

**SCOTLAND'S
NATIONAL
CENTRE
FOR DANCE.**



Choreographer Placement with Performing Art Studio Scotland at Edinburgh College



PASS Ensemble cast perform at the Traverse January 2026. Image credit Christina Brownlee Cox at Infinite Blue Designs

4-10 January 2027 Call Out

Deadline: Tuesday 20 October, 11:00

DANCEBASE.CO.UK

About Dance Base

Dance Base is Scotland's National Centre for Dance.

As a charity we are on a mission to help dance flourish and change lives in Scotland and beyond. We have four unique studios, over 60 classes a week, broad reaching support for dance artists, performances, international exchanges, community projects and more—all delivered by a knowledgeable and passionate team.

About PASS

Performing Arts Studio Scotland (PASS) is the specialist performing arts training department at Edinburgh College. PASS prepares students for careers across the performing arts industry, including acting, dance, musical theatre, technical theatre, costume and make-up.

Training combines practical studio work, professional productions and industry-focused projects, allowing students to develop their craft through real performance experience. PASS productions regularly bring new work to the stage, championing emerging artists and contemporary stories.

About the opportunity

Dance Base and PASS (Performing Arts Studio Scotland) at Edinburgh College, are seeking two independent Choreographers / Physical Theatre Makers to lead a performance project with Edinburgh College's BA Dance and Drama students.

If you are reading this and wondering if it is for you then please do read on - and if you have any questions, need some assistance with your application, or have any access requirements that we need to meet, then our team are here to help.

Please just contact Dance Base's Head of Professional Programme, Marlous Lang-Peterse at marlous.lang-Peterse@dancebase.co.uk to arrange a time to speak.

About the opportunity

This winter, Dance Base is supporting PASS for a fifth year to recruit two established choreographers and/or physical theatre makers with a strong movement background to work with the Edinburgh College degree students on a physical performance project which will take place in Edinburgh in early January 2027.

Following two research and development days, the two artists will each work individually with a mixed cohort of up to 20 Dance and Drama degree students to create an ensemble performance piece of 30-minutes in length to meet module needs. This work will then be shared to the public on day seven of the creation week at The Traverse.

The aim of this project is to provide the students with an insight into the development and delivery of a live movement ensemble work, while also supporting a Scotland-based choreographer to work with a large company for the week.

As the timeframe is limited, we anticipate that the choreographer will come to the project with a creative idea that they are already researching or practicing and will use this experience to re-stage/re-scale it in creative collaboration with the students, as opposed to crafting a new work from scratch during the week.

The students are in the final year of their BA Honours degree and through their course so far will have worked for a full semester on ensemble practices and on creating work together from a variety of starting points. Please note that the group of students will comprise of those who have academic dance training and those who have limited dance experience and the choreographer should be able to support, challenge and encourage all participants through the work they develop.

This year's cohort has 34 people. They are aged between late teens and early 20s with one in their late 20s. There are 25 students from the Drama strand and 9 from the Dance strand. We would aim to split these as evenly as possible between the two groups, so around 12-13 Drama and around 4-5 Dance in each group (17 in each group).

Aims of the placement

This placement aims to:

- Provide an opportunity for a Scotland-based choreographer or physical theatre maker to further develop their artistic practice by:
 - Working with a large-scale ensemble of BA Dance and Drama students in a higher education setting.
 - Exploring how an existing creative idea, methodology, or developing body of work can be adapted, re-scaled, and tested with a larger cast of performers.
 - Further developing skills in directing, facilitating, and creating movement-based performance work within a focused production timeframe.
 - Provide a supportive and collaborative environment in which independent artists can research, develop, and realise ensemble performance work with access to mentoring, educational support, and technical resources from Dance Base, PASS Edinburgh College, and the Traverse Theatre.
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- Enhance the learning experience of Edinburgh College's BA Dance and Drama students by:
 - Providing direct experience of working with established professional choreographers and physical theatre makers.
 - Offering insight into the creative and production processes involved in developing and delivering a live movement-based performance.
 - Supporting students to engage with professional artistic practice and ensemble creation in preparation for future careers in the performing arts.
- Strengthen connections between the professional dance and physical theatre sector and higher education by fostering artistic exchange, shared learning, and meaningful collaboration between independent artists, Dance Base, PASS Edinburgh College, and emerging performers.
- Create new opportunities for public engagement with contemporary performance through the development and presentation of original ensemble work created during the residency period.

Who is it for

The PASS Choreographer role is for artists who:

- Have a proven track record of working with both dancers in training and performers with limited dance experience
- See their work as based in physical theatre or choreographic practices and have a strong movement background
- Have an existing choreographic idea that they would like to explore with the group
- Are based in Edinburgh & the Lothians region
- Are available for all the dates listed above

Dance Base and Edinburgh College recognise that there are significant barriers to working in the dance sector and that these challenges are experienced more acutely by those facing marginalisation and deep-rooted systemic injustice.

