

Central
School
of Ballet

Board of Governors Information for applicants

We create futures in dance. Join us in delivering inspirational dance training in the heart of London.



March 2025
centralschoolofballet.co.uk

Welcome



“As a former student of Central School of Ballet and Principal Dancer with Northern Ballet, I want Central to continue training young dancers to succeed in today’s evolving dance world. I am proud to be working with a very active and engaged Board to support the excellent work of the Executive Director, Artistic Director, and wider staff team. Whilst vocational training and the dance industry face many challenges, there is a palpable sense of energy and enthusiasm amongst the Board and leadership team. Building on a rich legacy we are very much looking to the future, ensuring that Central develops, adapts, and collaborates to support the dance and performing arts industry in the UK and beyond. We have a unique contribution to make in the vocational training of young dancers, ensuring they thrive in careers in the arts, and I am seeking new governors with a wide range of skills and experiences, to help us sustain and develop Central School of Ballet as a vehicle for their success.

I look forward to welcoming you.”

Charlotte Talbot, Chair of the Board of Governors

“Central has developed a unique world class dance training rooted in ballet since it was founded by Christopher Gable and Ann Stannard over 40 years ago. We now have an ambition to ensure our young dancers graduate with the ability to be flexible and responsive to the different choreographic demands and styles of today’s international dance companies, large and small.

We support an evolving and progressive dance industry and welcome students from a broad range of backgrounds and experience. Moreover, we offer a supportive, inclusive environment where young people can train body and mind in an integrated way, leaving the school with the dance skills, artistry, and a university education to underpin their future career as a dancer and beyond. Our ambition is to provide access to excellence in dance training balanced with care and wellbeing so that our graduates succeed and thrive in their international careers.

Central offers a conservatoire ballet training for young dancers, the dance industry, and the audiences of today.”

Mark Osterfield, Executive Director, and Kate Coyne, Artistic Director and Professional Training lead

About Central

With a cohort of around 125 students from the UK and around the world, Central School of Ballet is one of Europe's leading dance training organisations. Established in 1982 by Ann Stannard and the late Christopher Gable, Central was founded on the values of artistic expression in dance and the importance of technique. Central offers a two-year Foundation Degree in Professional Dance and Performance and then students take a further year of training to complete a BA (Hons) Degree.



The students, who are usually aged 16-19 years, follow a comprehensive programme of ballet, contemporary dance, jazz and choreography. Final year students join the touring company, Ballet Central, providing first-hand experience of professional performance to ticket-buying audiences. The aim is to create versatile and highly accomplished dancers who, on graduation, are fully prepared for employment by international dance companies. Central is funded through students fees and Higher Education funding, as well as a number of other sources of generated income and generous donor support. The Board operates in compliance with the Office for Students and the Charity Commission.



In 2011 Central launched an MA Choreography degree course for professional choreographers to develop their choreographic profile and professional skills. The course presents the opportunity for critical reflection and research linked to the creation of works. MA students continue to work as either a freelance dance practitioner or a dance company member.

In the Countess of Wessex Studios in Southwark, Central also offers a comprehensive range of ballet and general dance classes and courses. The Junior School offers classes after school in term time for children and young people from 3 to 18 years. These classes strive to provide exceptional standards of ballet tuition for all abilities, with an open and inclusive community ethos. Central's Junior Associate and Associate Programmes provide pre-vocational training for those aiming for professional dance training, open to students from the age of 8 to 16 years.



A range of Adult Classes are available in the evenings and on Sundays taught by dance industry specialists. Tuition is available in ballet, contemporary, jazz, improvisation and contemporary African for those aiming to improve dance skills, for fitness and general wellbeing.

Central's mission is for The Countess of Wessex Studios to become a thriving dance hub in the South Bank arts community in London's borough of Southwark, with a local, national and international reputation for producing versatile and highly accomplished dancers while championing broad engagement with the joys of dance.





Vacancy Description

The Board is seeking new members who will add to the diversity of its skills, experience and thinking, as well as reflect the diversity of the UK population. As an organisation working on a local, national, and international level, we are open to applicants who may not be based in London but can join meetings online - although we would require attendance in person at a minimum of 1 Board meeting per year.

If you have an interest in supporting the work of Central School of Ballet and believe that you have a contribution to make as a Board member, please do apply, whatever your skill set or background. We have identified the need for financial and/or entrepreneurial skills, as well as individuals with the ability to advocate for and support fundraising activity and lobbying at a senior level, ideally through new networks. But we would welcome applications from those who can make other contributions which will be complementary to the current membership of the Board.

Guide for applicants

Person Specification

Candidates should be able to demonstrate the following abilities and attributes:

- An understanding of and enthusiasm for the objectives and work of Central School of Ballet;
- The ability to contribute at board level regarding current and future initiatives, within the context of Central's overall strategy;
- A commitment to supporting the performing arts, higher education and vocational training;
- A commitment to improving access to dance throughout the UK;
- The ability to work constructively with others in a governance or committee role;
- Excellent communication and ambassadorial skills.

Requirements

The role involves attending 4 Board meetings per year, typically 2 hours long, and an annual away day. Governors usually serve on sub-committees of the Board, which meet between 4 and 5 times a year. Additional time would be required to study papers and attend events at the school. From time to time, governors may be called upon to provide ad hoc advice.

Location

Board meetings are held in central London, with an option for joining the meetings online for those based in the wider UK or internationally. Trustees are encouraged to come to Board meetings in-person if possible, and a minimum of once a year. Sub-committees can be attended online or in-person as convenient.

Remuneration

Members of Central School of Ballet's Board of Governors serve in a voluntary capacity and normally would not be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the course of their duties. Exceptions may be applicable should individual members of the Board be required to engage in Central business that may require more extensive travel arrangements, overnight accommodation and subsistence.

Role of Governors

The Board is the governing body of the school and at its core is guided by the principles of integrity; sustainability; inclusivity; excellence; innovation and growth; and community. It is responsible for the ongoing strategic direction of the school, approves major development and is responsible for reviewing the work of the school in line with Central's charitable objectives.

The selection process

Stage 1

Apply by providing a CV of no more than 2 pages of A4 and a covering letter of no more than 2 pages of A4, outlining your suitability for the role and highlighting relevant skills and experience. Two referees are also required with names and contact details. Please email your CV and covering letter to: recruitment@csbschool.co.uk

Complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form online: <https://www.centralschoolofballet.co.uk/applications/equal-opportunities-monitoring-form>

Application deadline Friday 28 March 2025 at 23:00

Should you have any questions regarding the application process please contact Sophie Le Bellec (PA to the Executive Director): sophie.lebellec@csbschool.co.uk

Stage 2

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for a preliminary short online interview to be held on either **Wednesday 9 April and Thursday 10 April 2025**.

Stage 3

Applicants who are successful at the preliminary online interview will be invited to an in-person interview at The Countess of Wessex Studios after Easter with final confirmation of appointments being made at the Board meeting on **Wednesday 25 June 2025**.

Stage 4

Selected candidates will be recommended to the Remunerations and Nominations Committee and then to the Board who will confirm the appointment subject to the completion of a *Fit and Proper Person Declaration* and an *Enhanced DBS Application Form*.





Central School of Ballet is an independent training organisation, a registered charity, and a higher education provider registered with the Office for Students, with degree courses validated by the University of Kent.

centralschoolofballet.co.uk

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