

# Dancer

Dancers use their bodies to express ideas, stories, and emotions for live audiences or in recorded performances.



## What you'll do

You'll usually follow a choreographer's steps, although you might also improvise movements.

You'll specialise in a form of dance, like:

- classical ballet
- modern or contemporary dance
- contemporary dance forms such as jazz, hip-hop, street or freestyle
- latin
- ballroom and social dance
- folk dance

Your day-to-day activities may include:

- rehearsing
- preparing for and travelling to auditions
- attending dance classes
- promoting yourself and finding work

You might combine performing with other activities like teaching, choreography, community dance, or arts administration.

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

## Working hours and environment

Hours can be long and irregular. You'll usually have classes and rehearsals during the day and performances in the evening.

You may be self-employed. See our guide '[How to become self-employed](#)' for information on the advantages and disadvantages of being self-employed.

The work is physically demanding and you'll need to practise and keep yourself fit even when not performing.

You might perform in theatres, film or TV studios, nightclubs, hotels, halls and cruise ships. You will need to travel for jobs and auditions. You may also spend long periods away from home if you're touring or performing on location.

## Career path and progression

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With experience, you could move into choreography or teaching.

## Skills required

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You'll need:

- talent and ability in dance
- an excellent sense of rhythm and timing
- concentration and the ability to memorise routines
- ability to express emotions through movement
- physical stamina and good fitness
- discipline and commitment to training and rehearsals
- the ability to work well with others

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

## Entry requirements

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You'll usually need a high level of dance training and experience performing. Most dancers study dance at college or university but your talent and skills are more important than academic qualifications.

You'll usually have the ability to perform one or more style of dance, such as:

- classical ballet
- modern or contemporary dance
- contemporary dance forms such as jazz, hip-hop, street or freestyle
- latin
- ballroom and social dance
- folk dance

The Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT) in the UK, The National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) in the United States and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation in Russia have more information on accredited dance schools, universities and becoming a dancer.

You could get a Dance and Drama Award (DaDA) to help with dance school fees at one of 15 private dance and drama schools in the UK.

Dance is very competitive and getting as much professional experience as possible is crucial. You could get experience by joining a local dance company and networking within your local community.

## Related know-how guides

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Explore know-how guides related to this career:

- [Employer profile: Royal Ballet and Opera \(RBO\)](#) >

## Related university subjects

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These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the [Subjects library](#):

- [Dance](#) >
- [Drama and Theatre studies](#) >

- [Music >](#)

## Related careers

You may also be interested in:

- [Choreographer >](#)
- [Circus performer >](#)
- [Dance teacher >](#)

## Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

### Dance at uni:

- [USA >](#)
- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
- [Europe >](#)
- [Asia >](#)
- [Australasia >](#)
- [Middle East and Africa >](#)
- [Ireland >](#)

### Drama and Theatre studies at uni:

- [USA >](#)
- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
- [Europe >](#)
- [Asia >](#)
- [Australasia >](#)
- [Middle East and Africa >](#)
- [Ireland >](#)

### Music at uni:

- [USA >](#)
- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
- [Europe >](#)
- [Asia >](#)
- [Australasia >](#)
- [Middle East and Africa >](#)
- [Ireland >](#)

### Apprenticeships:

- [UK >](#)

### College / Sixth Form:

- [UK >](#)

## Labour Market Information (LMI)

Median averages relating to the Dancer profession.

- [UK](#)
- [USA](#)

### Jobs

Artistic, literary and media professionals

# 342,899

 2,417 in your local area of Liverpool

#### Top 5 local areas

1	Surrey	8,868
2	Hackney	8,587
3	Kent	8,466
4	Hertfordshire	8,120
5	Lambeth	7,261

## Salaries

Dancers and choreographers

# £28,649

 (Not enough data for this region) in your region of North West

## Hours/week

Dancers and choreographers

# 40

 (Not enough data for this region) in your region of North West

## Growth

2020-2035

Culture, media and sports professionals

# +0.2%

↑ 1,593 jobs

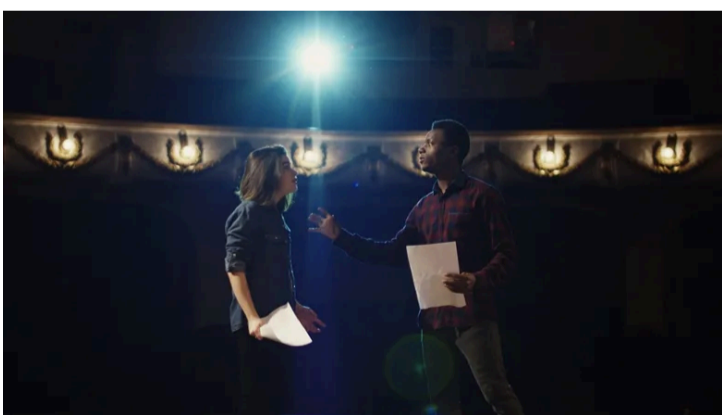
 -4.8% in your region of North West, an decrease of 2,325 jobs

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## People also liked...

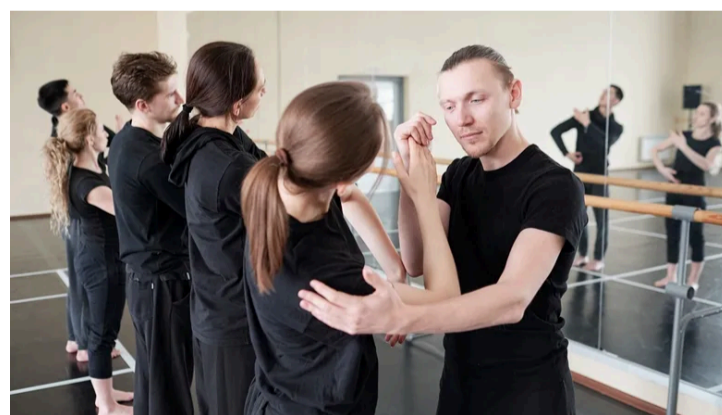
Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



### Actor

Actors bring stories and characters to life in film and television, on the stage, in audiobooks, or on the radio

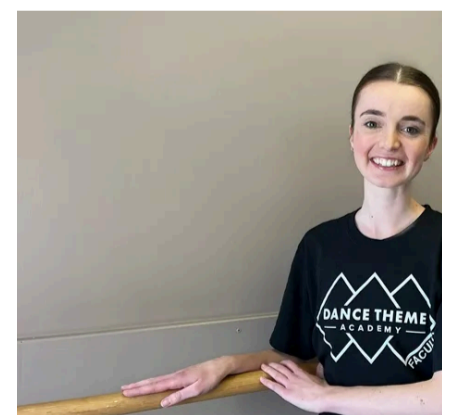
[Read the profile >](#)



### Choreographer

Choreographers create movement and dance routines to work alongside music or a story. They may perform them themselves or create them for other people.

[Read the profile >](#)



### Dance teacher

Dance teachers train and support different styles of dance.

[Read the profile >](#)

