



Grades

12 - 16 January



Vocational

12 - 17 January



**Pathways to
Performance**

12 - 17 January

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE SUMMER SCHOOL 2026



The Royal Academy of Dance New Zealand Summer School is a week-long celebration of dance, bringing together young dancers from across the country for inspiring training, creativity, and fun.

Held each January at Te Whaea in Wellington, the programme offers students the chance to learn from highly respected tutors and experience classes that extend beyond their regular studio training.

“LYLAH HAS ABSOLUTELY LOVED SUMMER SCHOOL, SHE HAS ENJOYED EVERY TUTOR AND IT'S BEEN SUCH AN INSPIRING EXPERIENCE



GRADES COURSE

FOR STUDENTS 8-12 IN RAD GRADES 3-5 OR EQUIVALENT.

*students sitting Grade 2 in 2025 are eligible.

DATE

Monday 12 January 2026 – Friday 16 January 2026

TIME

9.00am - 3.30pm daily

VENUE:

Te Whaea, National Dance & Drama Centre
11 Hutchison Street, Newtown
WELLINGTON

FEES

Earlybird* RAD Member \$475

Earlybird* Non Member \$525

*Early bird fee available between 1 August – 31 October 2025. From 1 November 2025, the normal fee will apply.

RAD Member \$530

Non Member \$580

REGISTER TODAY



<https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/en-nz/event/summer-school-nz-grades/2026>

BOOKING DEADLINE:

Monday 8 December 2025

The Grades Course combines daily ballet technique with classes in repertoire, musical theatre, and creative dance. Students enjoy a supportive environment that encourages confidence and expression, while developing strength and artistry. The week concludes with a studio sharing, giving families a chance to see the dancers' progress and celebrate their achievements.

CLASSES

BALLET

The foundation of the week, ballet classes focus on developing strong, secure technique while nurturing artistry, musicality, and performance quality.

REPERTOIRE

Students explore and rehearse classical variations and ensemble pieces, gaining insight into the style and expression of celebrated ballets.

CREATIVE

Through improvisation and guided tasks, dancers build confidence, imagination, and self-expression while discovering new ways to move.

MUSICAL THEATRE

High-energy classes combining dance, and drama give students a chance to shine, build stage presence, and experience the joy of performance.

CIRCUS SKILLS

Fun-filled circus classes offer children the opportunity to build skills, confidence, coordination and fitness in a non-competitive and safe environment.



VOCATIONAL COURSE

**FOR STUDENTS 11+ IN RAD
INTERMEDIATE FOUNDATION –
ADVANCED 2 OR EQUIVALENT.**
*students sitting Grade 5 in 2025
are eligible.

DATE

Monday 12 January 2026 – Saturday 17
January 2026

TIME

9.00am - 4.00pm daily

VENUE:

Te Whaea, National Dance & Drama Centre
11 Hutchison Street, Newtown
WELLINGTON

FEES

Earlybird* RAD Member \$575

Earlybird* Non Member \$625

*Early bird fee available between 1 August – 31 October
2025. From 1 November 2025, the normal fee will apply.

RAD Member \$630

Non Member \$680

REGISTER TODAY



royalacademyofdance.org/en-nz/event/summer-school-2026-vocational-course/

BOOKING DEADLINE:

Monday 8 December 2025

Our Vocational Course is tailored with a focus on refining technique, building strength and artistry, and preparing for future exams or auditions, this intensive week offers daily ballet classes, pointe work, repertoire, musical theatre and contemporary coaching. Led by internationally respected tutors, it's an inspiring opportunity to take your dancing to the next level in a vibrant and supportive environment.

CLASSES

BALLET AND TECHNIQUE

Ballet and Technique classes focus on refining classical foundations through barre and centre practice. Dancers will strengthen technique, alignment, and artistry while building confidence in their performance.

REPERTOIRE

Step into the world of ballet classics through Repertoire, where technique meets storytelling. Dancers will refine musicality, expression, and stage presence while bringing iconic choreography to life.

CONTEMPORARY

Explore the freedom of movement and creative expression in our Vocational Contemporary classes. Designed to complement classical training, these sessions challenge dancers to expand versatility and artistry.

MUSICAL THEATRE

High-energy classes combining dance, and drama give students a chance to shine, build stage presence, and experience the joy of performance.

DANCE CONDITIONING

Start the day with Dance Conditioning to warm up the body and prepare for classes ahead. Through targeted exercises, dancers develop core strength, stability, and overall body awareness.



