

Student Support for Students on HE Dance and Drama Courses

Higher Education Student Finance in England - 2009/10 Academic Year

**TO LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES
(For the attention of the Student Support Manager)**

Annex 1 Pages 11 and 12 have been revised week ending 06/03/09

March 2009

Dear Colleague

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT SUPPORT IN ENGLAND IN 2009/10: STUDENT SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS ON HE DANCE AND DRAMA COURSES

Attached is guidance for LA's/SLC on student support for students on Higher Education (HE) Dance and Drama courses in the 2009/10 Academic Year. It sets out the financial support arrangements for 'old' and 'current' system students with state funded HE places on HE Dance and Drama courses; and students who continue to be funded through the former HE Dance and Drama Awards until the end of their course.

The transition from HE Dance and Drama Awards to state-funded places on HE courses in dance and drama

HE Dance and Drama Awards have not been available from HEFCE to new entrants who started an HE course in Dance or Drama on or after 1st September 2004. Instead, HE providers offering degrees and diplomas awarded by HE institutions have moved to the mainstream funding arrangements, rather than using scholarships to support students. This reflected a Ministerial decision to remove anomalies between the scholarships and mainstream HE funding arrangements. HEFCE have awarded certain private institutions a set number of state funded HE places. The list of institutions offering state-funded places can be found at paragraph C3 of the guidance.

HEFCE will continue to fund students with pre-existing HE Dance and Drama Awards at certain specified institutions until they reach the end of their course. Details of these institutions and the courses involved are given in Annex 1 at the end of this guidance.

As before, the Central School of Ballet, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), RADA, Bristol Old Vic, the London Contemporary Dance School and the Rambert School of Contemporary Dance are affiliates of the Conservatoire of Dance and Drama, which is a publicly funded institution.

Administrative arrangements for the financial assessment of students on designated HE Dance and Drama Courses

The first table under paragraph C3 of the guidance Administration lists those institutions which are participating in the HEFCE's 'state-funded' places scheme. The second table lists those institutions at which HEFCE will continue to fund only students who started their courses before 1st September 2004 and who were given an HE Dance and Drama Award.

Paragraph C3 also identifies four possible categories of students arising from these arrangements. LAs will then be able to assess students in any of these categories using procedures already in place for mainstream students.

The tables shown at Annex 1 to the guidance provide additional information to the tables at paragraph C3, including course titles and codes, course length, the qualifications awarded and the connecting institution for funding / validation purposes.

All the courses listed in Annex 1 have also been specifically designated for student support, and will attract fee and maintenance support. Students invited to study on these courses as private students (and therefore without a confirmation of an HE funded place or an HE Dance and Drama Award) remain liable for the cost of the private tuition fee charged by the private institution and should be treated, according to 'Assessing Eligibility Guidance', as any other student on a specifically designated course at a private institution.

This Guidance is subject, unless otherwise stated, to the provisions of the Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations 2008 as amended by the Education (student support) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulation 2008 and the Education (Student support) (Amendment (No3) Regulations 2008

Note: The guidance refers to "current system" and "old system" students. Formal definitions of "current system student" and "old system student" are given in regulation 2 of the Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations 2008 as amended by the Education (student support) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulation 2008 and the Education (Student support) (Amendment (No3) Regulations 2008

Enquiries

For information on eligibility for student support in respect of courses leading to an HE qualification in dance or drama, please contact:

	Telephone	Email
General enquiry line	08456 020583	ssin.queries@slc.co.uk
Cliff Woods		cliff.woods@dius.gsi.gov.uk

