

Annex D.1 – Student Support Framework

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Further information:	

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Key Pillars of Student Support.....	3
3.	Personal Tutorials.....	3
4.	Health And Wellbeing Support.....	3
5.	Injury & Body Work Support	4
6.	Learner Support.....	4
a.	Support for students with a disability.....	4
b.	Disabled Students Allowance	4
c.	Inclusive Practice	4
7.	English Language Support	5
8.	Financial Support.....	5

1. Introduction

Northern School of Contemporary Dance has a comprehensive Student Support Framework to ensure the support is in place to help all students realise their potential throughout their studies at NSCD.

The Student Services department aims to be students' first point of call for all enquiries. These enquiries may range from timetabling, accommodation, safeguarding and attendance. The role of the Head of Student Support is pivotal in supporting students at NSCD.

2. Key Pillars of Student Support

NSCD has five key pillars of student support:

- Health and Wellbeing support
- Injury & Bodywork support
- Learner support
- English Language support
- Financial Assistance

The Student Services office is located in the main reception area and operates as a one stop shop, where students can arrange access to the above support.

Students can also use Student Services as a drop in for when they need immediate support. Our Student Services staff are available to offer general listening support and can signpost students to further help and assistance.

3. Personal Tutorials

Whilst students have academic tutorials scheduled into curriculum time, they can also book additional academic or pastoral tutorials with almost any NSCD staff member through Moodle the Virtual Learning Environment. This allows students time with any member of staff they wish rather than being restricted to one personal tutor.

4. Health And Wellbeing Support

Good mental health is essential for students to get the most from their training at NSCD, however we recognise that it's completely normal to experience times in life when they might feel anxious, overwhelmed or unable to cope.

Our counselling service is free and confidential (unless someone is at risk) and is available for all students to access.

The first step is to book an appointment with our Head of Student Support, who can assess a students' immediate needs and discuss options for ongoing support.

Making an appointment:

Appointments can be booked via Moodle or through Student Services. We can generally see students for an initial assessment appointment within a few days.

From there, we will decide with the student what level of support feels right. For example, we could offer:

- Weekly counselling via our team of Student counsellors (or external referrals where required)
- Groups and workshops covering a range of common student mental health issues
- Adhoc support and advice appointments as and when needed.

Whatever a student is struggling with – stress, anxiety, loneliness, eating, panic attacks, relationships or low mood – and however large or small it may feel, we can help.

Waiting times are always considerably lower than NHS referrals and our services are free to all students.

5. Injury & Body Work Support

The School has an injury rehabilitation provision to help students better understand and recover from injury and/or, prevent them from developing chronic injuries. Along with in-house Strength & Conditioning Sessions, Experiential Anatomy classes, and a rehab / gym area, the School works in collaboration with an onsite physiotherapist and sports massage team, providing several clinics per week. We also work with local osteopathy providers as required. All students are provided with guidance on nutrition and fitness.

We also offer help and support in finding a local GP and other NHS services.

6. Learner Support

All students entering a course at NSCD will be invited to complete a quick scan assessment to indicate learner support needs. We further support students through more detailed learner assessments where appropriate with regional specialist providers. This is to identify those who may require support with the curriculum; this can be through one-to-one or group sessions.

a. Support for students with a disability

Applicants are encouraged to discuss support requirements to the staff at NSCD from the point of application. Any information raised is treated in confidence and only discussed with other members of staff with a student's permission.

b. Disabled Students Allowance

When offered a place at Northern School of Contemporary Dance we can also help students apply for the Disabled Students Allowance (DSA), where appropriate, and help arrange any specialist support a student may be entitled to. This can help cover the cost of specialist equipment necessary for studies, including software and study skills tuition. Unlike a student loan, DSA does not have to be repaid. Applications are made through the finance awarding body, for example Student Finance England. In order to apply for DSA the awarding body will require evidence of any impairment or disability.

c. Inclusive Practice

All courses at Northern School of Contemporary Dance have been designed with inclusive practice at the centre, which means we can support students

through a variety of assessment methods to find the method that is most appropriate for them.

7. English Language Support

English Language support is provided to all NSCD students who do not have English as their first language to enable them to fully access the course.

This is available to students throughout the academic year, though deadlines by which students must seek support will be stated in respective module guides in relation to formal written assessments.

During induction week new NSCD students who do not have English as their first language are invited to a pre-sessional week which discusses student visas (the majority of students whose first language is not English have Student Route visas) and English Language Support. This offers an overview of what the support is and where to access this support.

Predominantly, students will send the English Language tutors written work and receive written feedback on this. Feedback includes components such as spelling, grammar and sentence structure.

This support is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students.

8. Financial Support

Northern School of Contemporary Dance has six main strands of financial assistance for our students:

- The NSCD Bursary
- The Leverhulme Arts Scholarship
- The Nadine Senior Legacy Fund
- Tuition Fee Waivers
- Care Leaver & Estranged Students Bursary
- Refugee Bursary

All information related to NSCD's Financial Assistance is available here:

<https://www.nscd.ac.uk/bursaries-financial-assistance/>