

Policy on Students' Completion of Degree

Rambert School does not encourage students to take up work with professional dance companies before completing the course. The aim is always for students to graduate with the BA (Hons) in Ballet & Contemporary Dance, as the training and performance opportunities offered by the School are seen as the most comprehensive preparation for dance employment.

Students may, in some cases, be given permission to accept the offer of employment or an apprenticeship by the Principal.

Discussions will be seen as a three-way process between the dance company, the School and the student to consider the viability of the student being able to continue to work towards and to be assessed in the learning outcomes for the degree programme, and to achieve the relevant qualification. It is noted that the School does not offer placement learning or work-based learning, and therefore the student would need to be available to return to the School, as and when required, to complete assessments.

Each case will be treated on an individual basis. The School retains the right to exercise discretion in its consideration of each offer, in the light of the learning opportunity which it appears to present for the individual student.

The following guidelines give indications of the aspects which may need careful consideration before dance employment or an apprenticeship is taken up:

1. While studying at the School, the maximum duration of employment or an apprenticeship a student may be allowed to partake in will be 4-6 weeks. If longer, the student may be asked to defer or withdraw from their studies at Rambert School*.

*The School also offers a negotiated credited placement pathway as part of RA3001 Special Project module (if appropriate and in consultation with the principal of the school)

2. The quality of the learning experience afforded by the involvement with a professional company should be considered by Rambert School as at least equal to that offered at the School. The student should be able to continue to meet the learning outcomes of the course, particularly in ballet, contemporary dance and performance. The student will be expected to complete the essential requirements of the course:
 - All in-class Assessments in ballet and contemporary dance
 - A minimum of two of the three solo assessments
 - Critical Studies – written work and presentation
3. The dance company would need to acknowledge the importance of the student completing the BA (Hons) Degree, allowing time and support as required.
4. The student would also need adequate time to complete the written elements of the course.

5. Where feasible, the degree should be completed in the normal timeframe.
6. Regular contact and communication with the School by the student through telephone calls and email must be timely and consistent. Students should submit drafts of written work, responding to feedback by email or over the phone, and negotiated deadlines should be adhered to.
7. An understanding of and an abiding by the School's expectations of what is required of the student upon their return for assessments and performance is necessary. For example, other students will have taken their place in School performances and the student must be adaptable with regard to casting.
8. Students who spend time away from the School are still considered to be students, and are not exempted from following the School's rules upon returning to school in relation to timekeeping, attitudes of respect towards members of staff and fellow students, and other disciplinary matters as set out in the Student and Handbooks and School Policies. Any breach would be treated accordingly and in relation to the School's disciplinary procedures.
9. The participation and involvement of the student in dance employment or an apprenticeship opportunity should be seen as having a positive impact on the student's learning, achievement, and progression, as well as the profile of the school, not only in the short term. This experience should not be to the detriment of other students.