

English  
National  
Ballet  
School

Candidate Brief:  
Board Chair



# Welcome

English National Ballet School (ENBS) is at the start of an exciting new stage in its history and I am delighted that you are considering the role as Chair of its Board of Trustees.

Within the highly competitive world of classical ballet, ENBS is widely regarded as one of the UK's top ballet schools. Beyond our exemplary physical training, ENBS nurtures mental resilience, creativity, and an appreciation for the arts. We foster communication, emotional and physical intelligence and teamwork and with this emphasis, we are proud of the reputation the school has established for delivering a world-class dance education to students aspiring to become professional dancers and leaders in the performing arts sector and beyond.

Founded in 1988, by then Director of English National Ballet, Peter Schaufuss, our links with our parent-company remain strong, with approximately a third of ENB dancers being graduates of the school. Students perform in ENB's productions of *My First Ballet*, as well as in the company's main stage and touring productions, and those of other leading UK companies. The quality of what we teach and the care we show for our students is reflected in the school being consistently graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, most recently in 2024.

Once a young dancer joins ENBS, they have a very bright future. On average, 85% of ENBS graduates secure contracts with prestigious ballet companies. In our 2024-2025 cohort, students successfully auditioned and received places at leading companies including English National Ballet, Estonia National Ballet, Ballet Black and London City Ballet.

The new Chair of ENBS will guide the school through the next exciting phase in its development which will see the transformation of our home, The Carlyle, into a state-of-the-art dance centre; the expansion of our Life Changing Scholarships programme; a move to Higher Education; and increased focus

on the ENBS Widening Participation programme. With a home fit for the future, the school will continue to meet its mission to provide a world-class education for professional dancers, while also expanding the range of courses we can offer, both to younger dancers and to the wider local community.

We are seeking an exceptional individual who will help guide us through the changes ahead, while further raising the school's profile nationally and internationally, keeping the school at the forefront of dance education.

In what follows you will learn more about the work we are already doing and our ambitious plans for the future.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Dan Elliot**

Deputy Chair, English National Ballet School



# Introduction

ENBS aspires to be the first choice for international dance talent, regardless of financial background. Talent and passion are the key criteria for pursuing a dance education with ENBS.

Since August 2022, Executive Director Amanda Skoog has led ENBS into an exciting era of growth, introducing new artistic, educational, and philanthropic strategies. In 2024, internationally renowned dancer and educator Lynne Charles was appointed Artistic Director, strengthening ties with English National Ballet and enhancing performance opportunities for our students.

Originally housing just 12 students, it has since grown into a globally recognised vocational ballet school. We remain a uniquely small school, with class sizes no more than 20 students, allowing for the highest teacher to student ratio. Alongside our artistic training we prioritise an exemplary holistic approach to our physical and mental well-being support, which works to ensure our students avoid injury, are mentally resilient, and are given every opportunity to reach their full potential.

Collaboration is key to our students' success. Our primary partnership with English National Ballet provides unparalleled access to professional company life, complementing a robust curriculum that balances classical and contemporary techniques with well-being, academic study, and career preparation.

Beyond its core programmes, ENBS actively engages in creative learning and community outreach, championing inclusivity and diversity in dance. We are committed to making ballet more diverse and accessible, fostering an inclusive environment that broadens ballet's appeal and reflects modern society.

Our students go on to enrich the world through dance, bringing professionalism, generosity, and commitment to every performance and role they undertake.



# About the Role

We are seeking an exceptional individual to serve as Chair of the Board who will play a pivotal role in guiding English National Ballet School into an exciting new chapter of artistic and academic excellence.

The Chair will provide strategic leadership, working with the Board of Trustees, to ensure that ENBS achieves its mission and continues to thrive in a challenging environment. This prestigious role offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of one of the world's leading institutions for dance education, renowned for its commitment to innovation in dance training, academic excellence, and student success.

The Board meets in person, on a quarterly basis. The Chair will attend the appropriate subcommittees of which there are currently five: Finance, Strategy and Premises, Development, Wellbeing Safeguarding and Healthcare, and Nominations and Governance. Board members also attend the Academic and Artistic Board, a management board observed by appropriate governors. A committed Chair will also regularly attend and front face school performances and events.

## Candidate Qualities

We are seeking a distinguished leader with the following qualities:

### Governance

Experience chairing a board or holding a senior leadership role in education, arts, business, or the public sector.

### Leadership and Strategy

Ability to guide organisations through periods of growth and change.

### Passion for the Arts and Education

A commitment to dance education and understanding of the sector's opportunities and challenges.

