



Policy on Students Accepting Work 2024 - 2025

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Responsibility: Principal Samantha Bell, Vice Principal Fiona Forfar

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Policy on Students Accepting Dance or Performance Related Employment

Please note that students must not take up dance contracts, undergo training or take part in photoshoots without discussing it first with their tutors and getting the permission and agreement of the Principal.

Purpose of the Policy

This policy applies to all students who have been offered dance or performance related employment whilst still at college. It is designed to support the needs of the student, but also to uphold the integrity of the training, and any course qualifications.

1. ElliTe Studios College does not actively encourage students to take up work with professional dance companies before completing the course. The aim is always for students to graduate with the Level 3 Extended BTEC in Performing Arts (Dance) and any other relevant course qualifications. This is to prepare for the longevity of a dance career, versatility in performance, and lifelong learning.
2. When students are considering auditioning for companies it is vital that they first seek the advice and permission of the Principal. If a student is offered employment or apprenticeships with dance companies which are due to commence before the final day of the course of study, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the Principal immediately. Each case is treated on an individual basis and will be considered at Senior Management Team level. Discussions are seen as a three-way process between the dance company, the college and the student to consider the viability of the student being able to meet the learning outcomes for the BTEC programme and achieve the relevant qualification.
3. Only offers of employment which are equal to or surpass, the level of training and the performance prospects offered at the college will be considered to be possible. This will be at the Principal's discretion.
4. It is noted that the college does not offer placement learning or work-based learning. Therefore, if the employment opportunity is approved, a carefully planned set of actions will be created, and signed off by the college, the Student and the company, agreeing the times the student needs to be available to return to the college to complete practical assessments and ElliTe Studios College performances. There also needs to be an outline of when written assignments will be completed and handed in, and how the student will access tutor advice on written work by coming in to college and or by remote communication.

In summary, all of the following points below need to be considered before dance employment or a dance apprenticeship is undertaken by a student before the end of the course.

1. Only in exceptional cases is it possible for students take up employment or an apprenticeship with a company before June of the year of graduation to allow substantial work towards, and assessment of the BTEC qualification.
2. Each case is considered on an individual basis, and the quality of the learning experience afforded by the involvement with a professional company must be equal to or must surpass, the experience offered at the college. The student must be able to continue to meet the learning outcomes of the course. The Principal will have the final decision on this.
3. The dance company needs to acknowledge in writing the importance of the student completing the BTEC qualification allowing time and support as required according to the action plan set out before the employment or apprenticeship commences.
4. The student needs to be able to return to college, when and where necessary, to complete practical assessments and performances with ElliTe Studios College for the Summer Performance. The student also requires adequate time to complete the written and the viva elements of the course.

Students should submit drafts of written work, responding to feedback by coming into school, email or over the phone, and negotiated deadlines should be adhered to.

5. Where feasible, the qualifications should be completed in the normal timeframe for the student's cohort in order to keep both focus and momentum.

6. There must be timely and consistent contact and communication by the student with the school through telephone calls and email.

7. Upon a student's return for assessments and performances, there needs to be an agreed understanding and abiding by the college's expectations of what is required of students. For example, other students may have taken up their role in various pieces of repertoire and the student must adapt with regards to casting.

8. Students who spend time away from the college are still considered to be registered students, and they are not exempt from following the College's Code of Conduct upon returning to school in relation to attendance, timekeeping, uniform, attitudes of respect towards members of staff and fellow students, and other disciplinary matters as set out in the Student and Programme Handbooks. Any breach would be treated accordingly and in relation to the College's Disciplinary Procedure.

9. The participation and involvement of the student in dance employment or an apprenticeship opportunity should be enough to satisfy the requirements of the course and should not be to the detriment of other students. The experience should be seen as having a positive impact on the student's learning, achievement, and progression, as well as the profile of the college, not only in the short term, but also in the long term.