explored as a tool for experimentation—whether in choreography, performance, or new digital forms of dance—while fostering rigorous critical reflection.

Education and Digital Literacy

We will build digital and AI literacy within our staff and student body, enabling informed and confident engagement with AI.

Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility

We acknowledge the significant environmental footprint of AI technologies. We will prioritise approaches that minimise energy use and digital waste.

Practical Commitments

Policy and Governance

Develop clear guidelines and governance structures for AI use, with regular review and updates to ensure alignment with sector standards and our institutional values.

Staff and Student Development

Provide training and development opportunities to build AI awareness and digital literacy, supporting creative and critical engagement.

Creative Applications

We will monitor and cautiously explore AI in ways that may support our artistic work to ensure we are involved in the development of these areas. This may include AI assisted choreography, AI supported music, use of AI in digital scenography and immersive environments and AI for audience engagement and digital archiving for example.

Environmental Impact Considerations

- We will prioritise the use of lightweight and low-energy AI tools, minimising carbon impact.
- When using cloud-based AI platforms, choose providers with clear environmental sustainability commitments.
- Reduce data redundancy by cleaning digital archives and only processing data essential for artistic or educational outcomes.
- Monitor and report on the energy footprint of major AI projects, incorporating this into sustainability reporting and decision-making.

Collaborative Approaches

- Engage with sector partners to share best practice and support sector-wide sustainable AI approaches.
- Foster partnerships with technology providers and artists to explore creative and responsible AI use.

Ongoing Evaluation

- Evaluate the impact of AI practices on our core mission, with a focus on creativity, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability.

- Use feedback from staff, students, and external partners to refine and improve our approach.

Conclusion

We will continue to learn, adapt, and lead in the ethical, creative, and environmentally conscious use of AI in Education and the arts. Our approach is rooted in the values of Northern School of Contemporary Dance: fostering creativity, challenging inequities, and stewarding the environment for future generations.

Related policies or guides

- Student Guide to AI Use
- Staff Guide to AI Use
- IT & Systems Use Policy