

Prospectus 2025/26

Empowering dance teachers to advance their careers



Imperial Society of
Teachers of Dancing

Approved Dance Centre

About ISTD Academy

Launched in 2023, the ISTD Academy is an Imperial Society of Teachers for Dancing (ISTD) Approved Dance Centre (ADC) dedicated to providing high-quality teacher training. The ISTD Academy plays a vital role in supporting the ISTD's mission to educate the public in the art of dancing by offering a diverse range of initial and advanced teaching qualifications.

The ISTD Academy is committed to being a leader in good teaching practice, fostering innovation, and exploring new methodologies and courses. With a focus on outstanding delivery, it supports a diverse community of teachers, helping them thrive and progress within a creative and forward-thinking environment.

To meet the needs of today's teachers, the ISTD Academy offers part-time, flexible, online learning options, paired with mentoring support. These programmes are designed to be both affordable and achievable, empowering teachers to advance their careers and reach their professional goals.

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Welcome to the ISTD Academy

Your pathway to professional dance teaching starts here

The ISTD Academy is your gateway to becoming a confident, qualified dance teacher – wherever you are in your journey, and wherever you are in the world.

Why choose the ISTD Academy?

As a centre for innovation and excellence, the ISTD Academy offers part-time, high-quality online training designed to fit your lifestyle and career goals. Whether you're just starting out or advancing your qualifications, our courses provide the skills, confidence, and recognition you need to thrive in today's dance education landscape.

What sets the Academy apart is the continuous support you'll receive throughout your journey. Our dedicated team is quick to respond and genuinely invested in your success, offering guidance whenever you need it. This, combined with personalised tutor feedback during your courses, means you're fully supported every step of the way.

Students also value the strong sense of community that comes with joining the Academy. You'll connect with a network of like-minded teachers, sharing experiences as you learn together. Beyond your training, we are committed to supporting your progression into new qualifications and employment routes, ensuring you have the knowledge, mentorship, and opportunities to take the next step in your career.

Two pathways. One purpose.

We offer two distinct training routes to support your teaching ambitions:

- **Syllabus-based qualifications**
For those who want to specialise in delivering the ISTD's world-renowned syllabus and preparing students for examinations, while ensuring every class is inclusive, creative and accessible
- **Community-based qualifications**
For those working in schools, youth groups, and alternative dance settings, creating welcoming, engaging and inclusive dance experiences for everyone

Flexible. Supportive. Online.

With online modules, intensive learning blocks, and one-to-one mentoring, our flexible learning model is built around you.

Wherever you're based, you'll be part of a supportive, global learning community that values personal growth and professional excellence.

Train flexibly. Qualify professionally. Teach with purpose.
Start your journey with the ISTD Academy today.



“The future of dance education is evolving—and we invite you to be part of this exciting journey.”

Natalie Dickmann,
Programme Manager
ISTD Academy



“A supportive space for anyone wishing to pursue a teaching qualification in an inclusive and flexible way.”

Laura, DTCD Graduate

ISTD qualifications at a glance



Entry Level

Associate*	DTCD Level 4*	DDE Level 4*
5-8 month course	1-year course	Flexible course length
Remote	Remote	Remote
Part-time	Part-time	Part-time
1 Unit of study	3 Units of study	5 Units of study

Advanced Level

Licentiate	DDP Level 6*
5-8 month course	2-year course
Remote	Remote
Part-time	Part-time
1 Unit of study	5 Units of study

*Applicants may be eligible to apply for the ISTD's Teacher Training Bursary Scheme.

