



U.Dance Midlands Application Guidance Notes 2021

This document relates to Midlands groups wishing to apply for Midlands Youth (MY) Dance Digital 2021 Regional and One Dance UK's U.Dance National Festival.

Deadline for applications is 5pm on Wednesday 31 March 2021.

1. What is U.Dance?

U.Dance is a national framework that develops dance performance opportunities for children and young people across England, led by One Dance UK (ODUK).

2. Who is U.Dance for?

U.Dance is open to **any** youth dance company, group or individual that meets the criteria.

We welcome applications which include groups working in any dance styles, with young people between the ages of 11-19 (up to 25 for those with disabilities) in different settings including education, prevocational, community and wider. In particular we would like to strongly encourage groups that include those that work with inclusive and diverse practices to apply.

3. How can my work be shown at U.Dance Midlands in 2021?

All applications are via video and require a completed online application form. Your piece will only be considered for the **MY Dance Digital 2021** if we receive both of these.

See section 8 for direct links to the application form.

4. U.Dance on Screen

A piece that has been created specifically to be filmed and viewed on screen and/or live pre-recorded dance work.

If shortlisted for the U.Dance Regional Platform, the film will be screened digitally at the U.Dance Midlands regional **My Dance Digital 2021**.

If selected for the U.Dance National Festival, your piece will be screened to a national audience in Summer 2021 as part of the U.Dance National Festival 2021.

The National Festival will take place from the **16 – 18 of July 2021**.

5. Group Eligibility:

- No more than 30 dancers (Further details below)
- Dancers must be aged 11 - 19 years on 31 July 2021. Disabled dancers up to age 25 years are allowed.
- You must be working within Covid-19 guidance that is appropriate for your setting
- Submit a dance piece which is between **2 and 7 minutes in duration**.
- Be based in the UK and involve dancers who live in the UK
- All dance pieces need to be created and recorded within the last three years

Leaders must organise the administration of taking part in MY Dance Digital 2021 (e.g., consent forms, parent liaison).

6. U.Dance in the Midlands Good Practice Guide

A good practice guide has been created to support all group leaders working with young people in the Midlands. Please read this document and refer to it throughout the creation of your choreography. There is also a short video which explains the information in the document clearly, see below:

 [Click here to watch the U.Dance Midlands Good Practice Guide Film](#)

Music Guidance

With pieces being streamed online at Regional Platforms and potentially at the U.Dance National Festival 2021, there are strict rules and legal requirements surrounding music licensing and rights. This is different to using music solely in class or on stage, and ensures musicians and composers are credited and compensated appropriately for their work. This matter is taken very seriously and PRS can, and often does, take legal action where music has been used without permission, even in charity and educational settings.

Groups should not assume they can use any piece of music for free – the rights must be secured. U.Dance partners are unable to pay to secure rights to any music accompaniment to pieces and will not be able to stream the piece online if the rights are not secured.

Options include:

- Using royalty-free music. Various online libraries are available, with some options listed on the Streaming Youth Dance Online Music Licensing Best Practice via the link below
- Using original music composed solely for the piece
- Contacting the music publisher of the piece and accessing rights directly with them, and providing evidence of this with the application

If music rights are not secured, for the online showcase the regional organiser will overlay the track with similar royalty-free music. Read more information below:

Streaming Youth Dance Online Music Licensing Best Practice

7. Selection Process

Following the deadline of 5pm on **Wednesday 31 March 2021** select groups will be chosen by a panel of professionals to take part in the **My Dance Digital 2021** on **10 April 2021**.

- a) Groups will be notified no later than **Thursday 8 April 2021**.
- b) All groups that apply to U.Dance Midlands will be given feedback to develop their work further. represent the collective view of the panel.
- c) A panel of regional dance professionals will select a mixture of **ten groups** and **individuals** to be showcased at **MY Dance Digital 2021** as a compilation performance. This film will be sent to ODUK after **MY Dance Digital 2021**. A national panel of dance professionals will select one group from the East Midlands and one group from the West Midlands to attend U.Dance 2021 national festival.
- d) **PLEASE NOTE:** ODUK, and U.Dance national dance partners have decided that any group that progress to U.Dance national festival in one year will not be eligible the following year. This is so that new groups have the opportunity to equally progress.

8. National U.Dance Criteria

The selection panel will be looking for dance groups that:

- a) Demonstrate excellence in performance
- b) Present excellent and engaging choreography
- c) Show dancers taking clear ownership of the choreography, which is appropriate for their age and experience
- d) Demonstrate respect and consideration to all (demonstrated through both the group's conduct at the regional event and the appropriateness of performance content).

*A note on choreography: Excellent work selected for the U.Dance national festival in previous years has been created by group leaders, teachers, young people, professional choreographers and any number of collaborations. There is no preferred 'type' of choreographer and no weighting in the selection process is given to *who* created the piece.

The national selection panel will select dance pieces which combined as a performance programme will:

- a) Reflect the diversity of dance styles practiced by young people across the UK
- b) Create an interesting and varied performance
- c) Showcase excellent and authentic work from both schools and youth dance settings

9. Application Process

To apply you must complete and submit:

8. An Online Application Form: <https://dance4.wufoo.com/forms/zrb2krn0e2nj5d/>

9. Film Footage of your Dance Group

Please note:

- a) Applications will be acknowledged via an automatic email.
- b) Film footage should be provided within the application form using a password protected Vimeo link.
Alternative methods can be discussed with DanceXchange & Dance4 where Vimeo is not possible, but it is the preferred method.
- c) DanceXchange & Dance4 takes no responsibility for lost applications or film footage that is faulty or not of a quality to view by the selection panel by the deadline given.

10. Guidance for submitting your footage:

- Make sure that your space is well lit and clearly visible, please don't film in the dark.
- Clear the space (no bags or chairs around the edges), it may distract the panel if there is lots of clutter
- Make sure the whole group is present for filming
- Use a sound system so that music is good quality, don't use a phone to play music while filming or have people chatting in the background
- Film the work from the front in landscape mode, not the back or side.
- Check that film footage plays the correct way up (you might need to change the orientation of the film)
- Check your Vimeo link works before submitting
- Send any passwords needed to view the links
- Have a clear start and finish
- Check that we have received your footage if you do not receive a confirmation email. Don't feel like you are pestering us, we would rather make sure all applications come through successfully.
- Call us if you have any questions, we're here to make sure submitting the film isn't stressful.

11. U.Dance 2021 National Festival General Information

The U.Dance National Festival will take place from the **16-18 of July 2021** on an online platform. The National Festival will again offer an exceptional opportunity for the nation's young dancers to learn, perform and connect.

In 2021 will be a particular focus on showcasing the brilliant talent and diversity of youth dance around the country. By entering via U.Dance Regional Platforms, selected groups will have the opportunity to be showcased on a national digital platform.

Announcements and further detail on the U.Dance National Festival 2021 will be made in early 2021, and will be shared via your regional organiser and One Dance UK communications channels.

There is no fee charged for dancers to take part. In future years, digital elements will remain a key aspect of the National Festival, offering more young people access to this exciting event.

[U.Dance National 2021 Guidance Notes](#)

For any U.Dance Midlands enquiries or need additional support applying to any of the above opportunities please contact:

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West Midlands: Jamaal O'Driscoll (DanceXchange) jamaal.odriscoll@dx.dance / 0121 667 6730

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