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A. Introduction

- A1. In September 2004, providers of dance and drama courses offering degrees and diplomas awarded by HE Institutions moved to mainstream funding arrangements, rather than using scholarships to support students. Students who started a HE course in Dance and Drama on or after 1st September 2004 at one of the named institutions which has been awarded a specific number of HE places funded through the standard HEFCE funding approach are eligible for the state-funded mainstream undergraduate support in the same way as any other mainstream student. Please refer to 'Assessing Eligibility Guidance' for mainstream students.
- A2. Dance and drama students who started their course before 1st September 2004 and who hold a pre-2004 Dance and Drama Award will continue to be funded through their pre-2004 awards until they have completed their course. The administrative arrangements for assessing any such students who will still be attending their course in 2009/10 have not changed. Continuing students should present their Dance and Drama Award letter as part of their support application as before.
- A3. Details of the HE Dance and Drama courses are shown in the Tables in Annex 1. Table 1 lists those institutions which have been awarded state funded HE places by the HEFCE Board. Table 2 list those institutions where HEFCE will continue to fund students who hold pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Awards until they complete their course. The funding will be paid to the provider by HEFCE through the connected state funded institution. Both tables show the full list of courses for each provider and their connected state funded institution for Local Authorities/ SLC to refer to in correspondence with the Student Loans Company (SLC). Course code details can be found on the HEI database.
- A4. HE courses at private institutions may attract fee and maintenance support because they have been specifically designated (see Annex 1). Students who started to attend a specifically designated Dance and Drama course after 1st September 2004 but before 1st September 2006 and who have been invited to attend as private students are eligible for assistance with tuition fees (i.e. the non means-tested 'private institution' fee of £1,205 for 2009/10) and student loans, but they themselves have to meet the balance of the private tuition fees charged by the institutions.
- A5. However, all eligible students starting designated courses at privately funded institutions on or after 1st September 2006 will be eligible for the same package of support as new students starting at publicly funded institutions. This means that any student starting a designated HE course in dance or drama on or after 1st September 2006 will be eligible for the new non means-tested fee loan (up to £3,225 in 2009/10 instead of the £1,205 fee grant).

B. Policy

- B1. The Statutory Instruments governing the support for fees and living costs for HE-funded Dance & Drama Award holders are:
- i. The Education (Student Support) (Dance and Drama) Regulations 1999 (as amended in 2001) and
 - ii. The Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations 2008 as amended by the Education (student support) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulation

2008 and the Education (Student support) (Amendment (No3)
Regulations 2008

The Dance and Drama Regulations were made under section 22 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998. They provide for grants for fees, loans for maintenance and supplementary grants for maintenance to be available to eligible students in connection with their attendance on designated HE dance or drama courses. These are dance students aged 16 or over, or drama students aged 18 or over, who meet the eligibility criteria found in 2008 Regulations.

- B2. When a Local Authority assesses a student who is still in receipt of a pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Award for entitlement to student support for the 2009/10 academic year, they should refer to entitlement under the Education (Student Support) (Dance and Drama) Regulations 1999 and not the 2008 Regulations
- B3. If a Local Authority/ SLC receives an application for student support from a student who has been offered a state funded place on an HE Dance and Drama course by one of the participating schools, and that student does not satisfy the 'ordinary residence' criteria, the Local Authority should notify the course provider immediately.

C. Administration

Students commencing HE courses in dance and drama on or after 1st September 2004 who apply for student support

- C1. From September 2004 HEFCE has ceased to fund new students through HE Dance and Drama Awards.
- C2. Instead, HE providers offering degrees and diplomas awarded by HE institutions have moved to mainstream funding arrangements, rather than using scholarships to support students. The tables below explain the funding arrangements for each provider, and the student 'funding status' arising from these arrangements.
- C3. Students may fall under one of the following four categories in the 2009/10 academic year:

Category 1: 'Current system' students (i.e. those who started their course on or after 1st September 2006) who have a confirmed state-funded place at a private institution which has been allocated a number of state-funded places for courses in dance and drama which lead to an HE qualification.

Category 2: 'Old system' students who started their course on or after 1st September 2004 but before 1st September 2006 who have a confirmed state-funded place at a private institutions which has been allocated a number of state-funded places for courses in dance and drama which lead to an HE qualification.

Category 3: Students who started an HE course in dance or drama before 1st September 2004 in respect of which they were awarded a pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Award, and who will continue to be funded through that pre-2004 Award while attending their course during the 2009/10 academic year.

Category 4: 'Old system' and 'current system' students who have been invited to study on specifically designated HE courses in dance or drama as

private students, and who are required to pay the full fee charged by their course provider.

