the place  London Contemporary Dance School
“It is challenging, but in a very positive way. It’s really supportive, and everyone is always striving to do better. This has changed my mentality, and given me a much more positive way of thinking. I know it sounds like a cliche, but dance has changed my life.”

Joseph Toonga, BA (Hons) 2013

Hear more students describe their experience in their own words at www.lcds.ac.uk/studentvoices
THE UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE DANCE PROGRAMMES OF LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE SCHOOL ARE AMONG THE MOST INTENSIVE AND PRACTICALLY-BASED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THEY GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE YOUR FUTURE IN DANCE, DISCOVERING YOUR ARTISTIC VOICE, AND MAKING CONNECTIONS TO SUPPORT YOUR FUTURE CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.

As a BA student, you will immerse yourself for three years in daily technical training, creative exploration and contextual study. As a postgraduate, our programmes offer an unmatched level of flexibility for you to pursue specific areas of practical artistic enquiry more deeply, and to broaden your outlook and knowledge. We expect our students to engage critically with the art form, to push its boundaries and uncover what it means for them to be a contemporary dance artist.

You will do this while learning from and working alongside some of the best dance artists in the world, within the unique environment of The Place, the UK’s leading centre for contemporary dance. You’ll be part of an international cohort of brilliant students on the same pathway, with immediate access to our faculty of leading practitioners and thinkers in dance. As a small school, we treat our students as individuals, and you’ll be individually nurtured and empowered to develop as a creative, responsive dance artist.

The experience will be what you make it. London Contemporary Dance School puts the future of contemporary dance in your hands.
The majority of students at London Contemporary Dance School study a three-year, undergraduate programme leading to a BA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance.

The programme is highly intensive, with studio-based work on technique and creative activities at its centre. This is enhanced by a range of contextual studies that directly relate to your experience of performing, making, researching and understanding dance.

Initially, the programme has a strong focus on developing essential skills in contemporary dance, supported by training in ballet and other movement practices. You will work to develop skills in improvisation and composition, as well as the ability to analyse, discuss and write about dance in different contexts. You will begin to put these skills into practice through a range of creative and performative opportunities, and perhaps also by making your own work for performance.

As you continue the programme, you will deepen and extend your technical base, interpreting new work, and tackling more complex choreographic and improvisation tasks. You will explore how to teach dance in a range of settings, and reflect on your developing interests in relation the artistic, professional and social contexts that shape contemporary dance today.

The three-year programme gives you a broad-based professional education in dance, with the opportunity to specialise in performance or choreography, or to develop your expertise in both fields. You will have the chance to both make and perform new work, and develop experience of presenting this work in public. As you complete the course, you are encouraged to explore and plan the possibilities for your next steps in dance. The programme supports its graduates as they continue into professional employment, independent practice, postgraduate study, or any combination of these.
Our highly flexible postgraduate study programmes can support you as you develop specialisms, make the transition from student to professional dance artist, or make a career-changing step in your practice.

The programmes run for one year (full-time) or two years (part-time) leading to a Postgraduate Diploma in Contemporary Dance, which can be converted into an MA on completion of one further term of independent research.

There are three study pathways: performance, choreography, and advanced dance studies (ADS). Each involves practice-based and theoretical research, and working both on group and independent projects.

Performance students may join the performance company EDge, which creates and tours a repertoire by leading choreographers (there may also be opportunities for EDge members to choreograph for the company). Other performance students undertake postgraduate apprenticeships with leading professional companies, performing as company members while also completing academic study.

Our choreography pathway gives dance makers – many of whom have substantial experience – time to reflect on and expand their practice while undertaking practical choreographic projects.

Advanced dance studies is the most flexible course of all. Advanced technical training supports a variety of performance opportunities, and is complemented by a huge range of elective courses (including, for example, improvisation, doublework, choreography, teaching, anatomy, somatics, repertoire, performance studies) from which you create your bespoke programme. You can focus on particular areas of practice, or use the programme to broaden your experience and outlook.
London Contemporary Dance School’s programmes are designed to be the ideal preparation for sustainable careers in dance. The variety and flexibility of the learning opportunities reflect the range of employment opportunities open to today’s contemporary dance artists. Graduates of the school frequently go on to work as choreographers, dancers in companies, dance filmmakers, teachers, arts administrators and in the fields of community dance and dance in education.

London Contemporary Dance School is part of The Place, an artist-led centre which supports the professional development of artists at all stages of their lives in dance. Its range of activity and central London location make it a hub for independent dance artists, and connections forged by our students both during and after their time at the School enrich their learning experience and open up future possibilities.

Recent graduates have joined the UK’s leading dance companies, including Akram Khan Company, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance, Russell Maliphant Company, Richard Alston Dance Company, Hofesh Shechter Company, DV8, Punchdrunk and Rambert. Former students have performed internationally with companies ranging from Bern Ballet to Cloud Gate Theatre of Taiwan to Sydney Dance Company. Graduates have created choreography which is seen all over the world, and won prizes including at the Laurence Olivier Awards, the New Adventures Choreography Award, Sadler’s Wells Global Dance Contest and The Place Prize for dance.