This includes people with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 across age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation alongside those with chronic illness, neurodiversity, parental/caring responsibilities, experience of the immigration system and people from working-class and criminal-class backgrounds.

We are committed to increasing the diversity of artists working in our sector and especially welcome applications from those who identify as having characteristics currently under-represented in dance in Scotland.

What the choreographer placement will provide

- A total fee of **£2,425.50** from PASS. This will cover:
 - One taster workshop with students to help dancers select who they want to work with on Thursday 19 November, time tbc (2x 1hr 45mins) at Granton Campus.
 - Two research and development days at Edinburgh College Granton Campus Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 December, 10:00 – 16:00.
 - One creation week at Dance Base, Edinburgh, from Monday 4 – Friday 8 January 2027, (10:00 - 17:00 approx.), with a sharing on the Friday afternoon.
 - Two days of rehearsal in an equipped theatre space at the Traverse Theatre:
 - Tech rehearsal with technical support on Saturday 9 January 2027. *Anticipated schedule (tbc):*
 - Group 1: get in 10:00, tech rehearsal 11:00 – 14:00
 - Group 2: get in 14:00 tech rehearsal 15:00 – 18:00
 - Dress rehearsal and 30 minute performance Sunday 10 January. *Anticipated schedule (tbc):*
 - Dress rehearsals from 12:00, performance planned for 18:00. Please note 30 minute duration is a course stipulation).
 - The fee from PASS reflects that this is not a commission but rather a space to re-stage/re-scale an existing creative idea with a large group of performers. We therefore anticipate that all preparation work will be covered by the two research and development days.
- Support from PASS education team and Dance Base Artistic Director Tony Mills, if required. PASS will be able to help source props and costumes from their stores, if desired.
- Technical support to stage the work in a theatre space with a basic lighting design at the Traverse Theatre. Please note the tech rehearsal for each performance will be approximately three hours in total so this will be limited to approximately five lighting states.
- Dance Base will support the project with an additional access budget to support any access requirements as needed, including childcare.

Please note that the funding for this project does not come with an additional travel or accommodation budget so is only suitable for artists predominantly based in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

How to Apply

- To apply applicants are invited to complete and submit the following items:

[An Online Application Form](https://forms.gle/73VxrA1bao3iskX76) <https://forms.gle/73VxrA1bao3iskX76>

The online application can be completed in a written or video/audio recording format. The form details word count and recording duration. Visual quality, camera and editing skills will not be taken into consideration for filmed submissions, and spelling and grammar will not form part of the consideration of written applications.

The form will ask:

- What is the creative idea you would like to explore during the project and what will your artistic process be (600 words / 6 minutes)
- What past experience do you have of working with dancers in training and those with limited dance experience, and how would you approach working with a mixed group in this context (600 words / 6 minutes)

Please also provide a link to your professional CV, and at least one video link to documentation of your choreographic practice

You will receive a copy of your application once you have submitted and edits can be made up until the deadline.

Selection criteria and decision making

The selection panel will be comprised of Tony Mills (Artistic Director, Dance Base), Eleanor Morrison (PASS, Edinburgh College) and a member of the Dance Base Artist Advisory Group.

The panel will base their decision on a range of factors including:

- The applicants previous experience of working with dancers in training and performers with limited dance experience
- The quality and originality of idea presented
- Whether the scope of the proposal is realistic and manageable in the time frame and resources available
- The diversity of voices represented through the opportunity
- The distribution of opportunities across the sector

Any questions or need some help with your application?

We will host an application surgery on Zoom on **Monday 5 October 11:00 – 11:45**. Marlous Lang-Peterse will be able to answer questions about the application process and give general advice. You can register for this surgery here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/dn1k9espSMuy-J28hqZA1w>

Additionally, as part of our support for artists our team provides 1-1 Producing Surgeries to help you with any additional questions you have about the opportunity and your application. This could range from chatting through your idea to proofreading your application, particularly for those for whom English is a second language. **Please note that this is best done well in advance of the submission deadline.**

Please contact us if you require this information in an alternative format or have access requirements we need to meet to support you in making an application.

Please contact our Head of Professional Programme, Marlous Lang-Peterse at Marlous.lang-peterse@dancebase.co.uk.

Submission Deadlines

The call out for this opportunity is now open and will close on **Tuesday 20 October 2026, 11:00**.

Applicants will be informed of the panel members after the closing date, so that conflicts of interest can be declared and mitigated.

Timeline

Application drop-in surgery Zoom | Monday 5 October 11:00 – 11:45

Zoom registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/dn1k9espSMuy-J28hqZA1w>

Deadline | Tuesday 20 October, 11:00

Panel meet | Monday 26 October

Artists informed | Week commencing 3 November

Selection workshop | Thursday 19 November

Two research & development days | Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 December

Creation week | Monday 4 – Friday 8 January 2026

Sharing | Friday 8 January 2026

Tech rehearsal | Saturday 9 January 2026

Performance day | Sunday 10 January 2026
