



DANCEWORKS

b e r l i n

CURRICULUM

ECTS-POINTS

ANNUAL OVERVIEW
SUBJECTS PER SEMESTER

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3-YEARS FULL-TIME
VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION
IN CONTEMPORARY DANCE

recognized by the state of Berlin
§9a of the Private Schools Act

ABOUT

**HIGH DANCING STANDARDS.
ARTISTIC CREATION.
CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT.**

DANCEWORKS berlin enables their students to become **strong stage personalities** who can master the technical and artistic challenges of a modern, diverse and, above all, international dance scene.

Technique, dedication, creativity, individuality and artistic expression make up the foundation from which to start a **sustainable dance career** with profound knowledge and high dancing skills.

We educate students within a vibrant and international context in which many **performances, cooperations, intensive workshops, collective works, internships** and multiple contacts in the international professional dance field make up an inspiring setting.



Our training programme is designed as a **full-time qualification**. The standard period of study is three years. **Classes in presence** are held from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4 pm reaching up to 160 SWS* accompanied by **self-studies for artistic development** before or after school hours.

The workload of the education amounts to at least **30 hours per week** and leads to the achievement of **60 ECTS within one year** and **180 ECTS within three years**.

DANCEWORKSberlin is a **state-recognized vocational school for contemporary dance recognised by the State of Berlin**, as a supplementary school in accordance with §9a of the Private Schools Act. Serial number **07E16**.

*SWS= Semesterwochenstunde à 45min

OUR APPROACH

We encourage our students to develop into independent and creative dancers who are able to use the methods and techniques they learned as the key to artistic freedom.

Our aim is to educate our students with a comprehensive mix of **practical training classes, theoretical knowledge** as well as **inspiring creative modules**. We ensure that they develop into independent, standout personalities.

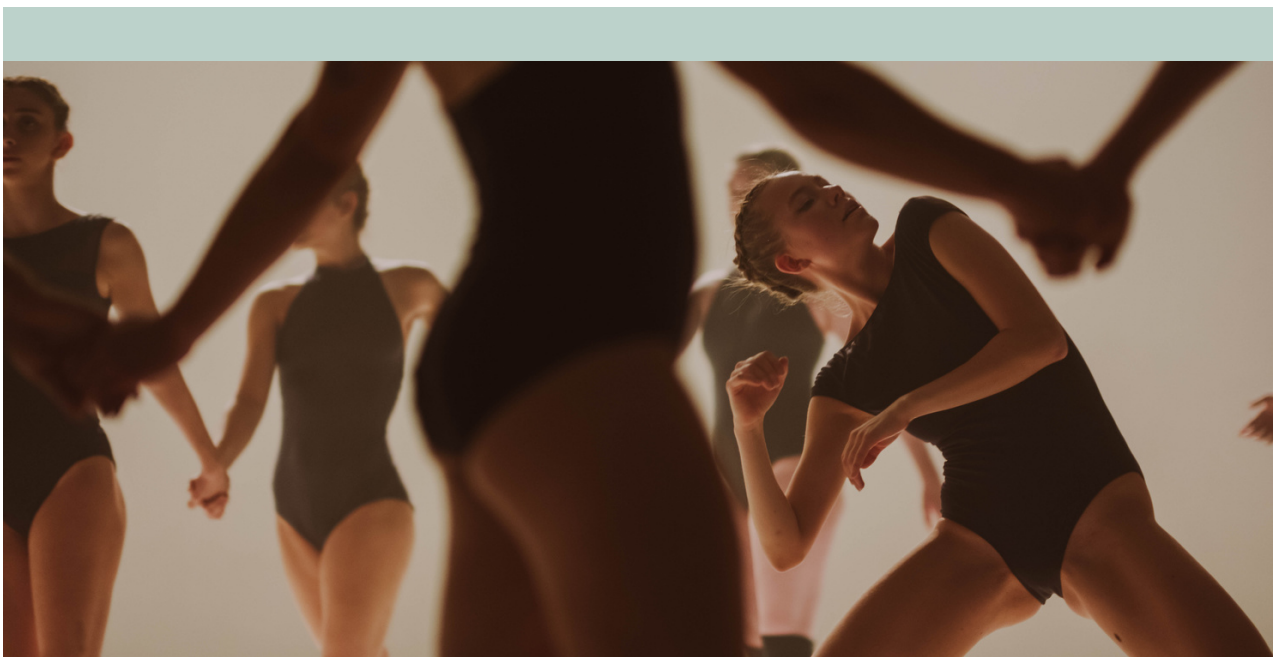
We encourage our students to deep dive into their **own artistic investigations**, combining the craftsmanship of dance with the artistry of expression and performance.

