

Central School of Ballet

Summary of 2022-23 to 2026-27 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Central School of Ballet at:

<https://www.centralschoolofballet.co.uk/training/policies-and-procedures/>

Key points

Central School of Ballet (CSB) is a world-leading centre for professional dance training based in the South Bank arts community in London's Southwark. Central offers vocational degree courses in dance at undergraduate and postgraduate level, all validated by the University of Kent. The Countess of Wessex Studios is a thriving hub for the dance industry providing professional training degree courses for those aiming for a career in dance, a thriving Junior School with classes in ballet for children after school in term time, and an Associate Programme for young people aiming for professional dance training. A range of adult dance classes in the evenings and on Sundays provides the chance to improve general fitness and wellbeing.

CSB is a small institution, with approximately 125 undergraduate students studying Professional Dance and Performance. This means that learning and the student experience is highly personalised and supportive.

We want to welcome and support a more diverse student body of accomplished and confident dancers to enter the dance industry. Our access and participation plan sets out how we intend to do this, including supporting the development of future dancers, our current students, our local communities and contributing to the wider industry.

Fees we charge

Our undergraduate fees for 24/25 will be £9,000 per year for our Foundation Degree and BA (Hons) (Top Up) degree programmes in Professional Dance and Performance.

Our undergraduate fees for 25/26 will be £9,275 per year for our Foundation Degree and BA (Hons) (Top Up) degree programmes in Professional Dance and Performance.

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students through:

- **Central Means Tested Bursary Scheme** of £2,000 per year of study, for the first two years of training, to UK undergraduate students with a household income below £25,000. This can be taken as a fee discount or cash bursary.
- An additional bursary of £1,000 per year of study for **care leavers and students who are estranged from their parents**.
- An emergency fund for current students who are experiencing **hardship**, which can be applied for during your course and is allocated based on financial need.

CSB fundraises to support students during their course with additional scholarships and bursaries. These are based on a range of criteria, including achievement in dance and financial need.

More details are on page 26 of our full access and participation plan.

Information for students

Prospective students can find out about our financial support, fees and courses on our **website** and our annual **prospectus**. Applicants also receive information about fees and financial support in their **offer letter**. Current students receive updated information about fees and financial support, via email and as part of enrolment and induction processes.

The most up-to-date information about our fees and financial support is available on our course pages here: <https://www.centralschoolofballet.co.uk/training/degree-courses/foundation-degree-professional-dance-performance/>

What we are aiming to achieve

Central School of Ballet recognises that some individuals and communities in our society face obstacles and experience unfair disadvantage. We are committed to finding ways to address disadvantages in accessing dance and Ballet education. We do this through our outreach activities, developing a diverse and personalised curriculum and by acting as a local hub for dance activity in Southwark. We aim to provide routes for individuals to explore and develop their potential as dancers, successfully progressing to higher education and dance professions as confident, accomplished dancers.

We particularly aim to address challenges before and at the point of entry to higher education. Based on our current student profile, our access and participation plan includes targets for entry to CSB for individuals who are:

- From areas where few people go on to higher education
- From areas of social and economic deprivation
- People of the global majority

Full details of our targets and how we identified these are in pages 3-9 of our access and participation plan.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

Our access and participation plan describes how we will achieve our aims and how we will measure if we are successful. Our activities include:

- Improving our use of **data** so we can better understand the needs of our students.
- **Working together** with other dance and community organisations to increase diversity in Ballet at every level.
- **Supporting parents, families and teachers** to understand dance education and dance careers, so they can also support young people who choose to study dance.
- **Involving our current students** in pre-university teaching, as role models and advisors who can give young people a meaningful insight into dance training.
- Creating opportunities for young people to progress and achieve in dance, through our **weekly classes, summer schools and workshops**.
- **Targeted and intensive outreach** that focuses on developing the skills and attainment necessary to progress in dance and ballet specifically.
- Providing **financial support** to young people in training, including our youth tuition and degree courses.
- Developing our **local connections** to engage people in Southwark with dance, including youth and adult classes, taster experiences and dance performances.
- Working outside London, **connecting with dance schools** to support their teachers, enhance their existing teaching and offer creative workshops to young people.

- **Working with schools** to provide dance class experiences, workshops and higher education advice to young people and teachers.
- Providing **audition fee waivers** to potential applicants from low-income households.
- Making the **audition process as clear and supportive** as possible for our degree and pre-degree courses.
- **Listening to our current students** about how we can improve our support and teaching, including through our student representatives in the Student Voice Forum,
- Working together with staff, students and partners to **decolonise** our curriculum and organisation, making us a more inclusive and diverse place to learn.

How students can get involved

Students in each year nominate student representatives who provide feedback and work with us to improve the community and academic experience at CSB. Each term we also hold a Student Voice Forum to discuss issues raised by students. Through these, students have helped to create our existing access and participation plan and also help us to make sure we are successful in our aims. We have two student representatives as part of our Access and Participation Committee, where we make decisions and assess our progress against our goals and targets.

Students are also an essential part of how we deliver the activities that are part of our access and participation plan. Through acting as role models and supporting teaching in our outreach activities, they help to inspire other young people to develop their skills. More details about how we work with students, including how they have helped shape our activities, are on pages 28-9 of our access and participation plan.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We use a ‘theory of change’ approach to design and evaluate our activity. This means that we look at why we do activities, what we want to achieve and how we can measure this. In our access and participation plan we give examples of what we intend to measure for each of our priority areas. These can be found at the end of each section of the plan.

As a small institution, we use surveys, interviews and focus groups to get an in-depth picture of outcomes of our activities and to understand the experiences of our students, alongside numerical data about student characteristics, attainment and progression. We make sure that we review evaluation data regularly, so we can make better decisions about how to achieve our access and participation goals. This is done by our Access and Participation Committee.

We are working to improve our evaluation by connecting with expert organisations and dance and higher education networks to share experience and develop our expertise. We are also members of the SEER (Specialist Evidence, Evaluation and Research) service. This includes ongoing training, advice and support to improve our evaluation practice, as well as independent data analysis, evaluation and research. Through these connections, we will also share our evaluations, so that we can improve knowledge of what works to increase diversity in dance.

More information about our evaluation activity can be found on pages 29-31 of our access and participation plan.

Contact details for further information

To find out more about our access and participation work, you can contact Mark Osterfield, Executive Director, at mark.osterfield@csbschool.co.uk.