How to apply

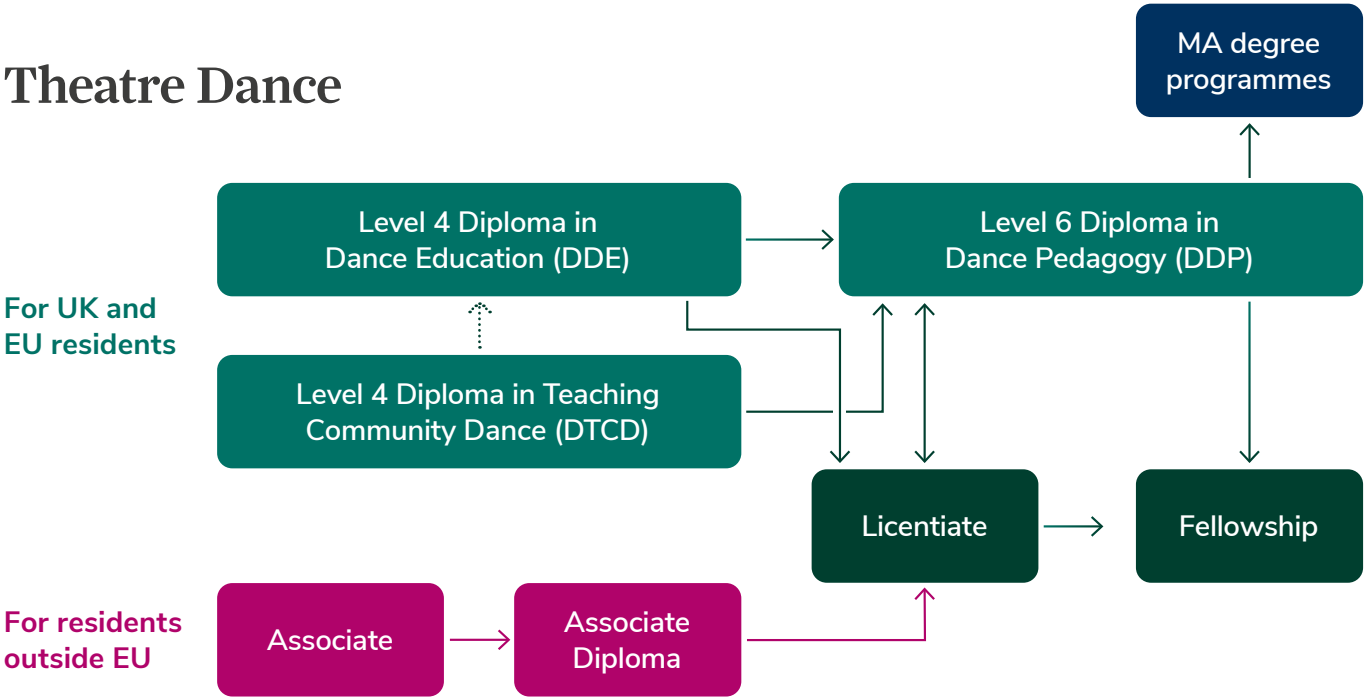
Visit our website for all upcoming course information and online application forms or email academyinfo@istdacademy.org



Progression routes

Teaching qualifications progression routes

Theatre Dance



Dancesport



Benefits of completing a course with the Academy

Our courses offer numerous advantages that can significantly enhance your career and personal growth. Here are some key benefits:

- Personal growth and confidence: Enhance your skills and self-assurance
- Validation of skills for employers: Gain recognition and credibility in the teaching profession
- Increased earning potential: Boost your career prospects and income
- Networking opportunities: Connect with other professionals in the field
- Access to higher-level teaching qualifications: Continue your professional development with advanced certifications
- A mark of quality: Demonstrate your commitment to excellence with training recognised for its high standards

ISTD membership

ISTD membership provides teachers with the best advice and training in dance education with access to courses, teacher training and qualifications. ISTD membership is available upon registration on to your training course and is designed to support you through your training and as you qualify. The level of membership and benefits you can access will depend on your qualifications and your current teaching status. Whatever your status you can benefit from:

- **Free Dance magazine and newsletters** packed with industry updates and dance teaching tips
- **Exclusive events** and a wide range of **discounted CPD courses**
- **Discounts in the ISTD shop** and from trusted partner organisations offering insurance, business products, uniform and dancewear
- Access to the **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)** Vetting Scheme
- Access to **local representative network, online forums and community events**
- **Dance teaching jobs search** in the classified advertising section of the website

Full Teaching exclusive benefits include:

- Use the Registered Member logo to promote your status as a member
- Display the designation after your name e.g., Jane Smith LISTD to demonstrate your professional status
- **Register on Find a Dance Teacher** to increase your visibility and expand your business
- Enter students for ISTD examinations



Find out more:
ISTD membership

“It’s been fantastic to be able to focus on my personal development and be able to pass on my learnings from the DDP to all those at my dance school.”

