



Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing

Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education (QCF)

Qualification Accreditation Number is 501/0750/1.

The qualification has a Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) credit value of 92

Overview

The Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education (DDE) is designed for you if you want to become a qualified dance teacher.

You should already have gained knowledge of the fundamental principles of dance teaching through the ISTD Level 3 Diploma in Dance Instruction, which is based on observing teachers and identifying the teaching and learning involved, as well as principles of safe dance practice and dance skills to an Intermediate level. You will build on the skills you have learnt to be 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. You will be guided by qualified tutors in helping you to write coherent lesson plans in a scheme of work, and analyse your own experience based on a minimum of 10 hours of actual teaching practice.

The DDE also includes other units essential for teaching dance to children through to senior adults, and understanding the background to the dance genres, so that you can teach others the context or history surrounding what they are learning. You will also learn the teaching skills needed in the context of your own genre, within the Grade 6 to Intermediate syllabi.

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 18 years old or above in the academic year (from September) in which you register. This is because you will be responsible for teaching a class of children alone, so must be an adult. You must have gained the Level 3 Diploma in Dance Instruction in the genre you want to take. 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

Classical Sequence Dance
 Disco Freestyle
 Latin American Dance
 Modern Ballroom Dance

You can take the DDE more than one dance genre, but must have the DDI in the same dance genres.

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

Unit 1 Planning Techniques and Evaluation of Dance Teaching. You will know how to create and produce lesson plans, use them in lessons within Unit 2, and then evaluate how well they worked, within a whole scheme of work in relation to your personal dance teaching practice in teaching a range of students. This will be built up through a portfolio of work. You need only take this Unit once, regardless of how many different dance genres you take.

Unit 2 Dance Teaching Practice. When you have completed the Unit you will be able to deliver teaching and learning in dance to your range of students, using strategies that you have learnt which will include how to motivate your students and how to teach them, identifying their individual and different needs. This evidence is also included in the portfolio. You need only take this Unit once, regardless of how many different dance genres you take.

Unit 3 Lifespan Development and Learning in Dance. You will understand the stages of development of children through to senior adults, so that you can be aware of the physical and mental capabilities, at various stages in their life, and therefore be able to focus your teaching according to their learning ability. You need only take this Unit once, regardless of how many different dance genres you take.

Unit 4 Dance Practice and the Relationship between Music and Dance in a Chosen Dance genre. This Unit can be taken more than once in different dance genres, which will help you to get a job in teaching dance, because employers often want to employ someone who can teach more than one style. You will be able to understand and demonstrate the level of technique needed for Grade 6 to Intermediate (following on from that learnt in the DDI up to Grade 5) using the teaching methods and safe dance practice which may specially apply in the individual dance genre. You will be able to understand the relationship between music and dance and how this is applied to teaching dance at these higher levels in the genre.

Unit 5 Contextual Study of Dance When you have achieved this Unit, you will have a broader understanding of your particular dance genre by having studied something which has influenced the development of the genre. This could be a person, a particular aspect of style, or a historic or current influence and should be something which really interests you. This will help you to explain to your own learners why their dance has developed as it has, and what is interesting about it. You will know how to present a research document with sources you have had to find, and how to present your own conclusions.

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, because it consists of your individual teaching and self evaluations of them, recorded in a portfolio, as well as dance practice, and a multiple choice question paper on lifespan development in dance, as well as your contextual assignment. Regardless of size, all colleges, schools and their tutors must undergo an ISTD quality assurance process to become ISTD Approved Dance Centres before being allowed to deliver the qualification and register learners.

The full syllabus outline is available at <http://www.istd.org/documents/dde-level4-syllabus/>
A list of Approved Dance Centres in your area, with the dance genres offered is available at <http://www.dance-teachers.org/ADCs/>

Prior Accreditation and Achievement

If you have taken and passed other recognised qualifications, either inside or outside the QCF, including other ISTD qualifications, or university degrees, you can apply for exemption from a Unit of the DD. 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 DDI and 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 Education and Training (CDET), 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 168 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 Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) 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.

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