



Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing

Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education

Qualification Accreditation Number is 603/3094/6

The qualification is regulated at Level 4 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework and has a credit value of 120 credits

Overview

The qualification allows you the opportunity to engage with up to date research in best practice related to dance teaching and learning, providing an excellent introduction to a career in teaching dance. Through a blended learning approach, the qualification will allow student teachers the flexibility to study anywhere in the world, at their own pace and to gain a regulated qualification around existing commitments. The contextual nature of assessment will also ensure that you are able to focus on developing practical skills and knowledge that will enable you to start your initial This qualification develops the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to teach dance especially focussing on a knowledge of pedagogy, including other units essential for an appreciation of teaching dance to children and adults. It consists of five mandatory units. Two units relate to dance practice and the teaching of the genres, focussing on the dance knowledge required of pupils up to the beginning of vocational levels; one to generic teaching skills; one to safe dance practice; and one to social and emotional cognitive development. It develops the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to teach dance, primarily in the context of graded dance examinations within the private sector.

You will learn observe others teaching; assist in classes under supervision of another teacher; and then progress to being able to write lesson plans, take a series of classes, and evaluate what has happened in each class, learning what personal teaching skills you then need to strengthen and develop.

The Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education will allow you to be a recognised qualified dance teacher by the ISTD and thus by all the dance organisations, and be able to teach ISTD dance to your own students. You would need to study in one of the ISTD Approved Dance Centres (ADCs).

To register for the DDE, you must be 17 years old or above in the academic year (from September) in which you register, and you must be 18 years old before undertaking the Unit 2 practical teaching component. This is because you will be responsible for teaching a class of children alone, so must be an adult. You can take it in any of the following dance genres, depending on which styles your ADC is approved by us offer.

Cecchetti Classical Ballet
Classical Greek Dance
Classical Indian Dance
Imperial Classical Ballet

National Dance
Modern Theatre Dance
Tap Dance

You can take the DDE in more than one dance genre.

There are five separate mandatory Units and you must take and pass all of them:

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

This unit is an introduction to the basic principles of safe dance practice that a dance teacher needs to know to prepare for practice in the dance environment. The unit covers managing the dance space and what the dance teacher needs to do to protect themselves, their participants and their business. This will include relevant insurance, the principles of safeguarding children and young adults and best practice principles including being aware of any relevant country specific legal requirements. It is endorsed by Safe in Dance International (SIDI). Successful attainment of this unit covers Core Principle 1 (Health and Safety in the Dance Environment) and Core Principle 3 (Nutrition and Hydration) of Safe in Dance International's Healthy Dance Practice Certificate.

Unit 2 Observation, Assisting and Teaching Practice (30 credits at Level 4)

Through this unit you will learn how to create, deliver and evaluate lesson plans including strategies for differentiation, motivation and assessment. The unit comprises opportunities to observe experienced teachers and then assist and independently teach dance classes under supervision of an experienced ISTD teacher. Central to this process is developing awareness of how to communicate ideas and dance technique to a class.

Unit 3 Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Intermediate (28 credits at Level 3)

This unit aims to provide student teachers with the skills, knowledge and understanding as part of the progressive mastery of a particular dance genre. The learning objectives include, strength and stamina, technical skills, musicality and performance as well as focussing on further skills required for employment in the sector, including engaging with an audience.

Unit 4 Dance Practice (30 credits at Level 4)

The unit assesses your dance technique and your ability to relate teaching methods and safe dance practice to the chosen genre as well as your understanding of the relationship between music and dance and how this is applied to teaching dance. The Unit 3 and Unit 4 genre must be the same for achievement of the qualification.

Unit 5 Social, Emotional and Cognitive Development (17 credits at Level 4)

This unit explores materials relating to predictable patterning of growth and motor development as well as social, cognitive and emotional development from childhood to adult. Through this unit you will gain an understanding of how to deliver and manage effective dance classes appropriate for dance learners at different stages of development. In addition, issues concerning meeting the needs of different learners in the dance class are explored. Also, the potential for dance to contribute to mental health and wellbeing.

