

Central  
School  
of Ballet



YOUR



CAREER

STARTS

HERE



Central School of Ballet Prospectus  
Undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses  
for professional dance training

University of  
**Kent**   
P R I X  
D E  
L A U S A N N E

# Welcome from Mark Osterfield and Kate Coyne



Central School of Ballet is seeking ambitious young dancers who are aiming to make their mark in the world of dance. We offer dynamic world-class classical ballet training alongside wider dance tuition to allow you to develop as an artist and dancer, ready to take up a career in the dance industry where you will best thrive.

Join us at the Countess of Wessex Studios, our state-of-the-art facility in London's South Bank arts community, and start your vocational training. We are interested in individuals with a desire to understand how to apply our ballet and wider dance training, empowering them towards excellence.

Whatever your dance inspiration, we will enable you to develop as a thinking dancer, with the ability to be flexible and responsive to the different choreographic styles of today's dance companies, large and small. We understand that the dance industry is evolving and changing and want to support this by welcoming and training students from a broad range of backgrounds and experience.

We offer a supportive, inclusive environment where you can train body and mind in an integrated way, leaving the school with the dance skills, artistry, and a university education which will underpin your future career as a dancer and beyond. So, if you are curious, passionate about dance, and want to explore the opportunities that the dance industry offers, then Central is the place for you.

We look forward to working with you!

[Mark Osterfield](#)  
Executive Director

[Kate Coyne](#)  
Artistic Director and  
Professional Training Lead

## Central School of Ballet

Central School of Ballet is one of Europe's leading dance training organisations offering professional training for people aiming for a career in the dance industry. Established in 1982 by Ann Stannard the late Christopher Gable, Central was founded on the values of artistic expression in dance and the importance of technique.

Central offers a two year Foundation Degree in Professional Dance and Performance and a further year of training to complete a BA (Hons) Top-Up degree. In 2011 Central launched an MA Choreography degree course for professional choreographers to develop their choreographic profile and professional skills. All degree courses are validated by the University of Kent.



*A graduate from Central School of Ballet is a valuable asset in any company.*

Matthew Bourne, Artistic Director, New Adventures

*I can normally spot a Ballet Central student after just a few minutes working in a studio. They are always professional, they understand how 'theatre' works and they engage physically and (most importantly) verbally in the creative process.*

Christopher Hampson,  
Artistic Director, Scottish Ballet

# Choosing the right school for professional dance training



Kate Coyne, Central's Artistic Director explains how a close relationship with industry leaders helps to ensure Central's training meets the needs of the dance profession:

There is a clear appetite from our young dancers for training that prepares them to understand how they will need to work in the professional sphere. We aim to train intelligent dancers who can adapt their bodies to the great classical ballets but are also primed to recognise different forms and replicate what is needed by choreographers. This is core to Central's ethos as a world-class training organisation and the vision of founder Christopher Gable.



Central's undergraduate courses offer students a comprehensive preparation for a career in the dance profession. New students commence with the two year Foundation Degree and, on successful completion, can progress to the one year BA (Hons) Top-Up course to achieve the BA (Hons) Degree in Professional Dance and Performance.

Rigorous training is provided by internationally renowned teachers and tutors who have performed with some of the world's leading dance companies, supplemented by workshops delivered by prominent and influential choreographers who are also potential employers. The result is breadth and depth in skills and technique to produce creative artists of the highest calibre with knowledge of classical ballet tradition and an appreciation of new developments in the dance world. Most of the course is highly practical, either studio-based or on stage, supplemented by written work. Students graduate with the skills that are required by employers, a highly developed understanding of choreography and performance, and the ability to convey meaning through dance



*Working with so many guest teachers is such a privilege; everyone has something different to offer and to teach you, even during the Saturday classes, especially career advice and things like that.*

**Second Year Student**

*We are so supported here, with the Pilates teachers, physiotherapists and psychologists - everything we need is provided by Central. And we can always speak to staff. As an international student travelling so far for training, it makes a massive difference.*

**First Year Student**



## The Countess of Wessex Studios

Central is based in London's South Bank arts community.

