



Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing

Level 3 Diploma in Dance Instruction (QCF)

Qualification Accreditation Number is 501/1002/0

The qualification has a Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) credit value of 68

Overview

The Level 3 Diploma in Dance Instruction (the DDI) is designed as the first step if you want to begin training to become a dance teacher.

It will give you a solid foundation in the skills and knowledge you need to teach dance in a safe way and in a safe situation, by watching experienced teachers in classes and learning the teaching skills they need to use. You will be guided by qualified tutors in helping you to analyse what you see, and your own experience and work. You will also learn about health and safety in dance, as well as studying your own dance genre to an Intermediate level, learning how to teach your dance genre safely.

You could then move on to the Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education (DDE) which would allow you to be a recognised qualified dance teacher by all the dance organisations, and be able to teach ISTD dance to your own students. You would need to study these two qualifications in one of the ISTD Approved Dance Centres (ADCs).

To register for the DDI, you must be 17 years old or above in the academic year (from September) in which you register. There is no other entry requirement, but we would expect you to have been learning dance in the genre you want to take, for a number of years. 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 must pass the DDI in the same genre that you want to study for the DDE, and you can take more than one dance genre in both qualifications.

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

Unit 1 Observation and Understanding of Teaching and Learning Techniques. This will develop your observation skills and understanding of teaching and learning techniques, by watching teachers in a class and seeing how the students react, learning what the best methods are. By the end of the Unit you will be able to identify the different methods and understand which work best in some situations and with different ages and types of students. You need only take this Unit once, regardless of how many different dance genres you take. When you have passed this Unit you will then understand and be prepared for actual practical teaching when you take the Diploma in Dance Education (DDE).

Unit 2 Promotion of Health and Safety in Dance. This will develop your understanding of important and common aspects of safe dance practice and health and safety in dance which is essential for anyone who wishes to have a career in teaching dance. You will also be able to understand what you need to know about legal matters and issues like child protection essential in the dance sector. Like Unit 1, you need only take this Unit once, regardless of how many dance genres you take.

Unit 3 Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Intermediate. This provides the skills, knowledge and understanding of dance following on from the Graded Examinations, but with an emphasis on technique, stamina and performance skills to an audience. You will practice to develop strength and stamina, technical skills, increased musicality, and performance skills, as well what you need in order to gain work in dancing, including connecting with an audience. If you want to study dance in general in a vocational college in order to become a dancer, most colleges will expect this standard in order for you to gain an audition with them.

If you already have the ISTD Level 3 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Intermediate, in the dance genre, before you start the DDI, you will be exempted from Unit 3, as it is the same unit.

You must pass this Unit for each dance genre you want to study, and you must pass it before you can take Unit 4.

Unit 4 Dance Practice and the Relationship between Music and Dance in a Chosen Dance genre. This and Unit 3 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 Primary Grade 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 in the genre.

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 personal observations, recorded in a portfolio, as well as dance practice, and a multiple choice question paper on health and safety in dance. 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/ddi-level3-syllabus/>

A list of Approved Dance Centres by area, with the dance genres offered is available at

<http://www.dance-teachers.org/ADCs/>

Progression

After taking the DDI you may be employed as a teaching assistant, but as you will not have done any actual teaching practice we recommend that you move on to the Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education - the DDE - which consists of Units building further on those from the Level 3 DDI, with extra Units on child and adult development, and on the background knowledge of the dance style. As a teaching assistant, you would gain more experience in helping in dance classes, but would not have the experience to permanently plan the teaching or run the classes.

You can also go into immediate employment in the dance profession, while you are at the peak of your physical development and return later to study the DDE when that part of your career is over.

And should you decide that dance teaching is not for you, you can still move into administration in a dance company, where you will understand the pressure on dancers, as well as the knowledge they need and how that can be taught to others.

Support

The Level 3 Diploma in Dance Instruction 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 the basis for entry to the DDE and thereafter to higher level qualifications, and by many private providers in the form of vocational dance colleges. There are currently 168 ISTD Approved Dance Centres approved to deliver the DDI in the UK and EU.

The DDI 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 3 which is broadly equivalent to 'A' Level standard. It is not available within any apprenticeship, as none exist in this specialised sector. It is 100% vocational in content as all relates to teaching and learning in dance, and you must gain the Level 3 Diploma in Dance Instruction in the genre before you can register for the Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education in that genre. The Level 3 Diploma in Dance Instruction does not attract UCAS points.

February 2015