PATHWAYS TO PERFORMANCE COURSE

**FOR STUDENTS 11+ IN RAD
INTERMEDIATE – ADVANCED 2 OR
EQUIVALENT.**

DATE

Monday 12 January 2026 – Friday 16 January 2026

TIME

Vocational classes until 2.00pm
2.00pm - 4.00pm daily

VENUE:

Te Whaea, National Dance & Drama Centre
11 Hutchison Street, Newtown
WELLINGTON

FEES

Earlybird* RAD Member \$575

Earlybird* Non Member \$625

*Early bird fee available between 1 August – 31 October 2025. From 1 November 2025, the normal fee will apply.

RAD Member \$630

Non Member \$680

REGISTER TODAY



<https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/en-nz/event/summer-school-nz-grades/2026>

BOOKING DEADLINE:

Monday 8 December 2025

This exciting opportunity allows selected students to work with Shaun James Kelly, Soloist and Choreographer in Residence with the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Together, students will focus on repertoire, performance, and the creative process behind professional choreography.

During the morning, participants will follow the vocational programme, strengthening their technique and artistry. In the afternoon (2–4pm), they will work directly with Shaun, exploring choreographic techniques, developing performance skills, and learning a section of his acclaimed work Prismatic Variations. This hands-on experience provides valuable insight into how choreography is conceived, refined, and brought to life on stage.

ABOUT SHAUN JAMES KELLY

Shaun joined the Royal New Zealand Ballet in 2017, where he is now a Soloist and Choreographer in Residence. His dynamic presence as both performer and choreographer has been recognised across New Zealand and internationally. As Choreographer in Residence with the RNZB, Shaun has created several innovative works for the company, including Prismatic Variations, celebrated for its musicality, clarity, and vibrant movement vocabulary. Passionate about mentoring young dancers, Shaun brings his knowledge of performance and creativity into the studio to inspire the next generation.

Available by application to vocational students studying RAD Intermediate or Advanced levels. Students will be selected based on experience and age.





FACULTY

SUMMER SCHOOL 2026 FACULTY



**LISA
PAVANE**
VOCATIONAL
Ballet and Repertoire

Renowned ballerina and former Director of The Australian Ballet School, Lisa Pavane has enjoyed an extraordinary career spanning principal roles with The Australian Ballet and English National Ballet, as well as guest appearances with leading companies worldwide. Today, she continues to inspire the next generation of dancers through teaching, adjudicating, and international leadership in dance education.



**RACHEL
DAWSON**
GRADES
Ballet and Repertoire

Rachel is a highly experienced dance educator and choreographer whose career spans over two decades in New Zealand and the UK. A graduate of the New Zealand School of Dance, she went on to achieve her RAD Teachers' Certificate with distinction and ARAD status, before building an extensive teaching career with the Royal Ballet School, the Royal Academy of Dance, and leading dance institutions across Cambridge. Passionate about inspiring students through creativity and technical excellence.



**SHAUN JAMES
KELLY**
PATHWAYS TO
PERFORMANCE

Scottish-born dancer and choreographer Shaun James Kelly is recognised as one of Aotearoa's most exciting creative talents, celebrated for both his "classical majesty" on stage and his "spellbinding brilliance" as a choreographer. With a career spanning Scotland, England, Denmark, and more than a decade with the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Shaun has earned international acclaim for his innovative works, including the critically praised Prismatic and Chrysalis. Twice awarded the Harry Haythorne Choreographic Award, he continues to push the boundaries of classical technique while inspiring the next generation of dancers through his teaching and mentorship.



**DEAN
MCKERRAS**
VOCATIONAL | GRADES
Musical Theatre

Dean McKerras is a choreographer, director, educator, and creator of DanceNZmade, with a career spanning more than three decades in performance and dance education. He has directed and choreographed major productions including Cats, Mary Poppins, Mamma Mia, and Chicago, and his work has taken him around New Zealand and internationally to London, Vancouver, and the Philippines. Founder of RED STAR DANCE and the innovative Dance in Education programme, Dean has shared dance with over 50,000 school children and continues to inspire through workshops, masterclasses, and professional development for teachers.



**JEMIMA
MATSUDA**
VOCATIONAL
Contemporary

Jemima Matsuda is a contemporary dancer and movement artist based in Pōneke. A 2021 graduate of the New Zealand School of Dance, she has since performed with companies across Australia, New Zealand, and internationally, including Co3 Contemporary Dance, Movement of the Human, Footnote NZ Dance, and World of WearableArts. Passionate about collaboration and creative exploration, Jemima also teaches contemporary technique, improvisation, and composition at the New Zealand School of Dance.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2026 FACULTY



**ELLA
WILLIAMS**

GRADES
Creative

Ella Williams is a professional dancer, born of Canadian, Trinidadian and pakeha NZ descent. currently working in Te Whanganui a tara, Aotearoa . She is Interested in exploring different worlds through dance and using dance as a way to create space for thought and change. Ella Williams has successfully managed to be a full-time artist and hopes to continue to share her passion in dance. She is interested in exploring different worlds through dance and using dance as a way to create space for thought and change.