Institutions with state funded places for HE Dance and Drama courses

Institution	Total HEFCE Funded places	Students funding status
Royal Academy of Dance	75 HE places	Category 1 or 2: 'current system' or 'old system' students with an HEFCE state-funded place.
Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts	85 HE places	Category 1 or 2: 'current system' or 'old system' students with an HEFCE state-funded place.
London Studio Centre	195 HE places	Category 1 or 2: 'current system' or 'old system' students with an HEFCE state-funded place.
Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art		This institution has now closed after merging with the Central School of Speech and Drama, which is publicly funded.

Institutions where HEFCE will continue to fund only existing HE Dance and Drama Awards:

Institution	HEFCE Funding	Students funding status
Bird College – Dance, Music and Theatre Performance	continuing HE Dance and Drama Awards	Category 3: students funded via pre-2004 HE Dance & Drama Awards until the end of their course.
GSA Conservatoire (Previously known as the Guildford School of Acting)	continuing HE Dance and Drama Awards	Category 3: students funded via pre-2004 HE Dance & Drama Award until the end of their course.
Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts	continuing HE Dance and Drama Awards	Category 3: students funded via pre-2004 HE Dance & Drama Award until the end of their course.

- C4. Students in **category 1** are 'current system' students, starting an HE course in dance or drama on or after 1st September 2006 at one of the private institutions which have been allocated a specific number of HE places funded through the standard HEFCE funding approach. These students have a confirmed state-funded place and are eligible for the state funded mainstream undergraduate support, and should be processed as any other 'current system' mainstream student at a state funded institution according to the Eligibility and Assessment guidance. For category 1 students, support may include a non means-tested fee loan of up to £3,225 in 2009/10, a means-tested maintenance grant of up to £2,906, the basic student loan

and other supplementary grants (Parents Learning Allowance, Adult Dependant Grant, Childcare Grant, Disabled Students Allowances).

- C5. Students in **category 2** are 'old system' students, starting an HE course in dance or drama on or after 1st September 2004 but before 1st September 2006 at one of the private institutions which have been allocated a specific number of HE places funded through the standard HEFCE funding approach. These students have a confirmed state-funded place; they too are also eligible for the state-funded mainstream undergraduate support and should be processed as any other 'old system' mainstream student at a state funded institution according to the Eligibility and Assessment guidance. For category 2 students, support may include help towards the cost of tuition fees (up to £1,285 in 2009/10, means-tested), the basic student loan and the supplementary grants (see above) including the HE grant.
- C6. The decision to whom state-funded places should be awarded will continue to rest with the private institutions, based on the applicant's aptitude determined through an audition process. 'Current system' and 'old system' students will still be required to submit a **letter from their course provider confirming that they have been awarded a 'state-funded' place** to their Local Authority with their application form. The form PN1, PR1 and online application now includes the question 'Have you been awarded a state-funded place on a dance and drama course at a privately funded institution? If yes, send us the official letter offering you the place'.
- C7. Students in **category 3** are students who started their courses before 1st September 2004 and who will continue to be funded by the HEFCE via a pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Award until they have completed their course. Students with pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Awards will have the same access to support as other mainstream undergraduates, **subject to their producing a letter from their institution confirming that they hold an HE Dance and Drama Award**. The PR1 application form includes a question asking students to confirm that they hold a (pre-2004) Dance and Drama Award.
- C8. HEFCE will provide block grant funding to cover the tuition fees of continuing students with pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Awards. Students who hold these awards are liable for the same means-tested contribution towards their tuition fees as other HE undergraduate students at publicly funded institutions (up to a maximum of £1,285 in 2009/10). Where a student has been assessed to make a contribution towards his tuition fees, the payment will be made direct to the provider of the dance or drama course.
- C9. Local Authorities should not proceed with the processing of these applications until they are satisfied that the student is still receiving a pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Award. The Local Authority must be given the original of the letter provided by the institution to such a student, confirming the award, and may retain a copy of that letter. Local Authorities may need to write and request this information from the students themselves. In every other respect these students' applications for support and their payments of fees, loans, maintenance grants and other supplementary support will be dealt with in the same way as for other mainstream undergraduate students.
- C10. Students in receipt of a pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Award are also eligible to apply through the connected HE institution for assistance from the Access to Learning Fund. Connected institutions are shown in **Annex 1**.