Our graduates will present a **strong artistic understanding**, know how to deal with **varied professional contexts** and **perform cross-disciplinary**.

Therefore, we educate strong storytellers who have a **feel for art and society**.

We accept students in our program who convince with **clarity in movement**, show **improvisational skills** and have a strong urge to **perform on stage**. Our program is designed for those who are **looking for complexity within a clear structure**. We want to train students who convince in a variety of dance styles, both technically and performatively, and who establish themselves confidently and creatively in the dance scene.

In their **final year**, our students are encouraged to foster their **own investigations**, using their **technical skills and artistry work**. In order to obtain their diploma, they must create a **practical final piece with socially relevant significance** and **submit a written thesis that demonstrates their artistic expertise and academic work**.



A CLEAR STRUCTURE

Each educational year sets a different focus

Year 1

Main goal: development of strong technical and physical skills, including strength and endurance, while expanding previous dance experience. The schedule includes ballet classes, modern dance techniques (like Horton and Limón), contemporary dance, floorwork, Jazz Dance, improvisation, composition as well as artistic research modules to explore creativity. Performances are already part of the 1st year.

Year 2

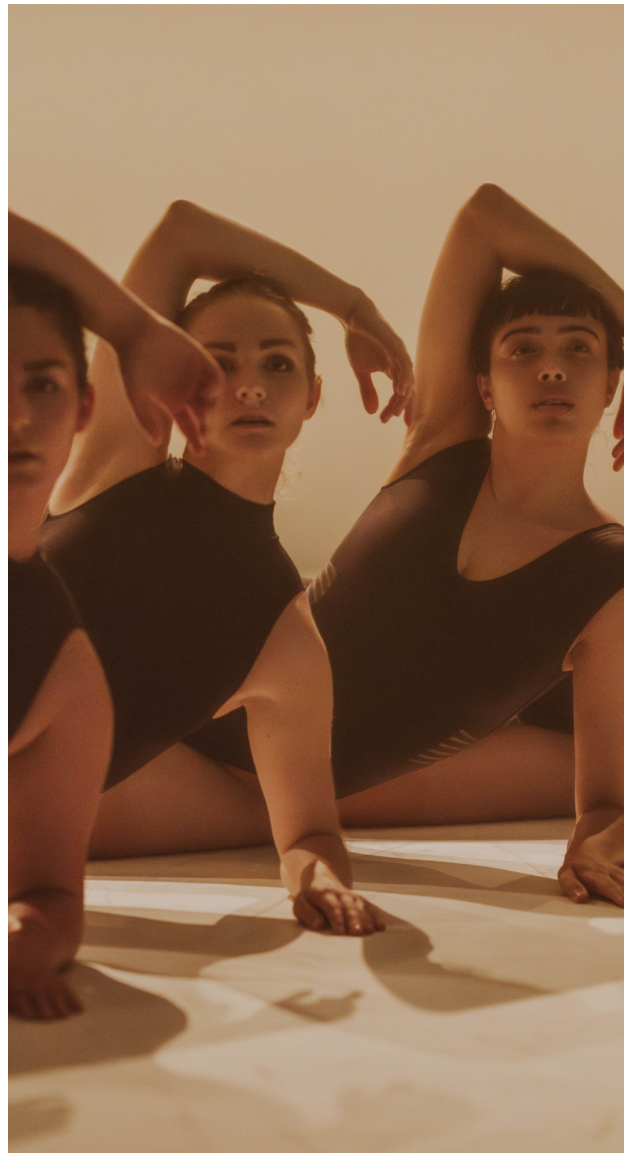
Main goal: refinement of technical and artistic skills. The schedule is extended by partnering and contemporary repertoire. Modern techniques are enriched by Graham and Cunningham. Two composition blocks foster individual artistic language. Performance opportunities in different locations are increasing and 'behind the scenes' programs are established e.g. light and sound installation, costumes, stage design, staging, cultural management.

Year 3

Main goal: artistic research with targeted mentoring plus creation & showing of own work in various settings and contexts. This ensures that the students are ready for a professional life as a dancer. The written artistic thesis ensures a basis for scholarships and funding projects or a continuation of additional studies (e.g. master).

Post-graduate

The post-graduate programme bridges the gap between education and professional life as an artist. The students rehearse intensively with renowned guest choreographers and company members to create full-length pieces while networking with the international dance scene.



