

New Zealand School of Dance - **ASPIRATIONAL Programme - Scholars**

Guidelines for Entry

The New Zealand School of Dance has an illustrious history, a reputation for excellence and a tradition of supporting young dancers with potential. The school is well known as the tertiary institution of choice for dancers wishing to train full-time towards a career in ballet and contemporary dance.

Sharing the school's expertise and state-of-the art facilities to help develop younger dancers and enhance the work of the broader dance community is also one of our primary goals. Whether you aspire to a professional career or dance for recreation, the school delivers a wide-ranging programme. We are always considering new initiatives, or improving existing ones, to enable more young dancers and teachers from the length and breadth of New Zealand to benefit.



Garry Trinder
Director

This programme provides the best foundation on the path to becoming a professional dancer and for students aspiring to train full-time at the New Zealand School of Dance. Students are chosen by audition, ensuring those with aptitude can take class with similarly talented dancers. Classes complement the student's current dance training while providing first-hand experience of the school's teachers, training style and facilities.

The Scholars programme provides training for classical ballet students from the age of 10 (year 6 at primary school). The programme focuses on the principles of movement, incorporating the definitions of technique as required in ballet, while embracing musicality and artistry. Classes are small and the ballet training is supported by allied subjects such as body conditioning. The level of technique and the frequency of classes increase annually to the age of 16 in preparation for the school's full-time programme.

While the Scholars programme focuses on dancers from the Lower North Island, the National Scholars is a new initiative, where students audition into the Programme, and attend the Scholars classes on a Saturday in Wellington, twice per term. Students may audition at the same National wide audition as the Associate Programme, by video or by attending the Scholars audition in December. The programme incurs a fee.

Auditions for a new intake of Wellington based Scholars are held each December. Notice of the audition and application form is available on the website from September. Students' progress is assessed each year with a report given. Progression beyond Level 2 and at each Level thereafter is at the discretion of the school.

From Level 4 students participate in the four weekends of the Associate programme. Level 4 and above need to be selected as classical majors in the Associate programme, as the two interrelate from Level 4. One cannot be a Scholar and not be selected as a classical major Associate. The endorsement of a place into Level 4 and above on the Scholars programme, ensures a position as a classical major on the Associate programme.

If progress is sustained and when entering Level 4, National Scholars have two pathways that they might follow. They may wish to continue as a Scholar and in addition to this programme join as an Associate on their specific weekends. This would mean a commitment of two weekends per term for Scholars as well as the Associate weekends. Through this pathway they would be accepted onto the Associate programme by the same means as the Scholars in Wellington. Alternatively, they may wish to forego their position as a Scholar, and focus on being an Associate of the New Zealand School of Dance. This is acceptable given the time and financial commitment, but it would mean that students would need to apply and audition for the Associate programme through the normal process.

Under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Director and the Head of Scholars, students may be invited to audition for entry into Scholars beyond Level 1. This is in consideration of previous experience or significant improvement, geographic relocation, and displaying an obvious aptitude and potential for further training. It is preferable that the applicant comes on the recommendation and support of their teacher.

Year 13 students will not be invited to join or continue on the Scholars programme as it is deemed that by this age full-time training should commence.

The programme incurs term fees.

How the Programmes relate to each other:

School Yr	Scholars	Associates
Year 6	Level 1 10/11 years	
Year 7	Level 2 11/12 years	
Year 8	Level 3 12/13 years	
Year 9	Level 4 13/14 years	Junior Classical/Contemporary Major
Year 10	Level 5 14/15 years	Intermediate Classical/Contemporary Major
Year 11	Level 6 15/16 years	Senior Classical/Contemporary Major
Year 12	16/17 years	Senior 2 Classical/Contemporary Major/ (if granted)

Level 4, 5, and 6 Scholars are automatically accepted in to the Associate programme and will commence in Level 4 as a NZSD Junior Associate Classical Major.

In most situations Year 13 students will no longer be accepted on the Associate programme as it is deemed that by this age full-time training should commence.

Students will be known as the following. These terms can be used in reference for competition programmes etc.

NZSD Scholar Level 1

NZSD Scholar Level 2

NZSD Scholar Level 3

NZSD Scholar Level 4

NZSD Scholar Level 5

NZSD Scholar Level 6

or

NZSD Scholar Level 4 & NZSD Junior Associate Classical Major

NZSD Scholar Level 5 & NZSD Intermediate Associate Classical Major

NZSD Scholar Level 6 & NZSD Senior Associate Classical Major

Sue Nicholls

Head of Scholars

New Zealand School of Dance

04 381 9252 ex 261

sue.nicholls@nzschoolofdance.ac.nz

Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre | 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington

PO Box 7146, Wellington 6242 | Aotearoa New Zealand

Phone: +64 4 381 9252 ext 261

www.nzschoolofdance.ac.nz