- C11. Students in **category 4** are 'old system' and 'current system' students who have been invited to study on specifically designated HE courses in dance or drama as private students. They do not hold a pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Award, and they are attending specifically designated courses in dance or drama at private institutions which have not been allocated state-funded places. These students' applications for support will be processed according to the "Assessing Financial Entitlement" Guidance for all students attending designated courses at private institutions. They will be required to pay the full fee charged by their provider. If they are a 'current system' student (i.e. they start their course on or after 1st September 2006) they will be eligible for a non-means-tested fee loan of up to £3,225 in 2009/10. If they are an 'old system' student and started their course on or after 1st September 2004 but before 1st September 2006, they will be eligible for a non means-tested fee grant of £1,205 (in 2009/10). And subject to all other eligibility criteria, 'current system' students will be specifically eligible for a means-tested maintenance grant of up to £2,906 in 2009/10, plus the basic student loan; while 'old system' students will be specifically eligible for the basic student loan and the Higher Education Grant. And 'old system' or 'current system' students may also be eligible for the other supplementary grants (Disabled Students Allowances, the Parents Learning Allowance, the Adult Dependant Grant, the Childcare Grant).
- C12. Students who are not eligible for student support, or for certain elements of student support (e.g. if they do not meet the 'ordinary residence' requirements; or, in the case of fee support, because of previous study), should be treated in exactly the same way as students who have applied for any other designated HE course. An offer of a place on any other HE course does not make the student eligible for support. Students who are assessed by a Local Authority or SLC as ineligible for support can appeal to the Authority for a review of their decision.
- C13. European Union students who have been offered an HEFCE state funded place or who have a pre-2004 HE Dance and Drama Award should be advised to apply directly to SLC at the following address for help with their financially assessed tuition fee contribution. Such students are not entitled to claim a loan for maintenance or any supplementary grants.

EU Customer Services Team
PO Box 89
Darlington
DL1 9 AZ

E-mail: EU_Team@slc.co.uk
Telephone: 0141 243 3570

The EU Customer Services Team also deal with applications for student support from EU students attending specifically designated HE Dance and Drama Courses who have been invited to attend these courses as private students.

FE Dance and Drama Awards

- C14. FE Dance and Drama Awards are offered to students who attend a course offered by one of 21 specified private Dance and Drama schools to pursue the Trinity College London Diploma or Certificate. This is an FE qualification, at level 5 or 6 on the national Qualifications Framework. These FE Awards are funded and managed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Students in receipt of an FE Dance and Drama Award may apply for additional help from the Income Assessed Student Support Fund. Applications for this additional support should be made to the Learner

Support Service (LSS) who administers the Fund on behalf of the LSC. The Fund is income assessed, and the amount of help given to a student will depend upon his/her family's household financial circumstances. Students should be advised to contact the LSS direct on 08001218989 if they need any information about this fund. European Union (EU) students and those from England, Wales and Scotland are eligible to apply for fee support. Students from Northern Ireland should contact the Student Finance Section of the Western Education and Library Board for details of support available to them on 028 82 411411.

- C15. Students from England, Wales and Scotland may also apply to the LSS for support towards their living and learning costs. Students from EU countries must contact their home authorities. Students from Northern Ireland should contact the Student Finance Section of the Western Education and Library Board for details of support available to them on 028 82 411411 or email student.awards@welbni.org.
- C16. The LSS supplies application forms for new students to the Dance and Drama schools, who are asked to distribute them to students who are offered an FE Dance and Drama Award. All students should be advised to obtain an application pack from the school providing the course they wish to attend for the Trinity College London Diploma or Certificate qualification.

