

Access and Participation Plan 26-29

ACCESSIBLE SUMMARY

WHAT IS AN ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN?

An Access and Participation Plan (APP) sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) on [our website](#).

KEY POINTS

NSCD is a leading centre for contemporary dance in the UK, and currently the only institution to offer conservatoire-level professional dance training in England outside London. NSCD attracts students from all over the world and on average, 22% of its undergraduate students are not UK domiciled. It is currently at capacity with 270 students (both undergraduate and postgraduate). At time of writing (July 2025) NSCD offers two undergraduate courses, with 210 undergraduate places available.

NSCD has a diverse student body as shown in the Office for Students APP dashboard: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/access-and-participation-data-dashboard/>

See pages 1-2 of the access and participation plan for more information.

FEES CHARGED

At NSCD, we charge the maximum fees of £9,790 per year for UK-domiciled students on undergraduate degrees. Course fees may rise in line with inflation, as permitted by law and set by the Office for Students.

You can see the full list of fees charged at NSCD on our [course pages](#).

FINANCIAL HELP AVAILABLE

A wide range of scholarships and bursaries is available at NSCD to make certain that financial considerations do not deter prospective applicants.

For applicants: Application Fee Waiver, Audition Travel Bursary, Acceptance Administration Fee Waiver

For students: NSCD Bursary, Care Leaver and Estranged Students Bursary, Nadine Senior Legacy Fund, Leverhulme Arts Scholarship.

Full details of the scholarships and bursaries on offer at NSCD are available for [applicants here](#) and for [students here](#)*.

*Some of these bursaries are subject to funding cycles.

See pages 29-30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Prospective Students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person recruitment events, through NSCD's website and are encouraged to contact NSCD's Admissions team.

Current students receive information on fees and financial support through the student intranet and NSCD's website. All returning students receive a direct email in June inviting them to apply for financial support, with a further reminder during induction week.

For the most up-to-date information, see our [Bursaries and Financial Assistance webpage](#).

See page 29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

WHAT WE ARE AIMING TO ACHIEVE

Our APP focus' on the risk that learners from

- the most disadvantaged backgrounds (IMD* Quintile 1 and 2)
- learners from the Global Majority
- learners who identify as male

are experiencing inequitable access to pre-entry provision, advice and guidance, and may as a result have limiting perceptions about higher education in dance pathways. Alongside these primary risks, we also consider cost pressures.

*[Indices of Multiple Deprivation](#)

While we will support all groups who are outlined as 'At Risk' by the Office for Students, we have identified these key groups that face particular risks at NSCD. We have set targets to help alleviate these. We recognise that this work is a long-term commitment and all our targets have an eight-year end goal.

Targets:

- To increase the proportion of students from IMD Quintile 1 and Quintile 2 areas enrolling on our courses, to a 2-year aggregate of 26.0% by 2029-30. We aim to reach 30% by 2035-36.
- To increase the proportion of students from the Global Majority enrolling on our courses, to a 2-year aggregate of 21.3% by 2029-30. We aim to reach 25% by 2035-36.
- To increase the proportion of students who identify as male enrolling on our courses, to a 2-year aggregate of 20.4% by 2029-30. We aim to reach 23% by 2035-36.

See pages 3-7 of the access and participation plan, and Annex A, pages 31-54 of the access and participation plan, for more information.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO ADDRESS KEY RISKS TO EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

We have developed strategies to address risks to equality of opportunity and achieve our objectives.

Intervention Strategy 1 – To demystify the perception of higher education and NSCD for applicants from underrepresented groups.

This is done in four broad ways:

1. Giving pre- 16 pupils a positive experience of dance.
2. Supporting target groups to engage with NSCD.
3. Ensuring that information is accessible and inclusive.
4. Evolving our offer to appeal to target groups.

Intervention Strategy 2 – To build knowledge and skills for applicants from under resources backgrounds.

This intervention strategy is designed to support target groups to develop their knowledge and skills over a longer period, in order to help them to receive an offer at a NSCD audition.

Intervention Strategy 3 – To encourage applicants from the global majority and those who identify as male to enrol onto NSCD's undergraduate courses.

This intervention strategy is designed to raise the profile of dancers from target groups to help potential applicants feel a sense of belonging in the dance community and at NSCD.

See pages 8-21 of the access and participation plan for more information.

HOW STUDENTS GET INVOLVED

Our students maintain regular engagement with NSCD through the student council to ensure accountability. Members of the student council sit on all higher- and mid- level committees, including the Board of Governors. The student council president, vice president and diversity student representatives meet with staff twice a term to discuss issues related to the APP.

See pages 26-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

EVALUATION – HOW WE WILL MEASURE WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

In collaboration with the Specialist Evidence, Evaluation and Research (SEER – Applied Inspiration), NSCD will regularly review the APP. Each intervention has a detailed evaluation plan, which contributes to our broader assessment of progress towards our commitments. We will publish our findings, in accordance with our publication schedule, to share key insights with the wider sector.

See pages 28-29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Philippa Ranger, Philippa.ranger@nscd.ac.uk, 0113 219 3000 for more information.