

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CAT?

The Swindon Dance Centre for Advanced Training (CAT), offers a pre-vocational training programme for young dancers demonstrating exceptional potential and the commitment and passion for a career in dance. The CAT is one of nine across the country. These are a consortium of dance organisations that provide 11-17 year olds who have exceptional potential in dance, with access to the best available teaching at suitable facilities alongside strong links with the dance profession, [read more](#).

What are the 3 different programmes?

Exeter Contemporary

Dancers meet fortnightly on Sundays from 11:00-5:00pm during school terms with intensive training weeks in school holidays. Training covers technical, creative & performance skills in contemporary, jazz and classical dance. Past teachers have included Russell Maliphant, Liam Riddick (Richard Alston Dance Company) and Charlotte Eatock. This programme is based at Exeter University.

Swindon Contemporary

Dancers meet weekly on Saturdays from 12:00-5:30pm during school terms with intensive training weeks in the school holidays. Training covers technical, creative & performance skills in contemporary, jazz and classical dance. Past teachers have included Russell Maliphant, Mark Bruce and Joss Arnott. This programme is based at Swindon Dance.

Swindon Street Dance

Dancers meet weekly on Sundays from 11:15-5:00pm during school terms with intensive training weeks in the school holidays. Training covers technical, creative & performance skills in various urban styles including Popping, Breaking and House. Past teachers have included Brooke Milliner, Robert Hylton and Chrybaby Cozi. This programme is based at Swindon Dance.



Do I need to live in Swindon or Exeter to attend?

No, the CAT scheme is open to students across the South West of the UK. Students from Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Dorset travel to train with the CAT.

Does it matter if I haven't had a lot of experience in Dance?

No formal dance experience is required; we are looking for enthusiastic and motivated young people with exceptional potential and an interest in dance.

What does the CAT scheme involve?

From all CAT students we expect exceptional commitment, attendance and a good attitude towards training. You will maximize your training by attending workshops and meetings and taking ownership of your own learning. CAT scheme training involves:

- Individual training plans (ITP).
- Specialist intensives during term breaks.
- Paid support for external classes.
- Dance training

Opportunity to access additional supporting classes during the week.



How do I register on an Open Day?

The Open Day is a chance for young dancers and their parents/guardians to find out more and see how the programme runs. You will meet the team, hear about the training, and take part in a taster class. Please click on the open day you wish to attend and complete an online form. You will receive confirmation of your place and any further information about the day itself via email. If you have any difficulties completing a form online please get in touch cat@swindondance.org.uk

- [Exeter Contemporary Programme](#)
- [Swindon Contemporary Programme](#)
- [Swindon Street Dance Programme](#)

What are the course fees?

The CAT is supported by the Department for Education (DfE) via means tested bursaries. For those who qualify - training is FREE or subsidised, [read more](#).



How can I join the CAT?

Entry onto the CAT is by audition only. In previous years the audition has included a technique class, a solo and an informal interview. If you would like to apply please complete an [application form](#). The audition is your opportunity to demonstrate your potential by taking part in a practical dance session and creative workshop in front of a selection panel. Our next auditions will be held between May and July 2021. The CAT audition is FREE to attend but an application form must be completed and submitted before May in order to reserve a place.

Do I have to audition?

Yes. Entry is by audition only after which if you are successful you will be invited to join the CAT. The CAT team will provide full information regarding the audition a few weeks prior to your audition date. If you are nervous about auditioning please get in touch with team who will be able to support you through the process.

How will I fit this in with my schoolwork?

All classes as part of the Dance CAT schemes happen out of school hours. The course leaders and /or mentors can help you plan your time using your Individual Training Plan (ITP) so that you fit in both your schoolwork and your dance lessons.

What are the term dates?

Term dates for 2020-21 can be found below, these have been provided as a guide and are subject to change year on year. These have been provided for guidance.

[EXETER CONTEMPORARY](#)

[SWINDON CONTEMPORARY](#)

[SWINDON STREET DANCE](#)



I have some more questions; how do I get in touch?

The team will be very happy to help answer your queries regarding the CAT, please get in touch via the following.

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TRAINING SWINDON
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Email: cat@swindondance.org.uk
www.swindondance.org.uk/cat

**Join our mailing list to find out
about future Open Days and
Auditions.**

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