

## **Best Foot Forward: Invigorating Your Dance Career**

### **- Grant Guidelines for Dance Professionals**



Navigating your dance career can be challenging, and opportunities to earn a sufficient income are not always readily available. If you are a dancer or dance teacher who wishes to earn more or find new ways to generate income, we're here to support you.

Our grants can help you with career progression within dance, such as professional teaching qualifications, dance notation, or short courses that will help you manage your freelance career. If you want to increase your income between dance engagements, we can help with costs to develop alternative skills.

Our grants don't just cover the cost of study. We can also support you with additional costs if needed. We welcome applications from individuals who face barriers to accessing training, such as new parents.

#### **Who can apply:**

Applicants will-

- Have completed professional dance training or have experience that reflects a similar standard.
- Work as a dancer and/or choreographer in the UK across genres including ballet, contemporary, Black and Asian dance, and street dance predominantly within the subsidised dance sector for at least five years since completing professional training.
- Teach dance as a member of a recognised national dance examining board.
- Have available savings of under £16,000 (evidence will be required).
- Have no other significant means of support (e.g. from rental property).

If you are working exclusively in therapeutic arts (e.g. dance therapy) or teaching within mainstream education provision (funded by DfE) you won't be eligible for this scheme.

#### **What you can apply for:**

Applicants can apply for grants up to £5,000. We reserve the right to offer part-funding where costs may not be eligible. Each grantee is expected to have drawn down their grant within 6 months of receiving notification of the grant award, although the activity may continue beyond that time.

Grants can be used for upskilling courses, workshops, professional certifications, relevant qualifications or membership fees. Relevant mentoring or coaching will also be considered as part of a bespoke programme of activity.

Activities such as social media or alternative skills training that increase income between jobs are also eligible, provided a clear case of how this supports your wider dance career is provided.

When considering your plans, the activity can include relevant and reasonable maintenance costs, including expenses to support returning to work post parental leave. Expenditures such as UK travel, childcare to release you for training, and expenses that remove barriers to engagement can be applied for.

Where the activity includes training/working near children or vulnerable adults, we expect safeguarding procedures to be in place.

Where the applicant qualifies for a student loan, we expect this to be taken up.

**We regret we are unable to fund the following activities:**

- Those looking for artistic project costs.
- Those wanting to apply while in receipt of an Arts Council DYCP grant.
- Those looking for funding to leave the dance sector entirely.
- Those looking for funding to purchase new equipment.

**How you apply:**

1. Use the online contact form to register interest for the fund by 11/09/25.
2. We will be in touch to arrange a 1 to 1 conversation about your plans and answer any questions you may have.
3. Complete the online application form with your budget within 2 weeks of your 1 to 1, should you decide to go ahead.

**How we make the selection:**

We expect to receive more applications than we can fund in this round and may not be able to fund everyone this time. If unsuccessful, you may consider reapplying to a future round if appropriate.

All eligible requests are collated and forwarded for selection by the Applications Committee consisting of some of the Fund's Trustees. Personal information is removed from the application, so your identity is not shared.

**What we are looking for:**

- **Relevance:** The proposed upskilling courses, qualifications, or activities must be relevant to the applicant's overall aspirations in dance.
- **Impact:** The potential impact of the grant on the applicant's career and ability to increase income and resilience.
- **Feasibility:** The feasibility of the proposed timeline and budget.
- **Commitment:** The applicant's demonstrated commitment and passion for their dance career.

**What happens once the grant is awarded:**

If you are successful in your grant application, you will sign a grant agreement and take part in an online planning session.

Your project can be short or longer term, but you will report quarterly on your progress. You must provide receipts and documentation to evidence the activity took place including proof of course/qualifications completed.

If you have further questions around this fund, please share them in your 1 to 1 conversation.