



## BA (Hons) Dance (Contemporary)

Award:	BA (Hons) Dance (Contemporary), validated by the University of Kent
Duration:	3 years (full-time only), September - July
Entry requirements:	<p>Entry is through successful audition and interview. Additionally candidates should normally have 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.</p> <p>Equivalent qualifications may also be accepted depending on the strength of the grades achieved. Equivalent level overseas qualifications are also accepted. Contact <a href="mailto:admissions@nscd.ac.uk">admissions@nscd.ac.uk</a> for more details.</p>

# Course Overview

The BA (Hons) in Dance (Contemporary) degree is a course of study specifically designed for the education and training of professional contemporary dance artists, performers, choreographers and artist facilitators. Our students become dance artists with highly-tuned technical and creative skills. The curriculum also provides opportunities to develop skills and experience as producers, teachers and stage managers, with a range of optional modules that support students to follow their own interests and develop a varied portfolio of skills. Optional modules are studied at levels 5 and 6 (years 2 and 3) including project management, teaching dance, technical stage management, dance repertory and creative practice.

The range of technical training undertaken during the programme is designed to train the body, developing artistic intelligence, specialist knowledge and an understanding of movement that enables you to respond to the varied and changing demands of contemporary choreography. Students are encouraged to be curious about the place of contemporary dance within the broader landscape of the professional arts scene. We provide opportunities for students to work in collaboration with other arts organisations and professional settings, and for them to engage with a variety of audiences at different stages of their professional training. Throughout the programme students embrace a range of industry-relevant modes of practice, such as screendance, site-specific work, social responsibility in dance, collective working, somatic practice, practice as research, and a broad range of relevant contemporary dance practices. This breadth and depth of activity places dance in social, cultural and historical contexts, as well as providing students with a thorough grounding in traditional theatre practice. Career support and guidance is embedded into the programme.

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**Level 4 (Year 1)** develops the underpinning knowledge and skills in a range of contemporary dance practices, improvisation techniques, ballet for contemporary dancers and supplementary forms such as breaking and afro-fusion. Students are introduced to practice-led research, creative and choreographic practice, leading and facilitating dance workshops and exploring performance in its broadest context. These modules create the foundation you need to develop an area of specialisation later in the course.

**Level 5 (Year 2)** continues to develop core knowledge and skills in multiple relevant dance practices through rigorous physical training. Creative practice, practice-led research and performance opportunities also continue for all students. Additionally, this year begins the process of specialisation in areas such as production/curation of arts events, technical stage management or placements in school or community contexts. During this year you further acquire knowledge and practical skills using industry-standard systems and techniques.

**Level 6 (Year 3)** focuses on advanced technical, creative and performance skills through compulsory modules. Optional modules continue to allow specialisation within areas of further creative or performance practice, and/or dance pedagogy. Students select to study 2 out of 6 optional modules which enables them to focus on one key strand of interest, or find versatility through selecting modules from multiple strands. Many students find these projects to be connected to potential future employment opportunities. In some instances students also chose to complete part of their final year within a professional placement where opportunities to engage with work-based learning are supported.

The course operates on a modular basis that provides flexibility and choice. 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. BA (Hons) students take modules worth 30-60 credits per term. All students take a total of 120 credits per level and 360 credits for the degree as a whole. The overall grade for the course and degree classification are based on the marks obtained for modules taken at Levels 5 and 6.

**Placements:** Placements are embedded into some modules within the programme at Levels 5 and 6. These consist of intensive periods of rehearsal and production and/or through teaching modules, 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'.

# 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: you take a combination of compulsory and optional modules, enabling you to cover key subject knowledge whilst developing your own interests. You must take modules worth a total of 120 credits at each level of the course. At Levels 5 and 6 you are given a choice of optional modules to support individual specialist focus.