DDP Graduate



Qualifications and courses explained

Entry Level

Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education (DDE)

The full DDE qualification consists of five individual units and awards 120 Credits at Level 4 on the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF), preparing students for a rewarding career in dance teaching. It offers a clear pathway to becoming a qualified dance teacher with the ISTD and incorporates the latest research in dance teaching.

Covering Theatre Dance genres such as:

- Cecchetti Classical Ballet
- Classical Greek Dance
- Classical Indian Dance
- Imperial Classical Ballet
- Modern Theatre Dance
- National Dance
- Tap Dance

The programme combines classroom and studio instruction with online activities and assessments.

- **Unit 1: Preparing for Safe Teaching Practice** (15 credits at Level 3)
- **Unit 2: Observing, Assisting and Teaching Practice; 18+ for teaching practice** (30 credits at Level 4)
- **Unit 3: Vocational Graded Examination in Dance – Intermediate** (28 credits at Level 3)
- **Unit 4: Dance Practice** (30 credits at Level 4)
- **Unit 5: Child Development** (17 credits at Level 4)

Courses

DDE units 1, 2 and 5 are non-genre specific and can therefore be carried over and combined with the syllabus practical units 3 and 4 to complete the full DDE qualification.

The ISTD Academy delivers the following courses to support the attainment of the full DDE qualification.



Unit 1: Preparing for Safe Teaching Practice (15 credits at Level 3)

- **Duration:** 3 months
- **Delivery:** Interactive online modules, as well as live lecture group tutorials
- **Cost:** £550*



Unit 2: Observing, Assisting and Teaching Practice; 18+ for teaching practice (30 credits at Level 4)

- **Duration:** 6-12 months
- **Delivery:** One-to-one mentoring
- **Cost:** Available upon request



Unit 4: Dance Practice (30 credits at Level 4)

- **Duration:** 6 -12 months
- **Delivery:** Live lectures, group tutorials and one-to-one mentoring
- **Cost:** Available upon request



Unit 5: Child Development (17 credits at Level 4)

- **Duration:** 3 months
- **Delivery:** Interactive online modules, as well as live lecture group tutorials
- **Cost:** £685*

ISTD Academy entry requirements:

- Age 17+
- Some experience of being within a teaching environment or a desire to follow a teaching pathway
- GCSE English (or equivalent) at Level 4/C or above (or equivalent)
- Students for whom English is a second language are expected to hold an IELTS at Level 6
- Have passed or are working towards Intermediate examination in chose genre (Unit 3)
- Completed online application form and interview for course suitability

Flexibility

Units do not need to be completed in order; However, Unit 1 must be completed before the teaching practice part of Unit 2.

ISTD membership and progression opportunities

Upon completion of the full DDE course, you'll be eligible to become a Full Teaching Member of the ISTD. This membership offers a range of benefits, including:

- Ability to enter students for ISTD grade exams
- Discounted CPD programmes
- ISTD Dance magazine, and regular newsletters
- Use of the Registered Member logo to promote your status

You'll also have access to progression opportunities, including the Level 6 Diploma in Dance Pedagogy (DDP) and Licentiate qualification, which can open pathways to becoming a tutor or examiner.

*Eligibility for Licentiate requires an Advanced 1 certificate in your chosen genre.

*All course fees are inclusive of VAT, reviewed annually and do not include ISTD assessment fees.



Find out more:
Level 4 Diploma
in Dance Education (DDE)



Entry Level

Level 4 Diploma in Teaching Community Dance (DTCD)

The full DTCD qualification awards 52 Credits at Level 4 on the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF), supporting learners in starting their dance teaching careers. This course equips students with essential skills and knowledge for teaching dance in community settings, aligning with the ISTD's vision of inclusive dance education for all.

