

## School Information

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## **Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) – Professional Stage Dance Training at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)**

The desire and the talent to communicate with the body are the most important prerequisites for learning the language of dance. While professional dance training demands utmost specialisation and peak performance on the one hand, it also needs to be as broad-based as possible on the other. Besides superior technical skills in classical dance, modern and contemporary dance skills are just as indispensable to success. Paired with concentration, passion and enthusiasm, such an integrated skills base provides the best foundation for developing a dancer's personality, so as to succeed both on and off the stage.

Since September 2009, we are the only school of ballet in Switzerland to offer professional stage dance training leading to a state-recognised qualification. Upon completing our three-year programme, students graduate from Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) with a Federal Certificate of Proficiency (EFZ).

### **Methods and Techniques**

Our training in classical-academic dance is based on the Waganowa and Tarassow methods. One principal task we set ourselves at Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) is to further develop existing methodological insights and the related modern perspective on classical dance. In modern dance, students are first taught the Graham and Limón techniques, before learning various styles of contemporary dance.

## **Courses and Admissions**

### **Preparatory Classes (from the age of 8)**

#### Admission Process:

For children interested in attending our preparatory classes, we offer a taster day in March, followed by an (optional) aptitude test. Application forms and details are posted on our website at [www.tanzakademie.ch](http://www.tanzakademie.ch) from January.

Upon prior arrangement, we also offer individual auditions during regular classes.

#### Requirements:

- Physical aptitude for dance
- Enthusiasm for movement and music
- Readiness for concentrated work
- Regular attendance of classes

#### Course objectives:

- Develop the child's awareness of its body and sense of space
- Promote a sense of rhythm, movement, and dynamic strength
- Introduce students to classical dance

To enter preparatory training classes at Zurich Dance Academy (taZ), prospective students must pass an aptitude test and an entrance examination.

### **Foundation Studies (Duration: 3 years)**

#### Admission Process:

For those seeking to join our Foundation Studies, we offer taster days in March, followed by an (optional) aptitude test. Application forms and details are posted on our website at [www.tanzakademie.ch](http://www.tanzakademie.ch) from January.

In individual cases and upon prior arrangement, we also offer individual auditions during regular classes and in the appropriate age group. Candidates will be screened for their dance aptitude and previous training. Admission decisions are taken by the school directors upon consultation with the responsible faculty members.

#### Requirements:

- Physical aptitude for classical dance
- Readiness for concentrated work
- Compulsory attendance of classes

#### Course objectives:

- To learn the fundamentals of professional-level classical dance
- To promote creativity

Students making appropriate progress will be offered the opportunity to transfer to our Professional Stage Dance Programme (leading to a state-recognised qualification).

Promising students will be encouraged to transfer to our Advanced Studies, a full-time professional training programme.

Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) maintains a cooperative educational arrangement with the Lernstudio Zürich and the K&S Schule Neumünster where students will attend their secondary school classes. Subject to the goodwill of the taZ school management, students may also attend a state primary or secondary school

K&S Schule: [www.kunst-und-sportschule-zuerich.ch](http://www.kunst-und-sportschule-zuerich.ch)  
Lernstudio: [www.lernstudio.ch](http://www.lernstudio.ch)

**Advanced Studies: Professional Stage Dance Training in Classical Dance (EFZ),  
(Duration: 3 years)**

Admission Process:

Candidates aged 15 to 16 should submit their applications at the latest by 31 March. No lateral entries into our professional training programme are possible.

Requirements:

- Physical aptitude for classical dance
- Professional-level skills in classical dance
- Fundamentals of modern dance
- Advanced knowledge of German and English

Course objectives:

- Professional dance training leading to a Federal Certificate of Proficiency (EFZ)

Please send applications for our Professional Stage Dance Programme to:

Tanz Akademie Zürich  
Sandra Caseri  
Baslerstrasse 30  
8048 Zürich

Applications must include the following documents:

- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Two to three full-body photographs featuring ballet poses
- A DVD with exercises (bar, centre, jumps and if possible a variation. For girls: pointe exercises and variations).

Students may also choose to attend advanced classes as guest students for one to two years. Coursework includes the entire range of dance lessons attended by any specific class as well as ballet-relevant theory classes. Guest students will receive confirmation of attendance. Please note that such attestation does not correspond to a Federal Certificate of Proficiency (EFZ)

**Ballett Check:**

Candidates seeking admission to our Foundation and Advanced Studies will undergo a full medical check-up at the SportClinic Zürich. Results will be sent to the parents and the school management.

Please note that the directors of Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) must be kept informed of student health without exception so that training can be adjusted to the medical recommendations issued by SportClinic Zürich. For this purpose, we require a doctor's release form, signed by either the parents or student concerned (see enclosure).

## Course Structure

All classes are available for boys and girls:

**Preparatory Classes (optional): from the age of 8, ongoing, entrance upon request**  
Three sessions per week.

Subjects: Classical Dance, Expression

**Foundation Studies: from approximately the age of 11**

This is a three-year course. Classes run from Monday to Friday afternoons and on Saturday mornings.

Subjects: Classical Dance, Pointe Work, Character Dance, Expression, Body Conditioning, Graham-Technique.

**Advanced Studies: from approximately the age of 15**

The Professional Stage Dance Programme EFZ is a full-time course and lasts three to four years.

