

NATD

National Association of Teachers of Dancing

Specification

NATD Level 3 Certificate for Dance Teaching Assistant

January 2024

© National Association of Teachers of Dancing Limited, 2024

National House
Turnfields Court, Turnfields
THATCHAM, Berkshire, RG19 4PT
Web: www.natd.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1635 868888 Email: info@natd.org.uk



NATD LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE FOR DANCE TEACHING ASSISTANT

SPECIFICATION

1. The Qualification

Qualification Title	Ofqual Qualification Number	CCEA
NATD Level 3 Certificate Dance Teaching Assistant	610/3446/0	610/3446/0

Aims and objectives

The aim of the NATD Level 3 Certificate for Dance Teaching Assistant is for candidates to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding alongside basic syllabus requirements including safe dance practice for anyone preparing to work as a dance teaching assistant.

Dance teaching assistants support dance teachers in class situations in the private/state and community sectors, usually helping to support groups of learners for a specified period under the supervision of a qualified dance teacher.

The qualification has a specific focus on promoting safe working environments for learners and assistant teachers, developing understanding of requirements for dance teachers, support the development of class content to engage learners and to develop observation skills and reflective practice suitable of supporting learners.

The qualification consists of three mandatory Units:

- ❖ The first unit focuses on safe dance practice.
- ❖ The second develops understanding of teaching methods, observational skills, analysis, and reflective practice.
- ❖ The third unit focuses on dance pedagogy, basic syllabus knowledge and understanding. This includes a 15-minute live discussion which seeks to strengthen communication skills.

Entry Criteria

Pre-requisites

- ❖ The minimum age for candidates registering on the qualification is 16 yrs.
- ❖ Candidates must have minimum Grade 5 qualification in their chosen genre either with NATD or another recognised Awarding Organisation.
A vocational qualification at Level 2 in Performing Arts or similar may also be acceptable.

Recommended knowledge

Candidates should have a good knowledge of NATD as an organisation.

NATD Membership

All candidates are provided with free NATD Student Membership for the duration of their studies which gives them discounted access to NATD syllabi material and CPD opportunities

in support of their studies. Student membership will be available to all candidates upon completion of the qualification.

Registration process

- ❖ To register for the qualification, the candidate's teacher should submit an application form to Head Office along with the non-refundable deposit equivalent to the student membership fee.
- ❖ Head Office will then confirm the portfolio submission date to the dance teacher once the form has been received and checked, allowing a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months for the final submission.
- ❖ Following completion of Unit 3, the dance teacher will be invoiced for balance of the examination.
- ❖ The candidate's teacher will be deemed the mentor and oversee the submission content.

Progression to further qualifications and training

This qualification is not a pre-requisite for the Level 4 Diploma in Dance Teaching. However, on successful completion of this qualification candidates may wish to progress to the Level 4 Diploma in Dance Teaching or Musical Theatre as well as other forms of further training, study or employment.

Recognition of prior learning

Recognised Prior Learning is not applicable for this qualification.

Total qualification time (TQT) guided learning hours, credits.

Overall total credits 15 Total Qualification Time (TQT) 150 hrs Guided Learning Hours 15 hrs				
Unit No.	Unit Title	Credits	Study Hours	GLH
3.1	Safe Dance Practice	3	30	20
3.2	Dance Teaching Observation Logs, Analysis and Reflection	6	60	35
3.3	Dance Pedagogy and Live Discussion	4	40	15

UCAS Tariff Points

In addition to the relevant NATD Graded and Vocational Graded examinations, the Level 3 Certificate for a Dance Teaching Assistant carries UCAS Tariff points. Many universities, colleges and conservatoires use UCAS Tariff points to determine whether an applicant meets the entry requirements for a course or programme of study. The number of points is determined by the grade achieved (i.e., Pass, Merit or Distinction), please confirm when required.

