

YOUNG
CREATIVES
2025/2026
Application Guidance



YOUNG CREATIVES

WELCOME TO YOUNG CREATIVES!

Young Creatives is a fully funded national programme delivered by One Dance UK. It aims to support and nurture young people to develop choreographic skills and provide an exciting opportunity to showcase new dance work to the public.

Due to the highly successful connection between Young Creatives and Sadler's Wells' *Making Moves* programme last year, we are delighted to announce that we will be joining forces again this year! Young Creatives provides a unique opportunity for young aspiring choreographers to be guided by and learn from amazing industry professionals.



Image credits throughout: One Dance UK, Dani Bower



WHO CAN APPLY AND WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Applications are open to young people from across the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) who are interested in creating new dance work in any dance style. The programme is aimed at young people aged 16-20 who wish to develop their skills and experience as a choreographer. We understand, however, that everyone's journey looks different, so if you are over this age bracket but still feel that this is an opportunity you would benefit from, we would love to receive an application from you.

Young Creatives is free-of-charge and open to anyone who is interested in choreography and keen to collaborate with other young dancers. If you are passionate about creating dance, it does not matter how much or how little experience you may have, and you do not need to be part of a formal dance group or class; enthusiasm and commitment are the most

important attributes! We are looking for applications from young people working in a wide variety of dance styles. Successful applicants will demonstrate a willingness to commit fully to the programme and an openness to exploring different approaches to being creative.

We welcome applications from all young people, regardless of stage in life and circumstances. Whether you are in school, home education, college, university, working, or have caring responsibilities, we would love to receive your application.

We are committed to supporting a diverse workforce in dance, and we particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups: those who are from a Global Majority* background and those who are disabled and/or have a long-term health condition.

*At One Dance UK, we also use the phrase Global Majority which includes, but is not limited to people of African, North African, South Asian, South-East Asian, East Asian, Caribbean, Latinx, Middle Eastern, Native American, Native Australian, Pacific Islanders, Roma and Traveller heritage or diaspora.



THE YOUNG CREATIVES PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE:

- A choreographic toolkit full of ideas and inspiration to help you develop your choreographic practice.
- Engaging workshops to help you develop your creative ideas, composition skills, and learn how to get the best out of your rehearsals.
- The opportunity to create your own choreographic work.
- Support from the Programme Lead, the Making Moves team, professional choreographers and the One Dance UK team.
- The opportunity to premiere your final work at a remarkable performance venue with a live audience!

NEXT STEPS AND GETTING STARTED

There are only eight spaces on the Young Creatives programme 2026! Could one of them be yours?!

To be in with a chance of being selected you will need to complete and submit the application form by **9pm on Thursday 31 July**.

You will be asked a few questions about your creative skills, ideas and commitment. You do not need heaps of experience, and enjoying creating movement in a space at home is just as valuable as having created dances for performance settings. We are looking for passion, commitment, and an openness to explore your ideas further.

As part of your application, you will be asked to upload a video of your creative ideas and work, so that we can see your creative potential. This does not need to be a fully completed dance piece and can simply be a video of you demonstrating a choreographic idea through a short improvisation. Short video excerpts taken on your phone in any type of setting are welcome.

[Click here to find out where the current Young Creatives get their inspiration from.](#)



If you are selected for the Young Creatives programme, you will be invited to attend an inspiring two-day introductory launch event at Sadler's Wells, London, taking place on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 September 2025. The launch event will be an engaging 'springboard' into the Young Creatives programme where you will participate in a series of workshops with a professional choreographer exploring their creative practices to support the development of your own choreographic ideas.

Accommodation in London will be provided (unless you live within a reasonable commuting distance).

Following on from the launch, you will be supported to develop your own original choreography, creating a short piece for premiering to the public at a high-profile national venue in July 2026.

We know everyone's circumstances are different, so there are a range of options for making a dance piece as part of the Young Creatives programme:

- You can choreograph a solo that you perform yourself.
- You can choreograph a duo/trio/group piece for 2 to 4 dancers, whom you source yourself (this might be peers that you know from a place of study or an out of school dance activity). We ask that you do not dance in your group piece.
- You can choreograph a group piece for up to 4 dancers and use peer Young Creatives as dancers.
- You create a screen dance piece and source your own dancers.

The application form will ask you to confirm what your intended option will be from the above.

REHEARSAL SPACE

One Dance UK will provide studio space for all the in-person days as outlined on page 8, however we encourage you to think about having access to rehearsal space at home or through a connection with a place of study/work for your regular rehearsals. Having access to rehearsal space is not essential to being accepted on the programme and we would still encourage you to apply.