Our studios are located just 10 minutes from the River Thames and Waterloo Station (a major inner London transport hub). Being amongst leading dance companies, famous theatre venues, world-renowned art galleries and concert halls benefits students' understanding and appreciation of the arts including storytelling and performance.

Our facilities include a fully equipped studio theatre, rehearsal studios, study and resource centres and a bright spacious Green Room exclusively for student use. There is a recording studio and music practice room, a home for the wardrobe department with costume storage, and ample changing facilities and locker spaces. A Health Suite supports the optimum physical and psychological wellbeing of our students with services in mental health, physiotherapy, Pilates, Strength and Conditioning, and a Recovery from Injury Programme.



Students have exclusive use of a bright spacious Green Room.



# Foundation Degree in Professional Dance and Performance

New students commence with the Foundation Degree, a vocational course with a high number of contact hours. Year One provides students with a practical understanding of the fundamentals of Ballet, Contemporary Dance (Graham-based) technique, with supplementary studies in Spanish, Improvisation, and Choreography. Year Two provides a practical understanding of the technical skills and artistry required by the profession in ballet, contemporary dance (Cunningham-based), improvisation and jazz. The teaching aims for students to use this knowledge in a rehearsal and professional performance situation including solo and group pieces and work for public performance.

A programme of contextual studies underpins the practical dance training. These skills are essential in sustaining a career as a professional dancer. Through regular self-evaluation and goal-setting, students develop into successful reflective practitioners. The work of key practitioners in Ballet and Contemporary dance (from the 19th century to the present day) is woven throughout the course in both practical and theoretical modules and is used to inform stylistic and interpretative differences.

The Foundation Degree is designed to enable students to apply for the BA (Hons) Top-Up Degree in Professional Dance and Performance. This internationally recognised qualification establishes graduates as having outstanding achievement validated by the University of Kent, a globally respected institution that carries a value above and beyond a dancer's performing career



*During class we work as a team. Sports psychologists talk about the athlete-coach relationship, and the importance of this relationship for the development of the athlete. This is imperative in dance too. At Central we nurture a relationship between student, coach, and musician to produce a creative working environment that encourages the achievement of individual goals for the student and for their independence.*

Chris Hinton-Lewis, Ballet Tutor



*In my first year working at Central I couldn't have imagined a more wonderful group of students to introduce me to the school. The school has an incredibly positive environment and it is a joy to work with such a talented cohort of students and staff.*

Yolandi Moreira, Ballet Tutor

*The best part of joining Central is that the tutors individualise our training. We are individuals and not just a group of dance students.*

First Year Student

→ Find out more information and how to apply online visit [centralschoolofballet.co.uk/degree-courses/](https://centralschoolofballet.co.uk/degree-courses/)

# BA (Hons) Top-Up Professional Dance & Performance

Students in the Third Year progress onto the BA (Hons) Degree in Professional Dance and Performance to complete their vocational training.

This year of training provides a practical understanding of the technical skills and artistry required by the profession in ballet, contemporary and jazz, with the opportunity to focus on virtuosity and provide training in all aspects of performance.

Throughout the course, and through touring with Ballet Central, students work creatively with teachers and external professional practitioners towards public performance opportunities in a range of contexts, including a national tour of small and mid-scale theatres as well as site-specific venues.

The development of individual talent and unique performance qualities is achieved through the breadth of the curriculum, and, most importantly, the national tour. The preparation and performance of a wide range of repertoire, requiring the practical application of different techniques and styles, alongside variations in artistic and musical interpretation and characterisation, facilitates the development of individual strengths and versatility, leading to the development of the distinctive and unique performing artist. Find out more and how to apply online on Central's website.



