



# U.Dance 2021

## GUIDANCE NOTES





Please note - these Guidance Notes are for applications for residents of England. We welcome applications from groups based in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, however our partner organisations in the devolved nations operate a slightly different application process. Please contact the relevant organisation in your country – contact details are on page 3.

## CONTENTS

**Introduction to U.Dance 2021, U.Dance Eligibility and U.Dance Regional Platforms**

**Contacts**

**U.Dance National Festival 2021**

**U.Dance 2021 Shortlisting Criteria, Programming Considerations and Selection Panel**

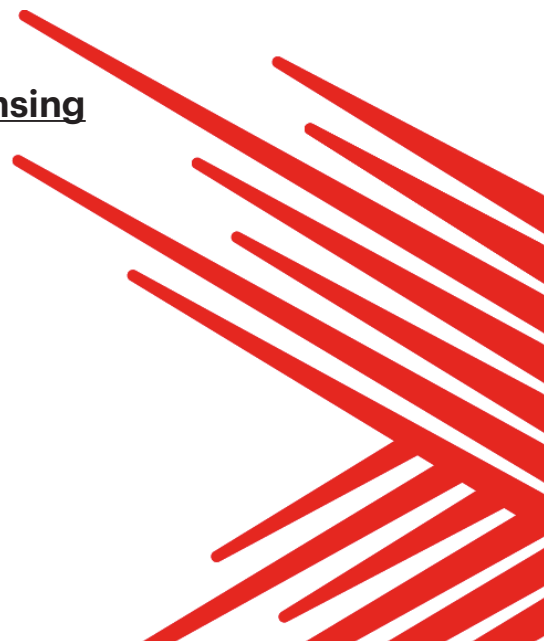
**Application Routes**

**U.Dance Group Leader Upskilling Workshops**

**Application Process**

**Music**

**Access to U.Dance 2021 and Child Performance Licensing**



# INTRODUCTION TO U.DANCE 2021

One Dance UK and partner organisations are working to create an exciting national dance festival programme for young people aged 11 to 19 (and disabled young people up to the age of 25) in 2021. Following the success of U.Dance Digital 2020 and the uncertainty around holding live events next year, U.Dance programmes are being considered to have scope to easily move to a fully digital format or a combination of live and digital events.

U.Dance 2021, at Regional Platform and National Festival level, will present young people's work to show the breadth of youth dance choreography and performance, and offer workshops and industry insight with leading dance professionals.

One Dance UK and partner organisations aim to present youth dance that is high quality, innovative and ambitious. We welcome applications from all groups including those that are run by schools, those that are based in the community, those who work with disabled dancers and those from private dance school settings. We encourage groups who create dance pieces in all genres, such as hip hop/ street dance styles, jazz and theatre styles, ballet, South Asian dance, contemporary dance, dance of the African Diaspora, folk dance, you name it: U.Dance is for everyone!

## U.DANCE 2021 ELIGIBILITY

**To be eligible for a place at U.Dance 2021 groups will need to:**

- Submit a dance piece to your regional organiser for consideration at your Regional Platform:
  - U.Dance on Stage with no more than 30 dancers (further details below), or
  - U.Dance on Screen with no upper limit on dancer numbers (further details below)
- Only include dancers aged 11 to 19 years on 31 July 2021, (disabled dancers aged up to and including 25 can apply)
- Work within Covid-19 guidance that is appropriate for your setting
- Submit a dance piece which is between 2 and 7 minutes in duration.
- Be based in the UK and involve dancers who live in the UK

## U.DANCE REGIONAL PLATFORMS

U.Dance Regional Platforms will take place in March and April 2021. Due to current circumstances and with safety being the top priority at U.Dance events, Regional Platforms will be held digitally, and may include online workshops, industry chats and showcases. The structure of each Regional Platform is unique to that region, and may include some additional live elements.

Each Regional Platform will have its own application and selection process. Please contact your regional representative for details. Contact information is below.

A National Panel will select a small number of groups from each Regional Platform to have their work showcased at the U.Dance National Festival 2021. Further information relating to the panel and criteria are detailed later in these Guidance Notes.

Regions may welcome applications from groups who only wish to be showcased at the Regional Platform level, and not be considered for the National Festival. If that is the case you may indicate this on the application form.

# CONTACTS

Applicants from England should contact their regional representative to find out more about their Regional Platform.

