



CERTIFICATE IN DANCE TEACHING (BALLET)

Programme summary

The Certificate in Dance Teaching (Ballet) enables you to specialise in the teaching of ballet and gain a teaching qualification. You will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare you for your first steps in teaching ballet to a wide range of learners across different dance contexts.

Delivered through a combination of guided independent study, online learning and studio-based teaching practice, you will gain essential dance teaching skills and establish a foundation for lifelong learning.

You will be provided with one-to-one tuition and mentoring from our leading experts in dance teaching, as well as benefiting from collaborative learning opportunities with your fellow students as part of our worldwide student and teaching community.

On successful completion students are eligible to become Registered Teachers of the Royal Academy of Dance.

Duration

2 years part-time

Start

January 2026

Apply by

1 August 2025

1 July 2025 via
concessionary entry

Language

English, German,
Greek, Italian,
Japanese, Korean,
Mandarin, Portuguese,
Spanish

Location

Online learning, 5 day
in-person intensive
study period and
extended teaching
placement.

Level/Credits

Levels 4 (120 credits)

Application

Via Registry, Faculty
of Education, RAD or
National Offices

Your student experience

Year 1 starts with a five-day online induction in January. You will study three modules by distance learning, undertake a series of teaching observations and begin practice teaching. You will also attend a five day Intensive Study Period (ISP) in August/September and be asked to identify a Mentor for your teaching placement.

In Year 2, you will attend a two-day online induction in January ahead of an extended teaching placement of 38 weeks between January and October.

Over the course of the programme you will explore models of learning and the cognitive and physiological development of learners. You will be introduced to theories of learning and teaching, as applicable to the teaching of dance, and explore how these theories are applied in practice to the teaching of ballet. You will also cover the importance of health, wellbeing and safe practice for every student who takes ballet classes, whether they be children, young people or older learners.

You will learn to analyse and evaluate ballet vocabulary for teaching, prepare teaching materials tailored appropriately to meet learner needs and employ a range of techniques and skills to review, consolidate, reflect and extend knowledge of ballet and pedagogical principles.

In your teaching practice, you will learn how to evaluate student learning needs and plan and deliver effective and inclusive learning experiences. You will learn how to teach ballet effectively and safely through sound demonstration as a ballet teacher, manage diverse dance class environments and respond effectively and meaningfully to individual learner needs. By the end of the programme you will have the knowledge, understanding, skills and confidence in taking your first steps as a qualified ballet teacher.

As a part-time student teacher you should expect to study a minimum of 20 hours per week which includes guided study tasks, independent research and preparing classes.

Programme breakdown

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

- **Learning to Learn (20 credits)**

This module explores how learners interact differently as they progress through the development stages and in different environments. The study tasks and observations will allow you to consider the cognitive, physiological and social development of learners and to apply this to practical teaching experiences. You will be required to reflect on your own experiences as learners and observations to compile case studies of learners across various developmental stages.

- **The Dancing Body (20 credits)**

This module will examine basic physiological and anatomical principles and consider legislative requirements as applied to safe practice in dance teaching. You will be required to reflect on your own personal experiences and to relate these to what is considered safe and healthy practice in dance.

- **The Fundamentals of Teaching: Principles & Practice (20 credits)**

In this module you have the opportunity to begin to develop your knowledge and understanding of dance pedagogy through practical application. You are required to attend a five-day Intensive Study Period (ISP) to support your practical learning of fundamental teaching skills.

- **Work-based practice**

During Year 1 of the programme, you will need to have access to at least one dance teaching context in order to undertake a series of observations (six observations per module). There is no formal approval process for these contexts, and you will need to independently organise the observations. In Year 1 you will also be asked to identify a Mentor for your Year 2 teaching placement and you will begin working with your Mentor whilst completing the module The Fundamentals of Teaching: Principles & Practice in order to prepare for Year 2.

Year 2

Compulsory module:

- **Dance Teaching in Practice (60 credits)**

This module requires you to undertake a teaching placement throughout the duration of the module. Working with an approved Mentor, you will be required to complete observations, assistant teaching and solo teaching during the three phases of the module: Establishing Practice, Enhancing Practice and Consolidating Practice. Each phase will culminate in a component of the summative assessment being completed. Throughout the module, you will engage in structured study tasks to support preparation for and reflection on your teaching practice.

What do Intensive Study Periods involve?

The Intensive Study Period (ISP) gives you an opportunity to work face-to-face with an experienced RAD tutor, musician and your fellow student teachers. During the five days you will examine the key principles and practice of teaching classical ballet covering topics such as the foundations and progressions of classical ballet, working with music (both with pianists and recorded music), enchaînement construction and teaching pointe work. You will also explore important aspects of dance pedagogy including classroom and behaviour management, teaching strategies, the use of vocal dynamics and lesson planning, with opportunities for peer teaching, allowing you to put theory directly into practice in the ballet studio.

Entry requirements

You should hold RAD Intermediate, or a recognised equivalent examination in ballet. Applicants must be aged 18 or older by the start date of the programme. Entry onto the programme is subject to an enhanced DBS or equivalent criminal record check.

Assessment mode

Assessment is through a variety of modes including case studies, presentations, lecture demonstrations and practical teaching.

Employment prospects

The combination of developing educational best practice together with intensive training in practical teaching skills enables our graduates to become informed, independent and articulate ballet teachers able to take up employment within the private dance studio sector and community settings where ballet is taught.

Former RAD graduates have gone on to work all over the world as ballet teachers. Many are offered employment within their placement schools or are successful in establishing their own dance school businesses.

Award

Successful completion of the programme leads to the award of the Certificate in Dance Teaching (Ballet) and eligibility for registration as a dance teacher with the RAD, which will allow you to enter students for RAD ballet examinations.

Further study and career development

Following successful completion of the Certificate in Dance Teaching (Ballet) you may wish to progress to study one of our other Higher Education programmes.

Languages of Delivery

The Certificate in Dance Teaching (Ballet) is delivered internationally, via distance learning, in nine different languages, providing access to teacher training and eligibility for registration as a dance teacher with the RAD. For information on this programme please contact the RAD National Office in your country. If you wish to study as part of the UK cohort, please contact Registry in the Faculty of Education, faculty@rad.org.uk.

More information

radprospectus.info

Validated by:

**ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF DANCE**