At the ISTD Academy, we offer the full qualification as a one-year, online, part-time course. The units are non-genre specific, ensuring a broad and comprehensive education in community dance teaching.

• 3 Units:

Preparing for Safe Teaching Practice (15 credits at Level 3)
Child Development (17 credits at Level 4)
Applied Teaching Practice (20 credits at Level 4)

• Delivery:

Interactive online modules, as well as live lectures, group tutorials, and one-to-one mentoring

• Cost: £2830*

*All course fees are inclusive of VAT, reviewed annually, and do not include ISTD assessment fees.

ISTD Academy entry requirements:

- Age 18+
- Dance knowledge and experience, e.g. dance training for a number of years, performing, teaching
- Some experience of being within a teaching environment or a desire to follow a teaching pathway
- GCSE English (or equivalent) at Level 4/C or above (or equivalent)
- Students for whom English is a second language are expected to hold an IELTS at Level 6
- Completed online application form and interview for course suitability
- Enhanced DBS certificate if based in England, or have satisfied any local criminal records checks in international settings

ISTD membership and progression opportunities

Upon completion of the full DTCD course, you'll be eligible to become a Affiliate Member of the ISTD. This membership offers a range of benefits, including:

- Discounted CPD programmes
- ISTD Dance magazine, and regular newsletters
- Pursuing higher qualifications such as the Level 6 Diploma in Dance Pedagogy (DDP)



Find out more:
 Level 4 Diploma in Teaching Community Dance (DTCD)



Entry Level

Associate Street Dance

This course prepares teachers to become qualified Street Dance instructors. It is currently the ISTD's only Street Dance teaching qualification and successful candidates gain Full Teaching Membership, with the eligibility to enter students for Dancesport examinations. The Associate is regarded as initial teacher training and is set at Level 4, equivalent in the UK to the first year of a BA Honours degree.

The qualification focuses on three core Street Dance styles: Breaking, Locking, and Popping.

- **Duration:** 5-8 months
- **Delivery:** Full-day and half-day intensive group sessions combined with one-on-one mentoring

“I have learnt so much from the course that I use every day when teaching.”

Georgina, DDE Graduate

ISTD Academy entry requirements:

- Dance knowledge and experience
- Minimum 18 years of age
- Completed online application form, video submission and interview for course suitability

ISTD membership and progression opportunities

Upon completion of the full Associate course, you'll be eligible to become a Full Teaching Member of the ISTD. This membership offers a range of benefits, including:

- Ability to enter students for ISTD Dancesport exams
- Discounted CPD programmes
- ISTD Dance magazine, and regular newsletters
- Use of the Registered Member logo to promote your status

You'll also have access to progression opportunities, including the Level 6 Diploma in Dance Pedagogy (DDP), which can open pathways to becoming a DDE tutor.



Find out more:
 Associate Street Dance



Advanced Level

Licentiate

The Licentiate is a prestigious qualification, offering a clear pathway, to becoming a higher-level dance teacher with the ISTD while also giving you the eligibility to enter students for vocational graded examinations.

At the ISTD Academy, we offer the Licentiate remotely, tailored to individuals seeking flexible study options with global accessibility. These short courses are perfect for those wanting to become higher-level professional dance teachers.

Immerse yourself in higher-level dance concepts, advanced teaching methods, and strategies to refine your understanding and communication skills.

ISTD Academy entry requirements:

- Advanced 1 certificate in chosen genre or successful **APEL application**
- In depth knowledge of the current syllabus up to and including Advanced 1
- Associate Diploma or Diploma in Dance Education (DDE) or the Diploma in Dance Pedagogy (DDP) qualification in chosen genre
- Enhanced DBS Certificate if based in England, or have satisfied any local criminal records checks in international settings
- Copies of most recent syllabus books and music from the digital download
- Experience of teaching at vocational level
- Completed online application form, video submission and interview for course suitability

You'll expand your analytical abilities, enhance your effectiveness as a teacher, and develop greater creativity and musicality. Gain invaluable insights and practical knowledge, building a teaching toolkit that sets you apart as an advanced practitioner.

