



Young People's Training in South Asian Dance Forms

Open Tender: Guidance Notes

Fabric is seeking to appoint a Midlands-based provider(s), or a consortium of Midlands-based partners, to design and deliver a new iteration of South Asian dance training as part of Fabric's Centre for Advanced Training programme, funded through the Department for Education Music and Dance Scheme's means tested grants and student fees.

Fabric, in partnership with Sampad, proudly hosted the Yuva Gati programme for 16 vibrant years, from 2009 to 2025. We are committed to building on the legacy of the programme, which was a South Asian dance training programme that made a significant contribution to the national training ecology, supporting young people into further provision, higher education and professional pathways.



Department
for Education



The following guidelines are essentials to delivery models

Fabric's current programme has been shared as an example below.

KEY FACTS

- Year round provision, Sept – July
- Young people should be aged 11–16 years when joining the scheme or 11–23 years if d/Deaf or Disabled. Training can continue until age 18 years or up to 25 years if d/Deaf or disabled

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY: A varied and well considered curriculum, that includes:

- Regular training to develop technique, body awareness, approach to dance and safe practice, alongside creative exploration
- The opportunity work with a variety of professionals to develop a range of skills including collaboration, performing, and adaptability
- Intensive projects to further enhance the training experience and to widen exposure to current practices and artistic thinking
- Performance opportunities and opportunities to see professional work
- An holistic approach to training that puts the well-being of young people at the centre of the work
- Individual Training Plans devised in consultation with parents/ guardians and local dance teacher to support the student's learning, and ensure a balance is maintained between the demands of school work and dance studies
- An inclusive approach to training that fosters creativity and expression by welcoming diverse participants, varied teaching methods, and reflects multiple cultural perspectives

SELECTION PROCESS: A fair and equitable selection process for students that includes:

- An accessible application form
- Practical admissions workshop/audition to allow young people to demonstrate their potential
- A well-considered panel, selecting with a clear criteria (using the National CAT Criteria for guidance)
- A commitment to identifying and supporting young dancers who are eligible to access means tested grants

PROGRAMME QUALITY: High quality teaching and delivering artists with experience of working with young people:

- Activity should be taught safely and effectively by appropriately qualified highly skilled and experienced teachers

STUDIO SPACE: Secure, inspiring and professional spaces. Dance studios should:

- Be clean, with a suitably sprung floor
- Have enough space to accommodate the maximum number of dancers
- Be well-ventilated
- Be able to be maintained at a comfortable 21c; not falling below 18c
- Be accessible and inclusive

OPERATIONS: Organisations should have in place or agree to adhere to existing policies/plans in:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- General Data Protection Regulation
- Equal opportunities
- Health and Safety – general
- Dancer health and well being, including injury prevention and disordered eating policies

Financial outline for programme

The funds for all CAT programmes come directly from student fees, and therefore the number of students dictates the total budget. The Department for Education's (DfE) Music and Dance Scheme provide means tested grants (full or partial depending on financial circumstances) to ensure access to the provision by those who need financial support.

As a guide, here are some key finance headlines

- £4000 per student per academic year made up of full DfE grant holders, part DfE grant holders or full fee payers. Approx 10–15 Grants are available
- To financially manage the programme, a minimum of 20 students (whether fee payers or grant holders) is a necessary target. This provides a budget of £80,000 a year to deliver the programme
- The budget balance is approx 50% operating / overheads & 50% programme delivery costs
- Fabric will manage the relationship with DfE, and the grant application and administration process. Everything else will be managed by the provider

Fabric's East and West Midlands programme model:

Commitment across the year

- Year round provision, Sept – July (3 terms during school term time)
- 33 core training days (10.30am–4.30pm) Saturdays during term time
- Additional 2 hours per week mid-week training provision
- 9 days intensives delivered (4 days during Easter, 5 days end of Summer term)
- 2 public sharing's per year
- Tutorials, individual training plan & annual report as part of student development
- Attending progression Routes/career events for older students
- 3 opportunities to see live professional work per year

Budget spend

- Artistic programme delivery as outlined above
- Attending 3 professional shows per year (tickets, travel and food)
- Costs associated with progression routes/career events for older students
- CAT t-shirt & hoodie
- Marketing and branding
- Injury support (plus first aid)
- Means tested travel bursaries to attend regular provision
- Studio space and equipment as required
- Costumes for performance events costs



RECRUITMENT TIMELINE

- Open for Expression of Interest (EOI): 01 June 2026
- EOI deadline to apply: 19 June 2026
- Shortlisted applicants confirmed: 30 June 2026
- Chance to discuss proposal with Fabric: 06 – 23 July 2026
- Full Tender submission deadline: 30 July 2026
- Tender Interviews: w/c 10 Aug 2026

DELIVERY TIMELINE

- Provider Appointed: 01 Sept 2026
- Cohort Recruitment/planning: Sept – Dec 2026
- Delivery Starts/ Access to grants: Jan – Aug 2027

HOW TO APPLY

There will be a 3 stage application process. In the first instance, we invite all those eligible and interested to complete an expression of interest form providing some basic details and confirmation that you understand and can meet the criteria set-out in the guidance.

From this stage, we will then select up to 5 applications to progress to full proposal. Fabric expects to work collaboratively with those invited, to design the model and ensure that the final proposal meets the criteria.

The applications will then be submitted and a selection process will take place with Fabric, Sampad and a representative from another National CAT provider.

SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please use this link to complete the form

<https://fabric.wufoo.com/forms/m1nvcvfg1kb4jxt/>

For any further information or support, please contact **CATadmin@fabric.dance**

Context

National Centres for Advanced Training in Dance (also known as Dance CAT's) provide world-class pre-vocational training to young people aged 10 – 18 with a passion and aptitude for dance, regardless of their personal circumstance or experience. Classes take place in the evenings and at weekends at 10 arts venues across the country and provide means-tested bursaries, funded through the Department for Education's Music and Dance Scheme, to ensure every young person with potential can take part, regardless of their personal circumstances.

Each CAT operates from a host organisation that is recognised for their excellence and commitment to the arts. Fabric currently hosts 2 National Centres for Advanced Training in dance in the East and West Midlands. You can learn more about our current offer [here](#).

Who Can Apply?

Professional leaders and providers (or a consortium) based in the Midlands region* who can assure the right organisational infrastructure and to deliver the needs of the programme.

The provider must have demonstrable expertise in, and lived connection to, dance styles emanating from South Asian and British South Asian cultures.

The programme is expected to:

- Encompass a range of dance styles from the South Asian diaspora including but not exclusive to forms rooted in classical and folk dance
- Reflect the plurality, evolution and contemporary relevance of South Asian and contemporary British dance practices
- Be rooted in culturally informed pedagogy while engaging with current and future dance ecologies

**The Midlands is Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Derbyshire, Dudley, Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Herefordshire, Northamptonshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire.*

What does it entail?

The provider(s) will design a year-round talent development programme of activity based on the essential guidelines detailed above. They will be responsible for the overall leadership of this new CAT programme, including the annual recruitment of students. Fabric will hold the contractual and primary organisational relationship with the Department for Education / Music & Dance Scheme.

The programme should:

- Strengthen identification, access and progression for young people with potential across the Midlands
- Contribute to a shared regional and national leadership in talent development