Applicants from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales should contact their national representative to find out more about their application route.

| REGION        | ORGANISATION              | MAIN CONTACT                          | EMAIL  |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| East          | DanceEast                 | Chrissie Moore                        | <a href="mailto:chrissie.moore@danceeast.co.uk">chrissie.moore@danceeast.co.uk</a>   |
| East Midlands | Dance4                    | Hayley Arthur                         | <a href="mailto:hayley@dance4.co.uk">hayley@dance4.co.uk</a>   |
| West Midlands | DanceXchange              | Alexandra Henwood & Jamaal O'Driscoll | <a href="mailto:alexandra.henwood@dx.dance">alexandra.henwood@dx.dance</a> ;<br><a href="mailto:jamaal.odriscoll@dx.dance">jamaal.odriscoll@dx.dance</a>             |
| North East    | Dance City                | Helen Kumar                           | <a href="mailto:helen.kumar@dancecity.co.uk">helen.kumar@dancecity.co.uk</a>   |
| North West    | The Lowry                 | Jade Aitchison                        | <a href="mailto:jade.aitchison@thelowry.com">jade.aitchison@thelowry.com</a>   |
| London        | Trinity Laban             | Rebecca Denby                         | <a href="mailto:r.denby@trinitylaban.ac.uk">r.denby@trinitylaban.ac.uk</a>   |
| South West    | Pavilion Dance South West | Matthew Hawksworth                    | <a href="mailto:matthewh@pdswh.org.uk">matthewh@pdswh.org.uk</a>   |
| South East    | South East Dance          | Sarah Kearney                         | <a href="mailto:sarah.kearney@southeastdance.org.uk">sarah.kearney@southeastdance.org.uk</a>   |
| Yorkshire     | Yorkshire Dance           | Sarah Lyon & Ione Barton              | <a href="mailto:sarahlyon@yorkshiredance.com">sarahlyon@yorkshiredance.com</a> ;<br><a href="mailto:ionebarton@yorkshiredance.com">ionebarton@yorkshiredance.com</a> |

## Northern Ireland

Applicants from Northern Ireland should contact Mags Byrne, Artistic Director, DU Dance. [mags@dudanceneni.com](mailto:mags@dudanceneni.com)

## Scotland

Applicants from Scotland should contact Lauren Ferguson, Project Coordinator, YDance, producers of Reconnect, the Scottish national youth dance platform. [lauren@ydance.org](mailto:lauren@ydance.org)

## Wales

Applicants from Wales should contact Jamie Jenkins, Dance Producer, National Youth Arts Wales. [jamiejenkins@nyaw.org.uk](mailto:jamiejenkins@nyaw.org.uk)



Image credit: Brian Slater



# U.DANCE NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2021

U.Dance National Festival 2021 is One Dance UK's flagship youth event, providing the focal point for the U.Dance national performance framework and youth dance performances taking place across the country. Traditionally, U.Dance National Festivals are held in a different host city each year, with outstanding performances, workshops and industry information.

In summer 2020 One Dance UK presented an online format of the National Festival for the first time with U.Dance Digital 2020. This digital dance festival was a national celebration of youth dance, offering online workshops, industry insights, masterclasses and showcases. Around 5000 young dancers from around the country took part. More information on U.Dance Digital 2020 can be found [here](#).

The U.Dance National Festival 2021 will take place on online platforms in summer 2021. Exact dates and details are still to be confirmed. The National Festival will again offer an exceptional opportunity for the nation's young dancers to learn, perform and connect. In 2021 will be a particular focus on showcasing the brilliant talent and diversity of youth dance around the country. By entering via U.Dance Regional Platforms, selected groups will have the opportunity to be showcased on a national digital platform.

Announcements and further detail on the U.Dance National Festival 2021 will be made in early 2021, and will be shared via your regional organiser and One Dance UK communications channels.

There is no fee charged for dancers to take part. In future years, digital elements will remain a key aspect of the National Festival, offering more young people access to this exciting event.



Image credit: Brian Slater

# U.DANCE 2021 SHORTLISTING CRITERIA

The selection panel at Regional Platforms will create a shortlist of dance groups that meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate excellence in performance
2. Present excellent and engaging choreography\*
3. Show dancers taking clear ownership of the choreography, which is appropriate for their age and experience\*
4. Demonstrate respect and consideration to all (demonstrated through both the group's conduct and the appropriateness of performance content).