For more information, visit <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator>

Qualification content

The qualification consists of two portfolio units, the third unit is submitted video footage and a live assessment. A detailed guidance for candidates including how to complete the various templates, can be found in the Candidates' Handbook <https://www.natd.org.uk/education/>

Unit 1 Online portfolio - Safe Dance Practice

This unit focuses on safe dance practice, health and safety in dance and the roles and responsibilities of dance teaching assistants. The templates are available to download from the NATD website at <https://www.natd.org.uk/education/>

Candidates will consider the following elements, all of which contribute to a safe dance environment for both the learner, teacher, and teaching assistant.

a) Risk assessment

This includes consideration of venue safety, appropriate clothing and footwear, preventative action, active measures, and the responsible person.

b) Responsibilities for younger students

As a dance teaching assistant, it is likely that candidates will be responsible for groups of younger students, which under teacher supervision, may include looking after their safety and wellbeing before, during and after a lesson. Areas of responsibility are considered.

c) Understanding the importance of a healthy lifestyle

This section concerns examples and short explanations about aspects of a healthy lifestyle with relevance for candidates and the learners with whom they work.

d) General responsibilities as a dance teaching assistant

Candidates should be aware of the following and the implications for Good Practice as a Dance Teaching Assistant.

- ❖ The NATD Code of Practice
- ❖ The NATD Safeguarding Policy
- ❖ The NATD Social Media Policy

<https://www.natd.org.uk/dance/natd-policies/>

The Candidates Handbook contains full guidance for the completion of all templates and tasks for this qualification <https://www.natd.org.uk/education/>

Unit 1 Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes By unit completion, candidates will:	Assessment Criteria Candidates will:
1. understand risk identification and management in a dance environment	1.1 carry out a risk assessment of a dance teaching venue 1.2 describe how to best manage the risks 1.3 know the person responsible for managing the risks
2. understand their responsibilities for the care and safety of younger students	2.1 describe specific tasks undertaken in their role and how to complete them safely
3. understand the importance of nutrition for a dancer	3.1 evaluate the importance of hydration and healthy food for a dancer
4. understand the importance of safeguarding for learners and instructors	4.1 carry out accurate and timely safeguarding processes within own responsibilities' 4.2 describe Good Practice in dance teaching methods and instructor conduct 4.3 explain the importance of adherence to the NATD guidance around the use of all social media and filming of all learners

Grading

This unit is graded pass/not achieved. All learning outcomes must be met to the required standard for a pass to be awarded.

Unit 2 Online portfolio- Observation Logs, Analysis and Reflection

Candidates observe 6 hours of live dance teaching sessions which should reflect differing ages and abilities, preferably observing more than one teacher. The templates for Observations, Analysis and Reflection are available to download from the NATD website at <https://www.natd.org.uk/education/>

The candidates are encouraged to observe a range of ages and abilities to develop their understanding of varying teaching strategies, the use of positive reinforcement and encouragement of all learners. The analysis of class timings, the use of syllabus and non-syllabus work, the awareness of different styles of music should be noted and will form the basis of the reflection for each class.

The candidate may be assisting in the class and should note their role, whether they felt that they were successful in achieving the required aims and a reflection on their performance.

The Candidates Handbook contains full guidance for the completion of all templates and task for this qualification <https://www.natd.org.uk/education/>

Unit 2 Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes By unit completion, candidates will:	Assessment Criteria Candidates will:
1.be able to observe and record dance teaching	1.1 record observations of teaching practice effectively
2.understand a variety of teaching methods and learning strategies	2.1 evaluate the effectiveness of observed teaching techniques. 2.2 evaluate the effectiveness of different learning strategies on various groups of pupils
3. understand effective class management	3.1 evaluate strategies for effective class management 3.2 evaluate the effectiveness of the use of resources within a class
4.understand their role as an assistant in a dance teaching environment	4.1 evaluate effective ways to fulfil the role as a dance teaching assistant
5. reflect on their development	5.1 Explain the importance of personal future behaviour in their role as a dance teaching assistant

Grading

This unit is graded pass/not achieved. All learning outcomes must be met to the required standard for a pass to be awarded.