Our teaching is informed by research, and module content changes periodically to reflect developments in the discipline. If we have insufficient numbers of students wanting to participate in an optional module or if there are rare changes in staff availability, certain options may not be offered. If an optional module does not run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you to choose an alternative.

LEVEL 4		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Dance Practices 1 (15 Credits)	Dance Practices 2 (30 Credits)	
Research Practice 1 (15 Credits)	Performance in Context 1 (30 Credits)	
Creative Practice 1 (15 Credits)		Teaching Dance 1 (15 Credits)

LEVEL 5		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Performance in Context 2 (30 credits)	Dance Practices 3 (30 Credits)	
	Research Practice 2 (30 credits)	
	Teaching Dance 2 (15 credits) Option module	Creative Practice 2 (15 Credits)
	Producing Creative Practice (15 credits) Option module	
	Technical Stage Management (15 credits) Option module	

LEVEL 6		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Performance in Context 3 (15 credits)	Dance Practices 4 (45 Credits)	Performance in Context 5 (15 credits)
	Performance in Context 4 (15 credits)	
	Teaching Dance 3 (15 credits) Option module	Teaching Dance 4 (15 credits) Option module
	Creative Practice 3 (15 credits) Option module	Creative Practice 4 (15 credits) Option module
	Performing Dance Repertoire (15 credits) Option module	Embodied Dance Practices (15 credits) Option 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 may take place on any day of the week. Should teaching or scheduled rehearsal take place outside of Monday-Friday (9-5pm) you will receive good notice. 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. 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. During creation and rehearsal periods you can expect an increase to around 30-35 contact hours per week.

## 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](https://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 musical 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, viewing performance work, 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 guest or student-led enrichment sessions. Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities, including the library, studios, video editing suite, bodywork studio, Pilates equipment, online access to NSCD's Moodle 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 dance practice 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 21 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 10 hours. Your contact hours may depend on the modules being delivered each term e.g. intensive rehearsal.

## Student Support

NSCD provides students with a comprehensive range of support mechanisms to help them with their studies and their professional development. As standard, 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 also help in the following additional 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 resources through Moodle.

## Costs and Financial Support

For the academic year 2025-26 the tuition fees for the course are:

Home - £9,250

Overseas - £17,500

### 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.

<b>Tuition Fee Loan</b>	up to the full cost of the course.
<b>Maintenance Loan</b>	to contribute to living costs, as follows:
<b>Living at home</b>	up to £8,610 (2024-25)
<b>Living away from home</b>	up to £10,227 (2024-25)

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

[gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance)

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

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

A non-refundable **Acceptance Fee** of £50 is payable at the point of accepting an offer made to any of our courses.

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](https://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 of training.

**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](https://nscd.ac.uk/study/fees-finance/undergraduate)

For more information, visit: [nscd.ac.uk/bursaries-scholarships](https://nscd.ac.uk/bursaries-scholarships)

## NSCD Value for Money

Students at NSCD embody new creative and technical approaches to dance and make lifelong friendships, in a city they call home and often continue to call home once their course has finished.

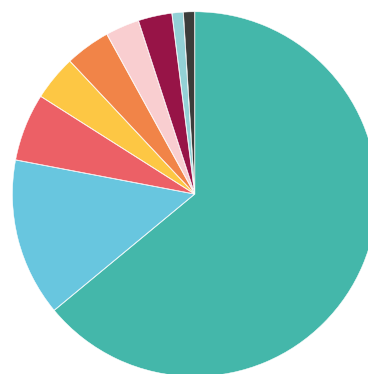
Our tutors and guest artists are subject experts who challenge students' thinking. NSCD students develop transferable skills needed for a portfolio career – critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creativity. We provide opportunities within the curriculum and beyond to help our students stand out in a competitive job market, including opportunities to network and collaborate, undertake project-based curricular and enrichment activity, work 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 national and local institutions and artists to support graduates to feed into a thriving dance ecology, both in Leeds and beyond.

### 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 publishing. All course information subject to change.