\*A note on choreography: Excellent work selected for the U.Dance National Festival in previous years has been created by group leaders, teachers, young people, professional choreographers and any number of collaborations. There is no preferred 'type' of choreographer and no weighting in the selection process is given to who created the piece.

## NATIONAL PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS

The National Selection Panel will consider all shortlisted work and select dance pieces which combined as a performance programme will:

1. Reflect the diversity of dance styles practiced by young people across the UK
2. Create an interesting and varied performance
3. Showcase excellent and authentic work from range of settings

## THE SELECTION PANEL

Regional Selection Panels are managed by the Regional Organisers and will consist of local youth dance experts and One Dance UK Dance Ambassadors.

The National Selection Panel will be made up of youth dance experts from across the UK, with specialisms including inclusive dance, South Asian dance, dance of the African Diaspora, community dance and dance in schools.



Image credit: Brian Slater



# APPLICATION ROUTES

All applications are to be made by video, submitting a film file to the regional organiser. This piece will be considered for the U.Dance Regional Platform in your area.

To ensure U.Dance is accessible as possible, applications are open with the following options:

- **U.Dance on Stage:** for groups who are able to meet in person and create a piece in a studio  
OR
- **U.Dance on Screen:** for groups who are meeting remotely and wish to develop a screen dance piece

Details are below. Please ensure you read the guidance on music licensing below. Groups are able to select an application option that is most suitable for their circumstances.

## U.Dance on Stage

Select this option if your group would like submit a dance piece created for live performance. This can be filmed in a studio or a theatre setting.

NOTE: Solo entrants are able to apply, or groups of up to 30 dancers. Groups should rehearse in a safe environment in accordance with current government Covid-19 guidance. If shortlisted for the U.Dance Regional Platform, the film will be screened digitally.

If selected for the U.Dance National Festival, depending on the Covid-19 situation and government advice, the group will have the opportunity for the piece to be professionally recorded in May-June 2021, along with additional exclusive workshops, and screened to a national audience in the summer of 2021 as part of the U.Dance National Festival 2021.

Final details will be communicated in early 2021.

## U.Dance on Screen

Select this option if your group who would like to submit a 'screen dance' – i.e. a piece that has been created specifically to be filmed and viewed on screen, not performed in a live theatre setting. Groups may choose this option if they are meeting remotely/digitally, or may be able to make use of alternative venues – e.g. outdoor spaces – for filming. Groups should rehearse in a safe environment in accordance with current government Covid-19 guidance. If shortlisted for the U.Dance Regional Platform, the film will be screened digitally.

If selected for the U.Dance National Festival, depending on the Covid-19 situation and government advice, the group will have the opportunity to have the piece shown at an exclusive screening at selected cinemas as part of U.Dance on Screen Showcases, with additional exclusive workshops, in the summer of 2021, and online as part of the U.Dance National Festival 2021 digital event

Final details will be communicated in early 2021.



# U.DANCE GROUP LEADER FILM UPSKILLING WORKSHOPS

One Dance UK and all U.Dance partners are committed to offering opportunities for young people to access high quality dance experiences. We want applications to best reflect the commitment and creativity of your work. To support groups with their digital applications, group leaders are being offered the following opportunities free of charge:

- U.Dance Film Upskilling Workshops are being offered to all group leaders. These will be hosted online and cover U.Dance on Stage and U.Dance on Screen applications, looking at equipment, camera technique, shot selection, editing and more. Workshops will be conducted with screen dance experts and offer Q&A opportunities. Workshops will take place on 8 and 15 December 2020 and will be hosted online until the application deadline.
- There may be additional support available in each region, offering further advice and guidance. Further details will be supplied via your U.Dance regional representative

[Filming Dance for Stage  
Upskilling Webinar](#)

[Filming Dance for Screen  
Upskilling Webinar](#)



Image credit: Brian Slater



# APPLICATION PROCESS

## STEP 1. APPLICATIONS OPEN

**December 2020 - March 2021**

## STEP 2. GROUP LEADER UPSKILLING WORKSHOPS

**December 2020**

Group leaders are able to take part in free online workshops with screen dance experts to develop their practice and application as best befits your circumstances. Group leaders may also have access to further local support to enhance applications. See above for details.

