

## Annex I: Central School of Ballet Summary of 2026-27 to 2029-30 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 students from underrepresented groups to access and succeed in their degree level programme, and progress into employment or further study.

You can see the full Access and Participation Plan for Central School of Ballet [here](#).

### Key points

The focus of our 2026-30 Access and Participation Plan builds on the work started in our previous Access and Participation Plan, placing greater emphasis on supporting access to higher education and improving equality of opportunity for specific groups of students.

We have identified three key groups that we will prioritise for targeted support:

- **Students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds**
- **Students of global majority heritage**
- **Male-identifying dancers**

Our aim is to increase access to Central School of Ballet for each targeted group over the duration of the plan and beyond. See pages 2-5 of the full plan for more information.

### Fees we charge

The annual fees charged for new students in 2026/27 are as follows:

Home fees                    £9,525

There may be an increase in these fees for UK students in subsequent years of study, but these will be kept in line with government regulations for higher education tuition fees. For more information, please see Central's Fees Policy on our [Policies and Procedures](#) page.

You can see the full list of fees charged at Central School of Ballet on our Fees and Funding pages. [Fees and Funding - Central School of Ballet](#)

### Financial help available

All information on fees and financial support available to prospective and current students can be found on our website <https://www.centralschoolofballet.co.uk/>. Additionally, we provide information about financial support, for which students may be eligible, via email to prospective and new students each time applications for funds and bursaries open.

**Means-Tested Bursary Scheme** -offers financial assistance to home fees/UK undergraduate students who are new to Higher Education. Any home fee paying students with a household income of £26,000 or less, will receive £2,000 per year for the first two years of training, once they have enrolled onto a course.

**In-house bursaries.** All students on our Higher Education courses are eligible to apply for our in-house bursaries once they have enrolled onto their course. The bursary scheme is open for applications twice a year during, autumn term and spring terms. The scheme is funded through

raising student support funds from generous external sources such as Trusts, Foundations, and private individuals, and most awards are either cash bursaries or maintenance grants. The amount of funds available vary, depending on the source.

**Audition fee waiver** available through the Assisted Application Scheme for home fee paying students. You may be eligible if you come from a household with an income below £44,000 or receive means-tested benefits; of Global Majority heritage; have a declared disability; are care-experienced or a care leaver; or live in an area with low participation in higher education or in a postcode classified as Quintile 1 or 2 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation. See full details of CSB's financial support on our website and page 34 of the full plan for more information.

### Information for students

On the same website there is a section on HE-specific policies, guidance, and procedures related to (non) academic misconduct, admissions, attendance and engagement, assessment and feedback, complaints, course information, casting, code of conduct, fees and refunds, health and safety, photo and video content and consent, sexual misconduct and harassment, support through studies framework, freedom of speech, etc.

See page 33 of the full plan for more information.

### **What we are aiming to achieve and how we will address key risks to equality of opportunity**

Our overall aim is to support students from all backgrounds to succeed in higher education and develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours required to thrive in the future. Using data to assess our performance, we have identified 3 specific areas of focus and 5 relevant activities to support meeting our targets.

**1) The Partnership and Access Programme** is designed to open doors for young dancers who want to pursue vocational dance training but may face barriers to accessing ballet. Through collaborative projects with specialist organisations, we create inspiring pathways into high quality dance training for talented young people from diverse backgrounds. Partners include Artistry Youth Dance, English National Ballet – Ballet Futures, Theatre Peckham AkomaAsa Arts Academy and Southwark College.

**2) The Male Identifying Dancers' Collaboration Project** is an initiative to support pathways into dance for male identifying dancers. This collaboration brings together five leading dance institutions to create more male-focused spaces for young dancers and provide knowledge and guidance for those keen to explore the art form further and for those already inspired by dance. Partners include Central School of Ballet, London Contemporary Dance School, London Studio Centre, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

**3) Our Inclusive Admissions** approach is designed to make applying to Central more accessible for students from underrepresented groups. Through the Assisted Application Scheme, eligible applicants receive personalised information, advice, and guidance throughout the entire application journey. The scheme also offers application fee waivers and travel bursaries. See webpage for more information [Assisted Application Scheme](#).

**4 )The Transitions and Induction Programme** brings together a range of support activities designed to help students feel prepared, confident, and welcomed as they join Central School of Ballet and to navigate the course. The programme supports students through every stage of the journey, pre and post enrolment, helping them settle into both the academic and community life at Central, build a strong sense of belonging and continue their journey with the tools and confidence to succeed.

**5) The Finance and Mental Health Support Programme** provides financial and emotional support for students. Our in-house bursaries provide this financial framework. Our onsite psychological interventions and wellbeing department support student mental health during their training. See pages [5-20] of the full plan for more information.

#### How students can get involved

At Central, students play an active role in shaping their experience. Our small cohorts allow for direct, one-to-one engagement with staff, alongside formal channels such as the Student Voice Forum, Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and Academic Board. Regular forums, surveys, and student representatives ensure feedback is heard and acted upon swiftly, making students true co-creators of life at Central.

See pages [29-31] of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

#### Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved.

Regular evaluation of our access and participation activities is used to monitor and evidence their impact, and inform future practice. Progress against our plan is monitored and reported into a range of committees across the organisation, and we share good practice externally through our engagement in wider collaborative groups. All evaluation undertaken at Central is supported by specialist evaluation providers SEER.

See pages [22-25] of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

#### Contact details for further information

Please contact Head of Widening Participation: [Maxine.BuntingThomas@csbschool.co.uk](mailto:Maxine.BuntingThomas@csbschool.co.uk)