Unit 3 Viva - Dance Pedagogy

In this unit, the candidate will demonstrate understanding and teaching methods for two syllabus levels in their chosen genre.

Candidates will also devise one short exercise / routine suitable for **each** of their chosen syllabus levels.

Candidates choose 1 syllabus level from each option (a) and (b)

Theatrical Genres + Street

- a) Class or Preliminary or Grade 1
- b) Grade 2 or Grade 3

Ballroom Genres + Freestyle

- a) Rainbow, PSDT up to and including Pre-Bronze
- b) Bronze & Silver

The candidates will submit their two exercises / routines either in written or video form with the portfolio. Candidates' choice for the number of learners 1 or 2 or maximum of 4 **OR** the candidate may demonstrate the exercises.

Through a viva either in person or via zoom (or similar), candidates will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the purpose of syllabus exercises together with basic teaching methods and practices.

The viva will be a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 minutes.

The Candidates Handbook contains full guidance for the completion of all templates and task for this qualification <https://www.natd.org.uk/education/>

Unit 3 Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes By unit completion, candidates will:	Assessment Criteria Candidates will:
1. demonstrate an ability to analyse dance vocabulary	1.1 select relevant content and/or vocabulary suitable to the learners' age and ability 1.2 analyse specific vocabulary and identify build-ups and progression
2. demonstrate an ability to arrange non-syllabus training exercises to support learners' development	2.1 describe how they would vary their 2 exercises to suit differing abilities within a group 2.2 describe how their 2 choreographed exercises include suitable and engaging non-syllabus work for the learner
3. be able to communicate effectively	3.1 be able to describe relevant syllabus elements

Grading

This unit will be graded Pass, Merit, Distinction. The unit grading criteria are as follows:

Pass

The candidate's understanding of basic teaching skills was satisfactory overall with some areas of weakness compensated by areas of strength. The candidate could describe basic teaching techniques with an overall satisfactory level of communication. The candidate was at times engaged and motivated in a satisfactory way, but it was not always sustained throughout. A depth of knowledge was not sustained across the selected syllabi.

Merit

The candidate's understanding of basic teaching skills was good overall with only a few areas of weakness. The candidate could describe basic teaching techniques related to the chosen syllabus in a clear and coherent manner with pleasing confidence. The candidate was engaged and motivated with only minor lapses of knowledge. Overall, the candidate was able to give thoughtful insight into their strengths and areas for improvement across the selected syllabi.

Distinction

The candidate's basic understanding and description of teaching skills were excellent overall. An excellent level of communication was maintained throughout the Viva, with a consistent and very good level of engagement and motivation. The candidate was able to provide detailed analysis of the required syllabus, giving detailed and comprehensive responses to the questions asked and showing a clear understanding. The choreographed exercises showed an understanding of working with different abilities.

Making an overall judgement about the unit

Examiners will award an overall grade for the unit based on their judgement about the quality of each learning outcome. They will match quality of work against the assessment criteria for each learning outcome and the grading descriptor to make a decision about the grade to be awarded for that learning outcome.

The overall grade for the unit will be calculated as follows, based on the grade awarded for each learning outcome.

LO1	LO2	LO3	Overall
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Merit	Pass	Pass	Pass
Merit	Merit	Pass	Merit
Merit	Merit	Merit	Merit
Distinction	Merit	Pass	Merit
Distinction	Pass	Pass	Pass
Distinction	Distinction	Pass	Merit
Distinction	Distinction	Merit	Distinction
Distinction	Merit	Merit	Merit
Distinction	Distinction	Distinction	Distinction

Awarding the qualification

The qualification result will be graded pass, merit, and distinction.

Unit 1 Pass/Not Achieved

Unit 2 Pass/Not Achieved

Unit 3 Pass/Merit/Distinction

The overall award of the qualification will be pass, merit and distinction. The grade awarded overall will be derived from the grade awarded in Unit 3.