## STEP 3. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

**February-March 2021**

Complete and submit your regional dance organisation's application form and upload your film. Find your regional organisation's contact details on page 3. Application deadline varies in each region - please contact your local representative for details. If you would like to be considered for the U.Dance National Festival (either live or digital) ensure you tick the relevant box on the application form.

## STEP 4. REGIONAL PROGRAMMING

**March 2021**

The regional organisations will programme groups to be showcased at their Regional Platform.

## STEP 5. REGIONAL PLATFORM DIGITAL PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY

**March - April 2021**

Regional Platforms will take place between March and April 2021, and may include a digital showcase of both U.Dance on Stage and U.Dance on Screen applications, industry information and online workshops. Please contact your regional representative for details.

## STEP 6. NATIONAL PROGRAMMING

**April 2021**

Members of the National Selection Panel will watch the Regional Platform performances and select a small number of groups from each region to be shortlisted for U.Dance National Festival 2021. They will then meet in late April to programme the U.Dance National Festival 2021. Groups will be informed by One Dance UK if they have been programmed by the end of April.

## STEP 7. U.DANCE ON STAGE FILMING AND WORKSHOPS

**May-June 2021**

Selected groups from each region will be invited to a filming day in May-June 2021 (date TBC), to have the piece professionally filmed in a Covid-secure environment at a venue in your region or a neighbouring region. Additional exclusive workshops/masterclasses and industry Q&As will be on offer.



# MUSIC

With pieces being streamed online at Regional Platforms and potentially at the U.Dance National Festival 2021, there are strict rules and legal requirements surrounding music licensing and rights. This is different to using music solely in class or on stage, and ensures musicians and composers are credited and compensated appropriately for their work. This matter is taken very seriously and PRS can, and often does, take legal action where music has been used without permission, even in charity and educational settings.

Groups should not assume they can use any piece of music for free – the rights must be secured. U.Dance partners are unable to pay to secure rights to any music accompaniment to pieces, and will not be able to stream the piece online if the rights are not secured.

Options include:

- Using royalty-free music. Various online libraries are available, with some options listed on the Streaming Youth Dance Online Music Licensing Best Practice via the link below
- Using original music composed solely for the piece
- Contacting the music publisher of the piece and accessing rights directly with them, and providing evidence of this with the application

If music rights are not secured, for the online showcase the regional organiser will overlay the track with similar royalty-free music. Read more information below:

## [Streaming Youth Dance Online Music Licensing Best Practice](#)



Image credit: Brian Slater

# ACCESS TO U.DANCE 2021

To help make U.Dance 2021 more accessible we are:

- Ensuring one 'inclusive dance specialist' is on the National Selection panel
- Creating an open dialogue with groups working with disabled dancers about their experience at U.Dance and creating a bespoke timetable/additional support for their participants to ensure they get the most out of the event
- Ensuring all performances are either BSL interpreted or captioned
- Providing 'easy-read' documents for those who need them

To discuss your access requirements, please contact [u.dance@onedanceuk.org](mailto:u.dance@onedanceuk.org), or your regional representative.

## CHILD PERFORMANCE LICENSING

At U.Dance live events, there are certain considerations that Group Leaders need to take into account to ensure they meet artistic, health and safety and pastoral requirements when applying. These include:

- All groups will need to provide two (or three if there are 16 or more dancers) suitable chaperones (i.e. over 21yrs, experienced in leading, teaching, supervising the group, DBS checked within the last three years and not involved in the performance of the group's piece).
- Chaperones should match the gender of the group. If the group is of mixed gender, there must be at least one male and one female leader accompanying them.

U.Dance partners are working to ensure all appropriate child licensing is in place for digital U.Dance events in 2021. Further details can be provided by your regional organiser.

If you are not familiar with the national child performance licensing please read the following documents and/or get in touch with your local authorities Child Performance Licensing Officer.

NNCEE Guide to Child Performance Licensing:

<https://www.nncee.org.uk/page/485/what-is-child-performance>



Image credit: Brian Slater





Image credit: Brian Slater

**Thank you for reading and good luck with your application!**

For further information, please contact us:

Tel: +44 (0)20 7713 0730

Email: [u.dance@onedanceuk.org](mailto:u.dance@onedanceuk.org)

Web: [www.onedanceuk.org](http://www.onedanceuk.org)



One Dance UK is a Company Limited by Guarantee | Registered in England and Wales  
No. 2931636 | Registered Charity No. 801552 | Vat Registration No: 451 0858 58