A return envelope is provided with the IASSF application pack, but in the event of one not being provided, all completed application forms should be returned to:

DaDA
Freepost RRUB- BEXE-TJLK
Learner Support Services
Darlington
DL1 4DW

Dance and Drama Schools offering both FE and HE provision

- C17. Some of the 21 private Dance and Drama schools offer both FE and HE provision (see paragraph C.19). Students may decide to register for (and complete) a course leading to a higher education qualification (e.g. a first degree) at the same time that they are pursuing their Trinity College Level 5 or 6 qualification. However, they must not apply for both FE **and** HE support. Students who are offered an FE Dance and Drama Award are advised in their Award Letter that they must choose either to take up their FE Award or to apply for HE loans and grants instead; they cannot take up an FE Award **and** receive HE student support. Some students may, however, start their courses claiming HE student support and then subsequently transfer to an FE Dance and Drama Award. Such students will cease to be eligible for HE student support as soon as they transfer to an FE Dance and Drama Award.
- C18. It follows, therefore, that if SLC receives an application for HE student support from a prospective new entrant to a course which leads to an HE qualification in dance and/or drama, and the applicant states that he/she has been awarded an FE Dance and Drama Award, SLC should refuse the application for student support. Also, if a student already in receipt of HE student support reports that he/she has transferred to a Dance and Drama award, SLC should withdraw the HE support from the date on which the transfer took place.

C19. The Dance and Drama schools who are currently offering both FE and HE provision are: The Arts Educational Schools, London; the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts; Bird College, Kent; GSA Conservatoire, Guildford; The Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts Ltd, London; and Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London.

C20. For enquiries on FE Dance and Drama Courses, please contact the Learning and Skills Council in Sheffield:

Emma Kershaw Tel: 0114 207 4529 (Emma.Kershaw@LSC.GOV.UK)

The LSC produce a booklet which gives advice about the FE Dance and Drama Awards. They do send copies of this booklet to Local Authorities, but if additional copies are required, they can be ordered from Prolog (Telephone 0845 602 2260), quoting the reference LSC-DD1.

Please Note: The LSC can only offer advice on the FE Dance and Drama Awards. They are not able to offer advice to students who are seeking alternative means of funding, or to students who are applying to schools that are not eligible for Dance and Drama Award funding.

Annex 1

TABLES OF INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING HE DANCE AND DRAMA COURSES

[NB – All of the courses listed below are specifically designated for mainstream student support (see HEI database of courses)]

1. Institutions with state funded places for HE Dance and Drama courses (students in categories 1 & 2)

SCHOOL	Institution Code	Course Title	Course Codes	Course Length (yrs)	Qualification	Connecting institution for funding/validation purposes
Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts	ABMI	Acting	64710	3	BA (Hons)	London South Bank University
London Studio Centre	ABGH	Theatre Dance	64686	3	BA (Hons)	University of the Arts, London
		The Foundation Degree, Arts	64685	3	Dip HE	
Royal Academy of Dance	ABMN	Ballet Education	80056	3	BA (Hons)	University of Surrey

Note: The Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art has now closed after merging with Central School of Speech and Drama, which is publicly funded.

2. Institutions where HEFCE will continue to fund only existing HE Dance and Drama Awards (students in category 3)

SCHOOL	Institution Code	Course Title	Course Codes	Course Length (yrs)	Qualification	Connecting institution for funding/validation purposes
Bird College – Dance, Music and Theatre Performance	ABGI	Dance and Theatre Performance	65808	3	BA (Hons)	Greenwich University
		Creative Industries: Acting Note: This course has not yet been added to the SLC database, so the course code is not yet available.	Not yet known	2	Foundation Degree	
GSA Conservatoire	ABML	Professional Production Skills	262125	1	BA (Hons) extension programme	Surrey University
		Musical Theatre	64700	3	BA (Hons)	
		Theatre (Acting Option)	64699	3	BA (Hons)	
Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts	ABGE	Performance (Acting Option)	64696	3	BA (Hons)	Middlesex University
		Performance (Musical Theatre Option)	64697	3	BA (Hons)	
		Technical Theatre	64698	2 + APL	BA (Hons)	