OVERVIEW OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ECTS AFTER 3-YEARS OF EDUCATION

SUBJECT	ECTS
Choreography & Repertoire Modules	40
Dance Training & Knowledge Modules	60
Artistic & Creative Skills Modules	40
Theoretical Modules	30
Graduation Modules	10
TOTAL	180

The education is divided into six semesters (academic years). At the end of each individual module, examinations take place. In the last section, and therefore at the end of the sixth semester, the **final graduation examination** takes place in the form of a physical graduation project on stage and a final written thesis.

Important requirements:

- (1) During the education, students must take examinations in the respective modules during the semester. Proof of participation in these examinations and the credits achieved for these examinations shall be entered in the student record book.
- (2) Attendance of at least 80% of the respective module during a semester is also confirmed in the course register with a certificate from the teacher.
- (3) If the requirements in paragraphs 1 and 2 cannot be met, the module must be repeated by the student in the following semesters.
- (4) The examinations during the semester are taken in the form of group or individual examinations or written assignments in the dance theoretical modules.
- (5) The requirements and conditions for successfully passing an examination are specified by the artistic directors and teachers of the respective subject and communicated to the students at the beginning of the semester.
- (6) Failed (module) examinations can be repeated a maximum of once.

CHOREOGRAPHY AND REPERTOIRE MODULS

1st Year = 10 ECTS

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2nd year = 15 ECTS

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3rd year = 15 ECTS



Each year, students take part in **two major stage projects** in which they present themselves to the public and the examination committee.

The education is strongly performance and stage-oriented, which is why there is a permanent cooperation with the following theaters: **Uferstudios für zeitgenössischen Tanz, ACUD Theater, Theaterforum Kreuzberg, Theater Strahl and Pfefferberg Theater.**

Within the three years, performance opportunities increase in the form of exchange seminars, showings, workshops and collaborations.

The aim of the performances is to present a **broad artistic spectrum** that represents the diversity of DANCEWORKS and their students. With this in mind, we work with **internationally renowned guest choreographers** who develop their pieces together with the students during an intensive rehearsal phase.

The students benefit from the experience and networks of the choreographers, so that **collaboration and exchange is also continued after the education.**

The **cooperation with the HZT** (Hochschul-übergreifendes Zentrum für Tanz/ HfS Ernst Busch)) allows an overarching project with **students of the Master study 'Choreography'**. This exchange is very enriching and offers the prospect of further study for those students who wish to specialise in this area.

DANCE TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE MODULS

1st Year = 20 ECTS

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2nd year = 20 ECTS

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3rd year = 20 ECTS



Major training subjects:

Ballet, Modern Dance (Horton, Limón, Cunningham, Graham), Contemporary Dance, Improvisation.

Supplemented by the following **minor subjects:** contact work, partnering, as well as Jazz Dance and Urban Styles.

Supportive subjects: Pilates, Gyrokinesis, PBT (progressing ballet technique), conditioning, Yoga.

The approaches and objectives of these subjects depend on the respective year.

Year 1: in-depth understanding of basic dance techniques, alignment and body posture as well as development of own movement language.

Year 2: refinement of a variety of dance techniques, interpretation of given material and dedication to movement expression.

Year 3: gaining insights and profound knowledge of artistic methods, tools and approaches while learning to give more freedom to space, expression and individual artistic development.

Dance training classes are mainly held in the respective year group and are supported by individual work as well as mentoring. To guarantee a good reflection of each subject and overarching connections, background and societal relevance, lecture performances and written assignments complement the physical work.

ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE SKILLS MODULS

1st Year = 20 ECTS

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2nd year = 15 ECTS

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3rd year = 5 ECTS



Artistic development and a comprehensive repertoire of tools, methods and techniques are taught in the subjects Composition and ART (artistic research training).

Our aim is to develop students into strong artistic personalities who can confidently and convincingly contribute their interests and skills to the dance scene.

In the **first year**, students are taught the basics of compositional theory and demonstrate an initial understanding of choreographic work and develop their creativity. They work on a duet and are able to use a variety of composition tools.

In the **second year**, they deepen their choreographic and compositional knowledge by creating a solo as well as a group piece in which they are responsible for all behind-the-scenes matters (lighting, sound, costumes, props, etc.).

The **third year** is about refining their own artistic personality, their own style and their creative empowerment in a professional environment. They can now play with their skills and place them in a social context. Their final piece shows a strong individual composition that is convincing both in terms of choreography and dance. (> see also *graduation modules*).