COSTS

We are delighted that Young Creatives is fully funded and there is no charge for young people to apply for or take part in the programme. All essential travel, food and accommodation costs will be covered. Please read the guidance notes in full and make sure you can commit to the full programme from September 2025 to completion in July 2026 before applying. Once your application is submitted and you receive confirmation that your application is successful, this decision is final. Young Creatives is a special opportunity and is always oversubscribed so full commitment is essential. One Dance UK is a charity, so a recharge fee will be suggested for anyone who fails to complete the whole programme.



TIMELINE FOR YOUNG CREATIVES 2025/2026

The Application Stage

Monday 30 June
Applications open

Thursday 31 July
Applications Close at 9pm

Applicants will be notified of the outcome no later than **Friday 29 August**

The Young Creatives programme

Please note: in order to be considered for the programme you must make every effort to commit to all activities and key dates. If you foresee any clashes or issues with the dates identified below, please let us know as soon as possible. This could be included in your application. We want you to succeed, so letting us know about a clash will not automatically mean that you can't take part in Young Creatives. We will work with you to try and find a solution that works for everyone!

Friday 19 and Saturday 20 September 2025

Launch event as part of Making Moves at Sadler's Wells, London

Sunday 19 October 2025

Online toolkit session led by the Programme Lead from 10am to 11.30am

Sunday 23 November 2025

In person day in Birmingham from 11am to 5pm

Sunday 25 January 2026 In-person day at Dance Hub

In person day in Birmingham from 11am – 5pm: (attendance by dancers will be required)

Saturday 28 and/or Sunday 29 March 2026

1 or 2 day in-person: location and times TBC: (attendance by dancers will be required)

Sunday 17 May 2026

10am – 11.30am online sharing: attendance for Young Creatives only

Sunday 7 June 2026

In person day from 11am – 5pm: sharing and feedback (attendance by dancers will be required)

Friday 17 July – Sunday 26 July 2026

Final performance. Please keep these dates free for now. The exact two dates you will be required for will be confirmed shortly.

Thursday 30 July 2026

Evaluation Meeting Online from 5:30pm - 6:30pm

THE ROLE OF SUPPORTING ADULTS

It is important to have an adult who can support you over the course of the programme.

This is usually someone who knows you through school, college, youth group or is a family member and can help you with form filling, organisation and generally being the 'go-to' person with whom you can discuss the project and how you're getting on. They don't need to be a dance specialist.

This person also needs to be a point of contact for One Dance UK in case we're unable to reach you or if you need any additional support. Usually, all matters are resolved quickly and easily, but it's helpful to have an adult we can sometimes speak to when necessary. Please ensure that you ask for their consent before giving their email address on the application form. **For Young Creatives under the age of 18 we also need consent from a parent or guardian for you to participate.**

If you have any questions about completing the application form or need help to write your application please get in touch - call One Dance UK on 020 7713 0730 or email youngcreatives@onedanceuk.org. We can support people with access needs to write their application.

Young Creatives is a vibrant, exciting, and rewarding project that supports you in your professional choreographic development. We are excited for 2025/2026 applications to be open and cannot wait to hear from you!



FAQS

Do I need to have choreographed before?

No - this project is open to anyone who is keen to learn more and try out ideas!

I've been a Young Creative before. Can I apply again?

Yes – we'd welcome your application providing you meet the criteria.

I have a disability or other additional need. Can I apply?

Yes – we'd welcome your application and if selected we'll be in touch to find out what access needs you may have.

Do I need parent or guardian consent to apply?

If you are under 18 you will need consent from a parent/guardian.

Is there a cost to taking part in Young Creatives?

No - the programme is fully funded and all travel and accommodation costs are covered by One Dance UK. A recharge fee may be applied in cases of absence.

Can I choreograph a solo?

Yes, there is the option to choreograph a solo on yourself. See page 5 for further options.

Do I perform in my own piece?

This is only an option if you choreograph a solo.

CURRENT YOUNG CREATIVES SHOWCASE JULY 2025

As an applicant for Young Creatives, you may be interested in seeing the Young Creatives showcase performance at Sadler's Wells in London on Saturday 19th July at 4.30pm. [See here for more details and tickets.](#)

[Click here to find out why the Young Creatives think you should come and watch.](#)





CONTACT DETAILS:

Telephone: 020 7713 0730

Email: youngcreatives@onedanceuk.org

Website: www.onedanceuk.org

Address: One Dance UK
Dance Hub
Thorp Street
Birmingham
B5 4TB



@onedanceuk