



Press Release

Northern School of Contemporary Dance and the ISTD announce a new partnership Degree in Professional Dance Teaching and Education

Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) and the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) are proud to announce a new validated higher education partnership that will launch a **BA (Hons) Professional Dance Teaching and Education (Level 6 Top-Up Degree)** to be delivered by ISTD Academy from September 2027.

This innovative programme represents a significant milestone in professional dance teacher education, creating a new honours-level pathway for experienced dance teachers to advance their pedagogical expertise, leadership skills and professional practice. Combining ISTD's internationally respected teacher training with NSCD's higher education expertise, the programme is designed to develop reflective, inclusive and industry-ready dance educators equipped to lead the future of dance teaching.

ISTD is a leader in teacher training, certifying 570 initial teaching qualifications in 2025 and enrolling over 750 learners on to the Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education. *"At ISTD, dance teaching is at the heart of everything we do."* explains **Ginny Brown, ISTD Chief Executive**. *"This exciting new degree programme reflects our commitment to raising professional standards and creating clear progression routes for dance teachers, wherever they are in their careers."*

Dance teaching is a highly skilled profession and by working in partnership with leading education providers, we can combine our specialist expertise in dance teaching with innovative approaches to learning, ensuring that aspiring teachers have access to flexible, relevant and industry-recognised training."

Darren Carr, Vice Principal and Director of Higher Education at NSCD said:

"This partnership represents an important step in our strategic vision to broaden access to high-quality specialist higher education and strengthen pathways into sustainable careers across the dance sector. By bringing together NSCD's expertise in higher education with ISTD's global reputation for dance teacher training, we are creating a distinctive opportunity for practitioners to achieve honours-level study while advancing their professional teaching practice. Together, we are helping to shape the future of dance education by developing confident, reflective and innovative dance educators who will inspire the next generation of learners."

Julie Campbell, ISTD Director of Education said of the course programme:

“What makes this programme particularly distinctive is its focus on individual development. Through personalised mentorship, students will be supported to refine their own teaching practice, develop critical and reflective skills, and build the confidence to become leaders in dance education. The degree is intentionally inclusive and non-genre specific, making it relevant to teachers from a wide range of dance backgrounds both in the UK and internationally.

Together with NSCD, we are creating a new generation of highly qualified dance educators who will play a vital role in inspiring learners, strengthening the profession, and shaping the future of dance teaching worldwide.”

For more information about the **BA (Hons) Professional Dance Teaching and Education (Level 6 Top-Up Degree)** course visit www.istd.org.

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Notes for the Editor

About Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD)

Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD), based in Leeds, is a leading centre for contemporary dance education and creative development in the UK. As the only dance conservatoire in England outside of London it has a vision to be world-leading in dance education. NSCD provides inspirational and transformative learning experiences that enable higher education students, aspiring artists and professionals, regardless of background, to shape the future of dance. Through its growing network of collaborative partnerships in the UK and overseas, NSCD extends access to high-quality higher education, works with distinctive specialist organisations and supports the development of diverse, innovative and industry-ready artists and teachers equipped to contribute to the evolving cultural and creative landscape.

About the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD)

ISTD exists to advance excellence in dance teaching and education, representing dance teachers and their communities. ISTD is a Registered Charity No. 250397 and an Ofqual regulated examination board.

For over 120 years the Society has provided quality dance training across a diverse range of genres – enabling its members to inspire their students with a passion for dance. With 6,000 members in 59 countries, we conduct over 90,000 examinations worldwide each year. ISTD membership is recognised as the mark of quality dance teaching around the world. We support teachers to develop their careers and businesses through progressive training, performance qualifications and events. Together, we aim to build a diverse and sustainable dance profession by championing inclusion and increasing access to dance teaching.



**Imperial Society of
Teachers of Dancing**

For more information visit **www.istd.org**

About ISTD Academy

The ISTD Academy supports the ISTD in the delivery of its primary purpose to educate the public in the art of dancing, by offering a range of initial and higher teaching qualifications. ISTD Academy provides the necessary separation between the regulatory requirements of ISTD as an Awarding Organisation and the delivery of qualifications.

The ISTD Academy is a leading example of good practice; demonstrating the ability to innovate and explore new methodologies and courses, employing outstanding delivery to support a diverse range of teachers to thrive and progress in an environment that is creative and forward thinking.

For more information about training with the ISTD Academy visit **www.istd.org/teach/istd-academy**

Further information:

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