THEORETICAL MODULS

1st Year = 10 ECTS

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2nd year = 10 ECTS

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3rd year = 10 ECTS



In addition to physical training, it is also important to train artistic understanding in order to bring theory and practice together.

The students are actively involved in the theoretical subjects, there are group assignments and discussions rounds. Practice and theory are closely intertwined.

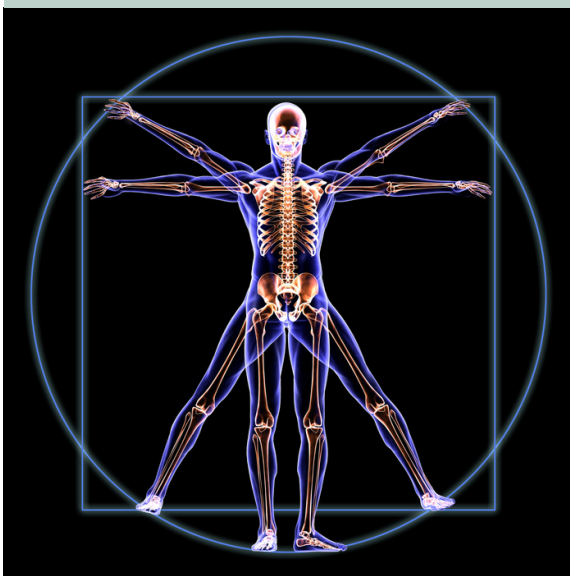
The schedule includes:

dance history, musicality for dancers, dance management, entrepreneurship, anatomy, nutrition, injury prevention, performance enhancement, contextual studies, self-analysis, movement and voice, acting for dancers, dance and performance analysis of existing pieces.

The theoretical moduls are taught in **block intensives** allowing the students a detailed and comprehensive understanding of the respective subject.

At the end of each theoretical modul, a **written examination** has to be fulfilled.

In some modules, it is advisable to set a **practical task in addition to the written examination**. This applies in particular to modules that focus on movement and the body (e.g. movement and voice as well as acting).



GRADUATION MODULS

3rd year = 10 ECTS



The artistic and creative skills modules lead to the graduation moduls in the last semester. This module is completed with a practical and a written examination.

All students should now be able to position themselves as innovative and skilled contemporary dancers who realise own projects that are in a socially relevant context and contribute to a continuously growing cultural landscape.

The guidelines for the **practical** final graduation project are:

- Selection of the appropriate dancers from the other years or from outside (if required)
- Development of a comprehensive concept that includes choreography, costume design, lighting design, scenery and sound design.
- Demonstrating strong creative skills and movement language, adaptability, individuality and drive.

The guidelines for the **written** artistic graduation thesis are:

- Choice of a culturally relevant topic that can be related to the practical part
- Ability to work on a topic independently and scientifically
- Meet academic standards (e.g., citations, independent work, logical flow, structure, layout)
- Highlighting a work that underpins practical understanding and establishes the graduate as an independent artist

OUTLOOK

WE ENABLE A SMOOTH TRANSITION BETWEEN EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE AS AN ARTIST

For those with outstanding performance and creative skills, DANCEWORKS berlin offers the opportunity to be part of our **company class** (regardless the academic year). Most company members are in their 3rd year of the education and can profit from a wide network with companies and guest choreographers, additional performances and interim showings.

In independent projects, an exchange takes place with **external professional dancers** under the **supervision of renowned choreographers**, e.g. Cree Barnett Williams, Marion Sparber, Zoe Maria Gyssler, Cristiana Casadio, Julia Koch, Andreas Heise, Johannes Wieland, Sigge Modigh, Brian Gillespie. This creates a gentle bridge between training and a future career in dance.



Many of our graduates are **accepted into companies or theatres worldwide**. To name some: Tanztheater Wuppertal, Komische Oper Berlin, Oper Bonn, Theater Bern, Staatstheater Münster, Eliot Smith Company, Siciliano Contemporary Ballet, Theater Nürnberg, Toulalimnais, Sasha Waltz, Bottega Dance Company and others.

In addition, Berlin also has a large **independent scene**, which is worth emphasizing. This is characterized by a constant influx of international artists, festivals (e.g. Apart, Tanz im August, B12 festival), residencies and groups.

Some of our graduates also continue their studies, e.g. in the Master's programme of Choreography at the HfS Ernst Busch, or decide for a pedagogical training (e.g. at SEAD, Codarts).



CONTACT

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