**VIVENCIO (JUN)
SAMBLACENO**

VOCATIONAL
Dance Conditioning & Technique

Vivencio "Jun" Samblaceno trained in Manila with the Philippine Ballet Theatre before joining the Royal New Zealand Ballet, where he performed as a soloist and principal for 20 years across Australasia, Europe, America, and Asia. A RAD Registered Teacher and Fellow of the International Dance Teachers' Association (UK), Jun currently tutors at Te Auaha, the New Zealand School of Dance, and Chilton Ballet Academy. With extensive experience as a performer, adjudicator, and educator, he continues to share his passion for ballet, ballroom, and dance education with the next generation of dancers.



**FRANKIE
SAMPSON**

VOCATIONAL
Dance Conditioning

Frankie began dancing at the age of five at Paula Hunt Dance Studios in Wellington before joining the New Zealand School of Dance Junior Associates programme and later completing full-time Contemporary studies, graduating in 2012. She has performed in productions including WOW, Mamma Mia with Wellington Musical Theatre, and various Auckland and Wellington Fringe shows. Frankie has worked at London's Royal Opera House, gained Barre Fitness training, and is also a certified yoga and aerial yoga instructor. She is excited to return to RAD Summer School, having greatly enjoyed the experience as a student.



**HILARY
KAPLIN**

VOCATIONAL
Technique

Hilary Kaplan is an experienced dance educator and long-standing RAD examiner, recognised for her commitment to nurturing and supporting dancers at every stage of their training. Through her examining, teaching, and mentoring, she brings insight, encouragement, and expertise to help students and teachers achieve their personal best.



TIMETABLES



Programme - Grades

	Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00-10.00am	G3-4	Registration and Welcome	Creative	Creative	Creative	Creative
	G4-5		Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet
10.00 - 10.15am		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10.15am - 11.15am	G3-4	Musical Theatre	Musical Theatre	Musical Theatre	Musical Theatre	Musical Theatre
	G4 -5	Creative	Creative	Creative	Creative	Creative
11.15 - 11.30am		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11.30 - 12.30pm	G3-4	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet
	G4 -5	Musical Theatre	Musical Theatre	Musical Theatre	Musical Theatre	Musical Theatre
12.30 - 1.30pm		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.30 - 3.15pm	G3-4	Circus Skills	Repertoire	Movement with Ribbons	Repertoire	Sharing
	G4 -5	Repertoire	Circus Skills	Repertoire	Movement with Ribbons	

Timetable is a guide only – full programmes will be released closer to Summer School and are subject to change.

Programme - Vocational

	Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9.00–9.50am	All	Registration and Welcome	Dance Conditioning	Dance Conditioning	Dance Conditioning	Dance Conditioning	Dance Conditioning
9.50 – 10.00am		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10.00 – 11.30am	IF	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	10.00 –11.00am Ballet
	INT	Contemporary	Contemporary	Contemporary	Contemporary	Contemporary	10.00 –11.00am Contemporary
	ADV	Ballet	Ballet with Teacher Observattion	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	10.00 –11.00am Ballet
11.30 – 11.45am		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11.45am – 1.15pm	IF	Contemporary	Contemporary	Contemporary	Contemporary	Contemporary	11.15 –12.15pm Contemporary
	INT	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	Ballet	11.15 –12.15pm Ballet
	ADV	Contemporary	Contemporary	Contemporary	Contemporary	Contemporary	11.15 –12.15pm Contemporary
1.15 – 2pm		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2.00 – 4.00pm	IF/INT	Musical Theatre	Inside Technique – exploring the detail	Repertoire	Musical Theatre	Repertoire	12.45 –1.45 recap IF Repertoire/MT I/A Repertoire/MT Pathway Dance
	INT/ADV	Repertoire	Musical Theatre	Inside Technique – exploring the detail	Repertoire	Musical Theatre	2– 3pm Sharing
		Pathways to Performance					

Timetable is a guide only – full programmes will be released closer to Summer School and are subject to change.

FURTHER INFORMATION



END OF SUMMER SCHOOL SHARING

At the conclusion of Summer School, parents and whānau are invited to attend a sharing of classwork. This presentation provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate the skills and artistry developed during the programme. It is a celebration of their progress and commitment, and we look forward to welcoming you to acknowledge their achievements.

ACCOMMODATION

Sojourn Apartment Hotel, Newtown

Sojourn are offering Summer School attendees an exclusive 10% discount off our best available flexible rates.

Bay Plaza and West Plaza Hotels

We have secured a 10% discount for both of these hotels located in Central Wellington.

Please contact office@rad.org, for more information on how to secure these discounts. Terms and Conditions apply.



