

Q. What is the CAT?

A. Swindon Dance's Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) delivers world-class dance training to young talents aged 11-19. Our programmes cater to dedicated dancers with a passion for their art. We are one of nine National CATs across the UK [read more](#).

Q. How many CAT programmes are there?

A. Swindon Dance CAT comprises of four programmes:

Exeter Contemporary

Nestled within DanSci Studio and Exeter University, the Exeter Contemporary programme operates bi-weekly from 11am to 5pm on Sundays during term time. Under the tutelage of industry-leading choreographers and artists, students delve into skills and techniques of:

- contemporary
- ballet
- jazz
- improvisation
- choreography
- performance

Swindon Contemporary

Nestled within Swindon Dance, the Swindon Contemporary Programme operates on Saturdays from 11:30am to 5:30pm during term time. Under the tutelage of industry-leading choreographers and artists, students delve into skills and techniques of:

- contemporary
- ballet
- jazz
- improvisation
- choreography
- performance

Swindon Ballet

Nestled within Swindon Dance, the Swindon Ballet Programme runs weekly on Sunday afternoons from 11:00 to 5:00pm during term time. Under the tutelage of industry-leading choreographers and artists, students delve into skills and techniques of:

- ballet
- strength + conditioning
- music appreciation
- choreography
- performance
- pointe (if appropriate)

Swindon Street Dance

Nestled within Swindon Dance, the Swindon Street Dance Programme runs weekly on Sunday afternoons from 11am to 4:30pm during term time. Under the tutelage of industry-leading choreographers and artists, students delve into skills and techniques of:

- hip hop
- popping
- breaking
- house
- commercial
- improvisation
- choreography

Q. What does the CAT scheme involve?

A. 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);
- Physio support (by a dance specialist);
- Grants towards fees;
- Financial support towards travel;
- Financial support towards dancewear;
- Paid support for external classes;
- Specialist intensives during half-term;
- Dance training;
- Auditioning mentor/support when in year 13 and applying for conservatoires/full time dance training;
- .Opportunity to access additional supporting classes during the week

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

A. 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.

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

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

Q. How do I register on an Open Day or Experience Day?

A. The Open Days and Experience Days are 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/experience 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 Ballet Programme](#)
- [Swindon Contemporary Programme](#)
- [Swindon Street Dance Programme](#)

Q. Do I have to audition?

A. 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 the team who will be able to support you through the process.

Q. How can I join the CAT?

A. 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 March and July 2024. The CAT audition is FREE to attend but an application form must be completed and submitted in order to reserve a place.

Q. What are the fees?

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

Q. How will I fit this in with my schoolwork?

A. All CAT classes happen out of school hours. The programme 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.

Q. What are the term dates?

A. Term dates for 2023-24 can be found below, these have been provided as a guide and are subject to change year on year.

EXETER CONTEMPORARY

SWINDON BALLET

SWINDON CONTEMPORARY

SWINDON STREET DANCE



Swindon Dance

Regent Circus, Swindon, SN1 1QF

Register your place:

swindondance.org.uk/how-to-apply-cat/



@swindondancecat

swindondance.org.uk/cat