



Northern Ballet School Professional Performing Arts Diploma

# Course Overview

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**Contents**

**Timetables ..... 3**

**Year Structure ..... 3**

**Assessments ..... Error! Bookmark not defined.**

**Assessment and Marking..... 3**

**Assessments..... 5**

**Staff ..... 5**

**Language ..... 6**

**Costs..... 6**

**Tuition fees..... 6**

**Additional Costs..... 6**

**Accommodation and Living Costs ..... 6**

**Disabled Access ..... 6**

## Timetables

Timetables are made available during induction week. Classes could be timetabled at any time between 8.30am-6.30pm Monday-Friday.

On average, full-time students will have around 30-32 class contact hours per week.

## Year Structure

The academic year is divided into three terms dedicated to core skill teaching and assessments. The core timetable starts in September and runs until early to mid-July. Courses include additional rehearsal time for performances, and this will be advised to you well in advance by the School.

### Level 6 Diploma in Professional Dance

Unit	Title	RQF Level	Required or Optional	Guided Learning hours	Independent Learning Hours	Total Qualification Time
1	Key Technical Skills in Professional Dance	6	Required	1300	200	1500
2	Option A: Supporting Technical Skills in Professional Dance Option B: Supporting Technical Skills in Choreography for Professional Dance Option C: Supporting Technical Skills in Vocal Skills for Professional Dance	6	Students must select option A, B or C	300	100	400
3	Performance in Professional Dance	6	Required	900	400	1300
4	Employability Skills and Professional Practice in Dance	6	Required	400	200	600
5	Research and Reflection on Dance	6	Required	100	300	400
<b>Total</b>				<b>3000</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>4200</b>

All details above are provided for guidance only.

## Assessment and Marking

Trinity assesses students in the performance unit of the diplomas throughout the final year of their training. All other units are assessed by the course provider and moderated by Trinity.

Attainment bands for the diplomas are Pass and Fail. Students must pass all the units of a diploma to achieve an overall Pass.

Students are expected to complete the full duration of the course.

A main feature of the third year is performance experience.

All productions act as a showcase for agents, directors and choreographers.

There is an opportunity to also benefit from work experience which is accessed via NBS Industry contacts.

The Diplomas have self-directed study hours associated with them. During this time, you are expected to be engaging in appropriate learning activities for your course. This could include practicing, conducting research, writing assignments, and preparing for upcoming classes.

### Marked Assignments

The following ten assignments take the form of completed questionnaires, practical presentations including viva voce, reflective journals and research-based essays. These act as evidence that the student is competent in research, communication, IT skills, self-management and organisational skills which enable them to support and sustain a career in the performing arts industry.

#### Year 1

- Performance Critique in the form of a written review
- Cumulative Exam – consisting of a written test, multiple choice, extended question on Personal Inspiration & Reflection
- Dance History Project
- Risk Assessment - a recorded solo or group presentation.

#### Year 2

- PowerPoint Presentation\* which incorporates research, good communication, IT skills and peer evaluation.
- Live Performance Critique\* in the form of a written review and personal reflection
- Choreography Project – research and written project

#### Year 3

- Action Research Project\* incorporating active research and investigation, group discussion, viva voce
- Performance Review & Reflection\* in the form of a detailed research into a performance, person or industry related topic including historical and cultural context
- Record of Learning - Final submission of all written work including assignments, formative and summative feedback, performance and rehearsal logs and collation of Three-Year Course requirements.

*\* These four assignments focus on the student's ability to source relevant information on a range of topics, apply critical thinking skills and reflection on a range of professional performances (live or recorded), analyse, compare and synthesise information and write or present a report on their findings.*

## Assessments

The course acknowledges the underlying principles of assessment which states that all forms of assessment should promote learning, be fair and valid. All assessment for the programme both practical and written are carefully designed to test the attainment of skills and learning outcomes across the Three-Year Programme. They will provide evidence of the student's level of ability and allow the student the opportunity to reflect on their performance highlighting any areas of concern. They will also demonstrate the skills attained relevant for working in a professional context.

Over the course of the 3 Year Scheme of Work the students will undertake various practical assessments to evaluate their technical progress along with a set of marked assignments to develop and evidence research and reflection, critical thinking, communication and organisational skills.

In undertaking these projects, learning outcomes will be evidenced in a variety of ways and through different modes of delivery including reviews, tests, PowerPoint presentations, peer-on-peer reflection, written projects, vlogs and group discussions.

### Practical Assessments & Live Performance

These assessments reflect the predominantly practical nature of the programme and are carefully structured to simulate professional situations. The assessments provide a setting in which the student can learn to respond to increasingly challenging situations which ensures that they can cope in all audition/performance scenarios.

**Year 1** Practical Assessments in Ballet and Jazz technique in both Autumn and Summer Term.

**Year 2** Practical Assessments in 2 Key Skills in both the Autumn and Summer Term. For students on the Jazz Pathway, it will also include an assessment in Vocal Studies in the Summer Term.

**Year 3** Practical Assessments in both Key Skills in both Autumn and Summer Term along with their Supporting Skill in the Summer Term. For students with Choreography as their supporting skill a live performance will act as their final assessment.

All Year 3 students will be seen in a minimum of 2 different live performances and assessed in their key skills.

## Staff

Northern Ballet School is proud of its long history of employing industry professionals to teach. We believe that through this practice we provide the best opportunities for our students to learn from tutors who understand their goals and have the knowledge and experience necessary to help make them a reality.

Sometimes tutors are granted leave to engage in industry activities such as going on tour, conducting research or other professional development activities. This is vital to ensure that our tutors can give students the most current information, and share recent

experiences, regarding an industry that is constantly evolving and expanding into new areas.

## Language

Lessons at Northern Ballet School are taught and assessed in English.

## Costs

### Tuition fees

Your course fees are outlined in your offer letter, which forms part of the offer pack.

For further information, including details of support and payment plans, please see the [Fees and Finance](#) section of the Performers College website, and your [terms and conditions](#).

### Additional Costs

Students who are thinking of applying to Northern Ballet School should read the [Uniform and Equipment list](#) (available from the School) which outlines what is required to successfully study for this diploma programme.

### Accommodation and Living Costs

Information regarding accommodation and living costs can be obtained by contacting accommodation providers direct. An accommodation fact sheet is available from the School.

### Disabled Access

The Dancehouse is only partly accessible to wheelchair users. The Theatre stage is not accessible, but the seating area is. The two upper dance studios and the female changing rooms are not accessible to wheelchair users. There is no on-site car parking, adult changing facilities or hoists available.

- **Lift Access:** The lift services the ground floor and the first two floors. The third floor Dance studios 1-2, and do not have lift access. Teaching in these rooms is not accessible but if students are able to travel then these classes can be taught in an external venue.
- **Disabled Toilet:** Located on the second floor, equipped with an emergency pull cord.
- **Refuge Area:** A designated refuge area on the second floor for evacuation purposes.
- **Evacuation Routes:** There are five escape routes from the second floor and three from the third floor. Please note that the lift must not be used during fire evacuations.