

INTRODUCTION

The Diploma in Dance Teaching and Learning (DDTAL) is the first teaching qualification of its kind. Designed with the support of the dance sector it has recently been revised so that dance teachers working with adults as well as children can evidence their practice across a broad range of contexts and dance styles. It has been developed by Trinity College London at the request of the Dance Training and Accreditation Partnership (DTAP) - a consortium of leading dance industry agencies, committed to building capacity and removing barriers to participation in dance outside of formal education, by people of all ages and abilities.

DDTAL provides evidence to employers and parents/carers that a dance practitioner has the expertise to teach adults, children and young people. It is relevant and accessible, covers continuing professional development and is recognised at Level 6 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (QCF)

The diploma requires candidates to:

- Demonstrate professional competence in dance teaching and learning with their chosen population (adults, children, young people)
- Evidence the ability to refine and use understanding, methods and skills in teaching and learning practice
- Demonstrate the ability to work autonomously and create high quality, safe and informed teaching and learning practice in a range of formal and informal settings (e.g. community dance, youth dance, after school clubs, residential care homes, health-care settings)
- Candidates must study for the diploma through a course provider who is registered with Trinity College London.

Whilst DDTAL is a teaching qualification, the courses leading to the qualification are not training teachers as a PGCE might – rather they offer candidates a source of continuing professional development (CPD). Generally, course providers are finding that their students are:

- Intuitive/reflectors rather than theoretical learners
- Interested in practice ('doers') so prefer practical sessions
- Visual and kinaesthetic learners

The majority of candidates who take the qualification have been working in the sector for some time and work across a wide range of contexts including in schools, community contexts, with the active and frail elderly, with professional dance companies offering out-reach programmes and in private dance school provision. It is essential that DDTAL assessors understand the vocational nature of the qualification and have experience of the wide range of contexts in which practitioners seeking the qualification may be operating.

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON EXAMINERS/ASSESSORS

Each professional examiner/assessor panel exists in order to enable Trinity to deliver assessments when and where required across the globe, to a consistent level of quality and reliability. Membership of a panel is undertaken on an individual basis by self-employed professionals who agree to abide by these Terms & Conditions. Trinity enters into an annual Agreement setting out the guidelines under which a Panel Member's services will be sought subject to the levels of activity which apply in any given year in each subject area and across the range of territories in which Trinity operates. Applications to join a Trinity examiner panel should be made to the relevant panel manager. Initial appointment to an examiner panel follows a selection process which involves completing an application (with details of relevant qualifications and experience), attendance at an examiner selection event, which may or may not include training and is conditional on the following criteria being met:

- Provision of the evidence of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) (formally the Criminal Records Bureau) service as well as proof of eligibility to work in the UK.
- Proof of qualifications and two references that are satisfactory to Trinity.

A trainee assessor's training programme may be terminated at any time at the discretion of the relevant Head of Panel. Continuing membership of a panel depends upon evidence of the individual's good practice during the preceding year(s), availability for re-standardisation, suitable availability on the part of the Panel Member and overall need (i.e. level of activity) in each given area of specialisation. Senior members of the panels will independently monitor good practice throughout the year. It is unlikely that panel members would be permitted to assess in an organisation where they had worked or still work, or assess learners or teachers whom they tutor or have tutored in the past.

Appointment and re-appointment to a panel is at the absolute discretion of Trinity College London.

The role of Assessors involves the following:

- Becoming familiar with the learning outcomes and assessment criteria in the dance qualifications to which they have been appointed
- Assessing materials submitted by candidates against the criteria set out in the qualification specification
- Conducting a discussion with the candidate via the internet in accordance with the guidelines set out in the qualification specification
- Writing reports and submitting them to Trinity in accordance with the timeframes set out in guidance documents to assessors
- Completing appropriate feedback forms for Trinity
- Completing annual training and standardisation (face to face and/or online)

Assessors will be given between 1-4 weeks' notice of the date for the discussion with the candidate. The position can fit around most professional engagements.

CRITERIA FOR PANEL MEMBERSHIP

- A lively, perceptive and abiding interest in dance
- An ability to assess the quality of a wide range of dance styles and dance teaching against prescribed criteria; to award appropriate marks to these (where relevant); to write legible, accurate, consistent, grammatically correct, coherent and constructive reports within a strictly limited time period to support the marks awarded.
- An ability to engage with candidates of all ages and abilities from a wide variety of backgrounds to probe and discuss levels of understanding relevant to a range of dance-related areas.
- An ability to communicate concepts and ideas to a wide range of candidates, teachers and other stakeholders in a variety of formal and informal settings.
- A good understanding of the diversity of contexts in which dance teaching may occur within the UK
- Willingness and availability to fulfil the minimum number of assessment days and to travel within the UK as required.
- Stamina, concentration, good humour and an open mind
- IT skills, access to internet, e-mail and mobile phone

FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Honours degree (or equivalent) in dance AND post-graduate/Level 7 qualification in education.

EXPERIENCE

DDTAL Assessors are expected to be able to demonstrate experience in at least two of the following areas:

- Substantial experience as a dance teacher trainer or teacher trainer in another art-form area.
- Substantial experience teaching dance in a Higher Education Institution or vocational training institution
- Substantial experience as the director or senior practitioner in a dance-in-education company
- Experience as a dance examiner or assessor for another examination board or government department
- Published works and or academic research in a relevant subject area
- Experience as a facilitator, dance leader or youth dance worker within a credible, professional dance or dance-in-education company

PLUS

- A good understanding of the diversity of contexts in which dance teaching may occur within the UK

AVAILABILITY

It is a requirement of each panel that the membership must be able to offer the minimum level of availability specified in the Agreement. This is not only to ensure that Trinity's assessing commitments are fully provided for but also to ensure the minimum level of frequency of assessing, which is essential to ensure adequate intra-rater and inter-rater reliability of assessment. Assessors must be available to complete annual training and standardisation activities. If these are face to face, travel and subsistence/hotel expenses will normally be paid to assessors for these activities, but not fees.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Panel Members are independent self-employed professionals offering their services in all the countries in which Trinity operates. While Trinity endeavours to reimburse Panel Members as quickly as possible, Panel Members must have financial arrangements to reflect the service they offer. It is essential that Panel Members have cash withdrawal facilities (e.g. a credit card with an adequate credit balance) and a UK bank account.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Trinity is an equal opportunities organisation and extends this policy to its criteria for panel membership. Because Trinity's insurance does not cover individuals over the age of 75 years, membership of the panel ceases the day before the Panel Member reaches the age of 75.