*I feel well prepared for my third year at Central. In the second year you learn a lot about yourself, your own body. From the start of second year we examine our technique, back to the beginning, to the foundations and then slowly build on that knowledge. I will always be able to look back to this experience and draw on it.*  
Second Year Student

*It is my view that Central produces dancers that are ready and appropriately skilled for professional careers in dance. In addition to the skills required for a performing career, the school endeavors to equip students with understanding of the contribution of other skills in the profession. This results in young dancers who possess a high level of appreciation of other aspects of the profession, facilitating their ability to collaborate effectively.*  
Kit Holder, Birmingham Royal Ballet, External Examiner for Central School of Ballet

# Ballet Central

Joining Ballet Central is the highlight of their training programme for many of Central's students.

A large part of this final year is the touring experience, performing to ticket-buying audiences gained through the Ballet Central company, a unique facet of the professional training offered by Central. Under the direction of Kate Coyne, Artistic Director, Ballet Central presents a broad repertoire by working with distinguished choreographers, who often create new work especially for this young touring company.

Choreographers and répétiteurs that have recently worked with Ballet Central include Lynn Wallis OBE and Isabel McMeekan (The Frederick Ashton Foundation), Ashley Page OBE, Mthuthuzeli November, Morgann Runacre-Temple, Cathy Marston (Director Ballet Zurich), Carolyn Boltion (Creative Director ENBYouthCo) and Michael Pink (Artistic Director Milwaukee Ballet).

Working with different choreographers on a varied repertoire to a deadline and then performing in a range of venues provides Central's third year students with extraordinary experience of the professional dance world. This experience and the skills and technique gained equip Central's students with the versatility and maturity to help support employment.



*I have thoroughly enjoyed performing the four fantastic pieces at ten different UK venues this summer. I have loved being able to perform the repertoire many times and to bring it to a variety of audiences. Through Central's connections I have been able to join two of the UK's largest dance companies on tour. These were valuable experiences as I was able to spend time dancing in a professional environment with dancers I admired.*

Third Year Student

*The main highlight of this year for me has been the Ballet Central tour. We had the wonderful experience of working with guest choreographers and creating new pieces. Travelling to different theatres across the country and performing in front of friends and family has been such a rewarding experience, and the tour has taught me so much about life as a professional dancer.*

Third Year Student

# The Application Process

Applying to Central is managed through the website. Choose the Training pages and the preferred course to find out more information, and then visit the Applying to Central section to submit your application.

**Auditions** are managed both online and in-person. You can choose the route that best suits your situation and get detailed guidance on what Central's tutors are looking for in successful applicants.

There are both in-person Open Days in locations across the UK, and online Q&A's available to showcase the benefits of training at Central and the employment opportunities on graduation. Find how to book online.

**Dance Days**, courses designed to provide a series of sample or taster classes to support dancers' current training and information about life in a professional dance school, are scheduled during the applications period. Aimed at young dancers aged 13-16, Dance Days also inform future applicants how to access full-time vocational training at Central School of Ballet. More details are available online.



# Funding and Bursaries

On the Training pages you can find out how to apply for a student loan from the UK Government to cover tuition fees. Approved loans are paid directly to Central, and UK students can also apply for a maintenance loan to cover living costs while training. It's important to note that you start repaying once you are in employment and earn over a certain amount.

The size of your monthly repayments depend on how much you earn, not on how much you owe.

Selected bursaries are available on a means-tested basis for assistance with living costs from Central. More information is available online.

There is guidance on all requirements and everything you need to know to complete an application online. On the website, you can also download the course summary for each degree course and find out about student life, living in London as a student and our graduate success stories.

# International Applicants

Central is proud to welcome students from all over the world. Applicants who live outside of the UK and not able to attend an in-person audition are encouraged to submit a video audition. More information for international students is available in the downloadable Course Summary in the Training pages online. We also have a dedicated page for International Students in the Student Life section of the website.

Tuition fees for international applicants are detailed in the Tuition fees section online. Successful applicants who live outside the UK may be required to obtain a Student Visa to study at Central School of Ballet. Prospective students are encouraged to view the UK Government website about studying in the UK for the most up-to-date visa guidance and information. Here you can find out about how you may need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply.