Although you are likely to study in a Vocational dance or Further Education College, the syllabus is designed so that you can also take it in a smaller school. Regardless of size, all colleges, schools and their tutors must undergo an ISTD quality assurance process to become ISTD Approved Dance Centres (ADCs) before being allowed to deliver the qualification and register learners.

It is supported by an On Line Management Learning system on which the ADC will enrol their students onto the courses via the ISTD, enabling the student to have their own web page where they can upload their work and track their progress. Approved Tutors will be enrolled by the ADC and

linked to their students so that again they can see the units they teach and the students enrolled within those units. Training formats may vary from class seminars, long or short courses, class and individual tutorials, and private study as well as other forms of learning; therefore it is recommended that you contact a number of the ADCs in your area to find out the form of study available that suits you.

The full syllabus outline is available at <https://www.istd.org/about-us/documents/istd-level-4-diploma-in-dance-education-revised-2018-syllabus/>

A list of Approved Dance Centres in your area, with the dance genres offered is available at <https://www.dance-teachers.org/become-a-dance-teacher/ad/>

Prior Accreditation and Achievement

If you have taken and passed other regulated qualifications, including other ISTD qualifications, or university degrees, you can apply for exemption from a Unit of the DDE. We have a number of qualifications mapped to all these Units for exemptions, and your ADC will be able to take this into account when you register. If you have something else which you think means that you could be exempt and not have to take a Unit, you can apply directly to the ISTD and we will look at all your evidence to see if it maps directly.

Progression

When you have passed your DDE you will be able to become a Full Member of the ISTD and able to teach and enter students for all ISTD examinations, except the DDE. The DDE is recognised by Colleges who would employ you, by principals of dance schools, and by other dance awarding bodies and membership organisations as being a high quality qualification at a level of knowledge which means they can employ you with confidence depending on you to teach syllabus and non-syllabus work, unsupervised. ISTD teachers are also employed as instructors in state schools who offer dance either in their curriculum or as an after school activity.

You could still work as a dancer to gain more practical dance experience if you choose, while you have the peak ability to dance, because your high level vocational dance knowledge means you are able to work for example, in a dance troupe, anywhere in the world. Many go on to become dance captains, before retiring from that aspect of dance employment, and then either work as a teacher for someone else, or set up their own dance schools, having gained a wealth of practical experience. Whatever route you choose, having the Level 4 DDE gives your students and parents confidence that you are suitably qualified, and able to teach safely.

You can also move on to the ISTD Level 6 Diploma in Dance Pedagogy (QCF), which provides experienced dance teachers and ex-professional dancers with a programme that builds on previous training, knowledge and experience, assessing an advanced level of dance pedagogy underpinned by an in-depth knowledge of the teaching in a chosen ISTD genre. The DDE is one of the entry criteria for experienced dance teachers.

If you want to advance your knowledge further in an academic route, achievement of the DDE is also recognised as contributing to the 120 credits at Level 4 required within the BA Honours in Professional Practice at Middlesex University, which in turn leads on to their MA in Professional Practice. Details of the BA at Middlesex are available in the ISTD website <http://www.istd.org/courses-and-training/teaching-qualification-update/advanced-dance-teacher-training-qualifications/accredited-qualifications/ba-honours-in-professional-practice/>

Further information is available from Middlesex University at <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/professional-practice-arts>

Support

The Diploma in Dance Education has support from the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT), which is the dance industry body representing the professional dance and musical theatre industries, accrediting dance schools and awarding bodies, and representing them to government bodies as well as national and international agencies.

It is delivered by several Further Education Colleges, who recognise its value in providing qualified teachers in the sector, and by many private providers in the form of vocational dance colleges. There are currently 182 ISTD Approved Dance Centres approved to deliver the DDE in the UK and Europe.

The DDE is regulated by the Regulatory Bodies in England and Wales (Ofqual for England and Northern Ireland, and the Department of Education and Skills for the Welsh Assembly) and is on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Level 4 which is broadly equivalent to first year degree standard. It is not available with any apprenticeship, as none exist in this sector. It is 100% vocational in content as all relates to teaching and learning in dance.