### Financial Acumen

Knowledge of financial oversight, fundraising, and non-profit revenue models.

### Fundraising and Advocacy

Strong networks and experience in donor engagement.

### Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Proven track record in promoting inclusivity.



## Key Responsibilities and Relationships

- Lead the Board of Governors, ensuring strong governance and strategic direction.
- Set challenging goals for the school and work effectively with the Board to meet these goals.
- Work with the Board, Executive Director, Artistic Director and SMT to promote and maintain high standards of artistic and educational attainment.
- Be proactive in seeking and maximising opportunities to form partnerships where these are conducive to achieving the school's strategic goals.
- Support fundraising and financial sustainability, particularly focusing on the Capital Campaign.
- Strengthen ties with, and expand donor networks and funding streams (individual, corporate, foundation, and public sector sources).
- Ensure the oversight of the financial performance of the school, and the effective use of the school's resources.
- Have a thorough understanding and knowledge of the school, its context, and the characteristics of the local area it serves.
- Act as an ambassador for ENBS, strengthening its reputation nationally and internationally.
- Foster an inclusive and collaborative culture.
- Abide by the Nolan Principles: The Seven Principles of Public Life

# About the School

## Our Vision

Exceptional dance training to nurture and inspire.

## Our Mission

Cultivating Artistry: Training the individual dancer to be recognised internationally for their technique, creativity, style and strength.

## Our Values

Committed | Innovative | Ambitious | Inclusive

- We are **committed** to always improving quality
- We are **innovative** and creative in our offering
- We are **ambitious** for all our students ensuring they achieve employment that will be fulfilling and life affirming
- We are **inclusive** and nurture each student and employee with respect





## Key Strategic Focus Areas

### Artistic

ENBS continues to develop unique courses that build on our reputation. They are current and of value to the performing industry. Alongside our Senior School, ENBS runs Junior and Associate Programmes to grow the talent pipeline and with ENB our Graduate Artists Programme, an exceptional course to help dancers find their first professional jobs. We aim to empower all our students with the confidence, creativity, and skills for a career as a professional dancer with major international companies, and for a future beyond performing.

### Premises

A major focus for the Chair will be to oversee and support the Carlyle Capital Campaign which will see the transformation of our heritage home in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. This campaign will not only preserve the building's historic architecture but create a state-of-the-art dance centre that both reflects the school's achievements and elevates the potential for growth in line with our future ambition. The campaign has a target of £10m to refurbish, renovate and extend our home. empower all our students with the confidence, creativity, and skills for a career as a professional dancer with major international companies, and for a future beyond performing.

### Education

ENBS is on track to offer both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from the academic year 2028–29, following the ongoing degree validation and Office for Students registration processes. This development aligns with our commitment to enhancing graduate opportunities and ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

# The Senior School

Our full-time Senior School is our core activity; it spans three years, with students receiving an average of 35 hours of teaching per week.

## Core Training Components

- Classical ballet technique, including pointe work, pas de deux, contemporary dance, character dance, improvisation, and choreography.
- Strength and conditioning, Pilates, and performance coaching.

## Academic Offerings

- Dance history, anatomy, nutrition, performance psychology, Benesh notation, and digital dance studies.
- Trinity College London's Diploma in Professional Dance (Level 5 or 6), with an option to progress to a BA (Hons) in Professional Arts Practice at Middlesex University.

## Awards & Recognition

- Consistently rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, most recently in May 2024.
- Recognised as an 'Exemplary Provider' by Trinity College London.
- Recipient of One Dance UK's Dance Healthcare Team Award.
- 85% of students graduate directly into a professional dance career.

# Key Data

## Financial Figures

- The annual turnover of ENBS is approximately £2.3m.
- £250,000 is allocated annually for scholarships in the Senior School.
- 13% of our turnover is generated through donations.
- The remaining revenue is sourced from course fees.
- For more information visit [Charity Commission for England & Wales](#)

## Enrolment and Employment Figures

- Our current staff number is 38.
- The current enrolled student number in the Senior School is 93, with an additional 100 students participating in our other programmes.
- Around 60% of our students are international.
- Over 55% of our students receive financial assistance through school grants and/or the DfE's Dance and Drama Award scheme.

# How to Apply

Please send a covering letter and CV to Justine Stephenson,  
Chair Nominations and Governance subcommittee.  
c/- **Mallory Pruitt** [mallorypruitt@enbschool.org.uk](mailto:mallorypruitt@enbschool.org.uk)