→ Find out more information and how to apply online visit [centralschoolofballet.co.uk/degree-courses/](https://centralschoolofballet.co.uk/degree-courses/)

# MA Choreography



Charlotte Edmonds, MA Graduate 2021

Established in 2011, Central's MA Choreography course is designed for professional choreographers who wish to develop their choreographic profile and professional skills. The course has been specifically developed for its flexibility, allowing students to develop critical reflection and research linked to the making of choreography while continuing to work as either a freelance dance practitioner or a dance company member.

The focus of the MA course is choreography and research and involves the development and refinement of prepared material for studio or theatre-based performance. The course is unique in providing a specialisation in ballet, although there is scope within the course for both past and current practices to be redefined, expanded, and developed. Students are given the opportunity to investigate the process of choreography by interrogating, identifying, developing, and modifying their existing skills.

On successful completion of the MA, graduates will have had an opportunity to develop their own creative and artistic voice and will have increased their choreographic portfolio. Many of our students have gone on to further develop their careers within the dance profession, taking up leadership roles and contributing to the artistic development of UK and international dance companies. Find out more and how to apply online, visit Central's Training pages.

Graduates will have had an opportunity to develop their own creative and artistic voice.



Daniel Davidson, MA Graduate 2024

The focus of the MA course is choreography and research and involves the development and refinement of prepared material for studio or theatre-based performance.

→ Find out more information and how to apply for the MA course online visit [centralschoolofballet.co.uk/degree-courses/](https://centralschoolofballet.co.uk/degree-courses/)



# Graduate Employment Next Steps After Training

Central's graduates find employment in contracts, apprenticeships, and full-time jobs in a variety of leading international dance companies and in musical theatre productions. Some of the recent destinations include:

- Birmingham Royal Ballet
- Scottish Ballet
- English National Ballet
- Northern Ballet
- Ballet Black
- Semperoper Dresden
- Sibiu Ballet Theatre
- Matthew Bourne's New Adventures
- Rambert
- Tulsa Ballet
- Ballet Ireland
- Ballet Cymru
- New English Ballet Theatre
- Sarasota Ballet
- Phantom of the Opera West End
- Milwaukee Ballet
- Singapore Ballet
- P&O Cruises
- Arles Youth Ballet Company
- Junior Ballet Antwerp



*The training at Central exposes you to many different possible avenues for a career and they really nurture your talent. It was at Central that I discovered my passion for choreography and look forward to developing this further following graduation.*

Third Year Student





## Health and Wellbeing

Central provides a holistic approach to training, with a focus on physical, psychological, emotional development and overall wellbeing.

Dancers at Central can achieve a level of fitness similar to elite athletes by the end of the three years of training. To achieve optimal performance, each dancer needs to maintain a balance of healthy body and mind. Students have open access to a comprehensive range of support services and staff to achieve this goal.

Physiotherapist  
Pilates Instructor  
Strength and Conditioning Coach  
Injury Prevention & Recovery Team



## Accommodation

Central does not currently operate any housing or accommodation of its own, however there are various local student accommodation sites within walking distance of the school, which are used by our students.

Central's location, close to the transport hub of Waterloo station, also allows students to live in locations across the capital with easy access to the studios through tube, rail and by bus. Note that fees vary, and we recommend early booking to secure a preferred location.

Visit [centralschoolofballet.co.uk/student-life/accommodation](https://centralschoolofballet.co.uk/student-life/accommodation) for more information.

## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Central School of Ballet recognises that some individuals and communities in our society face obstacles and experience unfair disadvantage.

Central School of Ballet seeks to foster an inclusive environment for the entire School community. We recognise that some individuals and communities in our society face obstacles and experience unfair disadvantage.

Central School of Ballet is committed to widening participation and encourages applications from underrepresented populations in dance, including: those of Global Majority Heritage, applicants who

are male-identifying or non-binary, from lower income households, and those in care, care leavers or those estranged.

A commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion is fundamental to our School's core values, ensuring our success as a world-class provider of dance training with a positive and supportive culture, where all staff and students feel empowered and respected.

Central  
School  
of Ballet

Central is an independent training organisation, a registered charity, and a higher education provider registered with the Office for Students, with degree courses validated by the University of Kent.

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