WHAT TO BRING

- **Dancewear** – leotard, tights, and/or other comfortable clothing you love to move in. Don't forget a warm-up layer (like a wrap, jumper, or leggings) for in between classes.
- **Ballet shoes** – these are needed for dancing on the tarkett floor. Please make sure they're clean and only worn in the studio. Tip: bring a pair of slides or overboots to pop on over your ballet shoes when moving between studios.
- **Jazz shoes** – if you have them, bring them along too.
- **Snacks, lunch, and water** – dancing all day takes energy, so pack plenty to keep you fuelled and hydrated.

Extra Tips

- Hair should be neatly tied back so you can dance freely.
- Bring a reusable water bottle to keep hydrated throughout the day.
- A small notebook and pen can be handy for jotting down choreography, corrections, or inspiration.



FRONT



BACK

SUMMER SCHOOL T SHIRTS

Each year we produce a special commemorative T-shirt to celebrate Summer School. This year's design is shown above and is available by pre-order only. Orders close on 11 December to ensure your T-shirt is ready for collection on Registration Day



For details on colours, sizes, and to place your pre-order, please visit the summer school page on our website

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Applicants are asked to apply early to ensure a place as each workshop has a limited number of places.

FEES

All fees are inclusive of GST. The Academy reserves the right to amend fees where either tax changes take place during a calendar year or circumstances, such as the introduction of or a devaluation of a currency.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All applications and payments will be processed in order of receipt.

Correspondence will be sent primarily via email, if the email address is incorrect the RAD cannot be held responsible for missed or misdirected email communications. Applications are non-transferable.

The Academy reserves the right to alter the advertised programme and/or tutor without prior notice. The information in this and other printed or electronic brochures notices is correct at the time of print or going online.

If participant information is not received it is the responsibility of the individual who completed the booking to contact us to arrange for the information to be reissued.

CLOSING DATES

Closing dates will be published locally, but the general rule is that closing dates is 10 days prior to the date of the workshop.

PRESS AND PUBLICITY CONSENT

During Summer School RAD staff may take photographs and video recordings. All photographs and video recordings will be the property of the RAD.

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) does not allow photographs, video, audio (sound) recordings or any other images of anyone to be taken without their consent.

By signing the registration form, you agree to give the RAD your consent for you or your child/ward to be photographed and/or filmed by the RAD.

The RAD may use the photographs and footage in the following ways as part of our legitimate interests, and we may share them with local partners, and RAD offices worldwide) to use:

- As promotional material in RAD publications (print and digital)
- On the corporate RAD and RAD shop websites, social media channels and third-party partner sites
- To distribute to press and media outlets to use in their print/digital publications and on their social media channels, as requested
- To be shared with RAD staff and students for training/educational purposes For Library and Archives specific marketing and promotions

Staff and photographers will be informed of students who do not have consent and they may be excluded from group situations.

In group settings where complete exclusion is difficult (e.g. large class photos) we will make reasonable efforts to avoid clearly identifying students. As it is often hard to exclude students in class groups, the RAD will make sure that no names or other identifying details are used.

The RAD will only keep and use the images and footage for as long as is appropriate for business purposes (this means, for as long as we need to have access to the pictures/videos to operate as a company).

You are free to withdraw your consent at any time by sending an email to bwilliams@rad.org.nz. You do not need to specify a reason why you are withdrawing consent. If you do decide to withdraw your consent at a later time, any pictures/videos/audio taken and uploaded will not be used in any future publications or on our websites, but may continue to appear in publications already (including hardcopy publication) in circulation or in cache until cleared.

WITHDRAWALS, TRANSFERS AND REFUNDS

A refund of 80% of the fee (excluding the registration fee) will be considered for cancellations on medical grounds and on receipt of a medical certificate up to 21 days prior to the course commencement.

In limited situations on compassionate grounds, a refund of 80% of the fee (excluding the registration fee) will be considered for cancellations due to a family emergency up to 21 days prior to the course commencement. To apply, please contact the National Director: bwilliams@rad.org.nz

A refund of 50% (excluding the registration fee) will be considered for cancellations on medical grounds and on receipt of a medical certificate that is received less than 21 days prior to the course commencement.

Force Majeure

The RAD shall not be liable to refund fees or any other penalty should activities be cancelled due to any cause whatsoever beyond their control. No monetary fee will be granted.

DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT

The RAD hold information and contact details requested at the time of your booking that enable them to provide you with information relating to a participant's registration for an activity. We will not disclose your information to a third party except where legally required to do so. In addition, our Privacy Statement and Company Privacy Policy are available to view and download: The full RAD Privacy Statement is available to view online here.

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This printed prospectus is intended as a general guide for prospective students. Whilst every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, all programmes and associated support services are subject to change. We advise that you check our website for the most up to date programme information or contact the office.