- **Duration:** 5-8 months
- **Delivery:** Full or half-day intensive group sessions combined with one-on-one mentoring

If you feel you need to refresh your knowledge of the vocational syllabi before starting the intensive course, the Academy is here to support you. We can offer bespoke refresher courses tailored to your needs or signpost you to relevant **ISTD CPD courses** to help you feel confident and prepared.

Please visit istd.org/teach/istd-academy for course date announcements and fees.

Career opportunities

Upon completion of the Licentiate qualification, you'll unlock a range of opportunities including eligibility to:

- Apply to become an ISTD Diploma in Dance Education (DDE) tutor with an Approved Dance Centre (ADC)
- Gain recognition by applying for ISTD Approved Dance Centre (ADC) status
- Progress towards the ISTD Fellowship qualification*
- Apply to the ISTD for examiner training

*Eligibility for Fellowship requires an Advanced 2 certificate in your chosen genre



Licentiate Imperial Classical Ballet



Licentiate Modern Theatre



Licentiate Classical Indian Dance



Licentiate Cecchetti Classical Ballet



Find out more:
Licentiate

Level 6 Diploma in Dance Pedagogy (DDP)

The full DDP qualification awards 120 Credits at Level 6 on the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF), building on teachers previous training, knowledge, and experience. The curriculum places emphasis on the various ways that dance can be delivered, underpinned by theory and critical analysis, so that students graduate as confident, versatile, and highly proficient dance teachers.

- **Unit 1: Planning and Evaluating Programmes of Learning**
- **Unit 2: The Practice of Dance Teaching and Learning**
- **Unit 3: Reflective Practice**
- **Unit 4: Teaching in Education and Community Settings or Licentiate**
- **Unit 5: Social, Emotional and Cognitive Development**

ISTD Academy entry requirements:

- Level 4 DDE or equivalent teaching qualification and / or extensive performing and teaching experience
- GCSE English (or equivalent) at grade 4/C or above
- Students for whom English is a second language are expected to hold an IELTS at Level 6
- Enhanced DBS Certificate if based in England, or have satisfied any local criminal records checks in international settings
- Teaching placement to deliver 100 teaching hours
- Completed online application form and interview for course suitability

If you do not meet the entry requirements for the DDP, you can apply for your experience and other qualifications to be recognised through the **ISTD APEL process** or gain automatic exemptions for certain units via the APL process.

Units 1, 2, and 3 cover essential knowledge and skills for developing dance teaching practices and businesses, including: policy and procedures, professional practice, learning theories, assessment, communication, and reflective practice. These core units focus on planning, delivering, and evaluating inclusive and motivational teaching tailored to each learner. Units 4 and 5 delve into specialised areas of dance teaching, ensuring graduates have a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the field.

- **Duration:** 2 years
- **Delivery:** Online live lectures, group tutorials, and one-to-one mentoring
- **Cost:** £6140*

Our next intake will begin in September 2027.

ISTD membership and progression opportunities

Upon completion of the DDP course, you'll unlock a range of opportunities including eligibility to:

- Apply to become an ISTD Diploma in Dance Education (DDE) tutor with an Approved Dance Centre (ADC)
- Gain recognition by applying for ISTD Approved Dance Centre (ADC) status
- Progress towards the ISTD Fellowship qualification*
- Apply to the ISTD for examiner training (for those who already have their Licentiate or Fellowship qualification)
- Apply for a Master of Arts (MA) with selected universities
- Register for Full ISTD teaching membership
- Enter students for ISTD exams
- Access discounted CPD programmes
- Receive ISTD Dance magazine, and regular newsletters
- Use the Registered Member logo to promote your status

*Eligibility for Fellowship requires an Advanced 2 certificate in your chosen genre

*The fees shown in the prospectus are for the 2025/26 academic year and are updated annually. For the most up-to-date fees, please visit our website.



“The content has been relevant and well delivered and certainly helped me think in new ways and elevate my teaching practice.”

Photography credits
Rachel Cherry and
Andrew Edgecumbe

Rebekah, DDP Graduate

Empowering dance teachers to advance their careers

Get in touch

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