Many graduates also find commercial opportunities to create dance for theatre, film, music and advertising, and some go on to teach complementary practices like yoga or Pilates. Frequently, the careers of our alumni include different types of work which combine to form a varied and fulfilling independent dance practice.
Your potential is the critical factor in being suitable for our programmes. Your audition is designed to give you the best opportunity to demonstrate that potential. This is not simply a matter of being technically proficient in contemporary dance and/or ballet, and is not about having a certain type of physique or capability. You are not being compared to other candidates; we want you to show us what sort of artist you can be. We want to see that you have the right mental aptitude and hunger to learn that will enable you to realise this potential during your time at the School.

Our degrees are validated by the University of Kent. As such, there are entry requirements. Undergraduate students are required to have two passes at A-level or equivalent in approved subjects (equivalent qualifications from other countries are also accepted). Postgraduate students should have a first or upper second undergraduate degree in dance or a related subject, or considerable professional experience.

Candidates for whom English is not their first language must demonstrate language proficiency at audition using either the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Tests of English as a Foreign Language (ToEFL). The minimum scores required are IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element) or ToEFL 580 (no less than 4 in TWE).

We provide support to students who need extra help, be that academic, financial or in other forms. This is part of our commitment to ensuring that people from all backgrounds have access to dance education and training of the highest standard. We do not discriminate on grounds of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, or religion. We judge applicants critically on their readiness for a course of study according to their ability and their potential to benefit from our programmes.

We welcome applications from disabled people. You are encouraged to inform us of any access requirements you may have on the application form (for example relating to dyslexia, a physical or sensory impairment or mental health condition), and this will help us make any necessary, reasonable adjustments for your audition and during the programme.
Complete an application at www.lcds.ac.uk/apply. The application form* includes details about you, your educational and dance history, and a personal statement about why you want to join London Contemporary Dance School.

You are advised to apply as early as possible. The first round of undergraduate audition places is allocated in November of each year for entry in the following September. Undergraduate and postgraduate applications remain open until January (see the website for deadlines), but the later you apply the more likely it is that there will not be available audition slots. In addition to auditions at The Place, there are specifically targeted auditions in other countries each year. International students should be sure to apply early enough to allow for visa application if necessary. If you are successful in your first round audition, you may be invited for a recall audition in February or April.

We understand that auditions can make candidates feel apprehensive, but we will do everything we can to help you feel welcome, and enable you to share your knowledge, passion and potential with us. Some of our current students work as ambassadors on audition days, to let you know more about life in the School and to help put you at your ease.

You are welcome to contact us before your audition to discuss any questions or concerns you may have, and to arrange a visit to the School. We hold a number of open days during term times, and may be able to arrange visits for other times. We hope that most candidates selected for the recall will be able to visit the School between their first and second auditions.

There is a small, non-refundable audition fee to cover our costs. This fee can be waived for candidates who are less able to pay. Details of how to apply for this waiver are on the application form.

* If you require the application form in an alternative format please contact us at lcds@theplace.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7121 1111
London Contemporary Dance School is a part of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama, a higher education institution. Fees are set the same level for all Schools in the Conservatoire, and approved by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA). Full information about current fees and the wide range of scholarships and bursaries available can be found on the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama website at www.cdd.ac.uk

We are determined that financial concerns alone should not prevent anyone from attending the School.

If you are a UK/EU student beginning your first undergraduate degree you will not have to pay fees up front. You will begin repayment only after you have completed your course and are earning sufficient income.

The School’s Fund for Excellence provides extensive additional bursary support to talented students. A significant proportion of postgraduate students on the performance pathway receive bursaries equating to the full cost of their fees. Many undergraduate students also receive additional financial support from the Fund for Excellence.

We do not want concerns about the financial implications of studying at London Contemporary Dance School to prevent you from applying to the School. We are happy to talk through the costs and support available individually with applicants.
There is a wealth of online resources to offering you more information about London Contemporary Dance School:

www.lcds.ac.uk
London Contemporary Dance School’s website has full details of our programmes, plus latest news, details of forthcoming performances, biographies of the School’s staff and more.

www.theplace.org.uk
Full details of all the activity at The Place, from the UK’s busiest dance theatre programme, to training and education for younger people, to work with and for independent dance artists.

Student voices
Get an insight into student life and hear students describe the experience in their own words:
www.lcds.ac.uk/studentvoices

Facebook
Postings about everything happening at The Place, and a space for you to get in touch with other LCDS applicants:
www.facebook.com/theplace

Student Finance
UK Government guide to fees and financial support for students:
www.gov.uk/student-finance

Questions
A selection of your most asked questions (about housing, health care, working while studying, international exchange and more) are answered at:
www.lcds.ac.uk/faqs

More questions?
Get in touch at:
lcds@theplace.org.uk or +44(0)20 7121 1111

“LCDS has formed the bedrock of my dance career. Fruitful enterprises began during my time there, and I continue to collaborate with people I met at the school. The education had breadth and quality, and I am still reaping the benefits.”

Flora Wellesley Wesley, BA (Hons) 2009, MA 2012

“Training to be a dancer is hard and intense work, both exhilarating and exhausting. But it’s a time in your life you never forget, I promise you.”

Richard Alston CBE, Artistic Director of The Place
London Contemporary Dance School 1967-70
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www.lcds.ac.uk

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