Practical subjects: Classical Dance, Pointe Work, Variations, Classical Repertoire, Classical Pas de deux, Body Conditioning, Modern Graham-Technique, Modern Limón-Technique, Improvisation, Contemporary Dance, Rehearsals.

Theory classes: Anatomy, Nutrition, Dance History, Theory and History of Music, German and/or English, General Studies and Career Studies.

## **Trial Period / Examinations / Federal Certificate of Proficiency**

### **Trial Period**

There is a one-year trial period for students entering Foundation Studies at Zurich Dance Academy (taZ).

The trial period for students attending the Professional Stage Dance Programme (EFZ) is three months. The school management reserves the right to extend this trial period by a further three months.

### **Examinations**

Semester examinations are held on a regular basis for students attending Foundation and Advanced Studies. The school directors may at their discretion schedule extraordinary examinations in case of illness, accident, or other circumstances preventing students from attending scheduled examinations.

Successful students are eligible to progress to the next level of studies. The school directors reserve the right to issue special recommendations or to take appropriate measures for students who fail their examinations or who are absent for a longer period of time. Students awarded insufficient grades may be excluded from classes.

### **Federal Certificate of Proficiency**

Upon passing their written and practical examinations, students completing the Professional Stage Dance Programme (EFZ) will be awarded a Federal Certificate of Proficiency. To be eligible for this state-recognised qualification, candidates must have attended the entire three-year course.

## Tuition Fees

**Preparatory Classes:** CHF 750.00 per semester

**Foundation Studies:** CHF 1000.00 per semester

**Advanced Studies:** Free of charge

### **Guest Students:**

Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) reserves the right to charge guest students tuition fees.

Tuition fees are invoiced at the beginning of each semester for a full sixth-month period.

## School Regulations

### Participation in Events

All students are required to participate in school activities and events.

### Film Recordings and Photo Shoots

Upon entering classes at Zurich Dance Academy (taZ), students and their parents (or legal guardians, if applicable) give their consent to appear in film recordings and photo shoots for advertising and public relations purposes. All rights shall remain the property of Zurich Dance Academy (taZ).

### Absences / Dispensations

Students enrolled at Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) are required to strictly adhere to the school timetable – with the exception of special provisions. Students must ensure timely attendance and preparation. They are also required to attend all compulsory school activities and events. In case of illness or other circumstances preventing attendance, students (or their parents or legal guardians) are obliged to notify the School Office either in writing or by telephone. Students unable to attend classes for health reasons must provide a medical certificate **from the third day** of their absence.

Applications for dispensation must be submitted in writing to the school directors **at the latest three weeks in advance**. Each request will be considered on its own merits.

### Discontinuation of Studies / Deregistration

Students wishing to withdraw from Preparatory Classes must do so at the latest by 30 June for the autumn semester and by 31 December for the spring semester.

Students wishing to withdraw from Foundation and Advanced Studies must do so at the latest by 31 March for the autumn semester and by 30 September for the spring semester. No refunds will be granted for a semester-in-progress.

### Medical Supervision

All medical supervision for students enrolled at Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) is provided by specialist physicians based at SportClinic Zurich. Students requiring medical assistance are advised to contact the SportClinic Zurich directly. In case of serious illnesses, the school management reserves the right to request students to remain at home until a full recovery has been made. Health problems may also involve a student's exclusion from school. Decisions on exclusions are entirely at the discretion of the school directors.

### Insurance / Liability

Students are obliged to take out adequate accident and third-party insurance policies. Students are fully accountable for gross negligence and wilful misconduct, and shall be obliged to bear the cost of any damages caused.

### Information Events / Consultation Hours / Open Day

We run regular information events for the parents of students attending our Foundation Studies (at least once a year). Parents and students seeking a personal consultation with the school directors are requested to make the necessary arrangements by telephone. We host one open day a year.

### Languages of Instruction

German and English

### Training Wear

Students are required to comply with the training wear guidelines issued by the school directors and teaching faculty.

**Badges and Locker Keys**

Students may obtain a badge and locker key from the School Office for a deposit of CHF 80.00. These items must be returned unasked upon graduation or exclusion from Zurich Dance Academy (taZ). Any loss or theft of badges and keys must be reported without delay to the School Office or Facility Management. Badge and key users are liable for any loss and the costs of replacing lost items

**Boarding School**

Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) offers accommodation in its own boarding school. Professional full-time staff provides around-the-clock residential care. For details, please contact either the School Office or the Boarding School manager. Our boarding school is located on the edge of Zurich, within easy reach from the city centre by public transport. Should our boarding school be fully booked, we shall be happy to suggest contacts for external accommodation.

## Holidays / Public Holidays and Training Weeks

Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) follows the official school holiday calendar of the City of Zurich.

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### **Autumn, Sports, and Spring Holidays:**

Classes run as scheduled on Saturdays prior to the beginning of the school holidays.

### **Christmas and Summer Holidays:**

No classes on Saturdays before the beginning of the Christmas and summer holidays.

### **Knabenschiessen and Sechseläuten (Zurich Public Holidays):**

Advanced Studies classes will run as scheduled. Foundation Studies classes will not run in the afternoon.

### **Easter:**

Classes run as scheduled on Maundy Thursday. No classes from Good Friday to Easter Monday.

### **1 May (Labour Day):**

Classes run as scheduled on 1 May.

### **Ascension Day:**

No classes on Ascension Thursday. Classes will run as scheduled on Friday and Saturday after Ascension Thursday.

### **Whitsun:**

No classes from Whit Saturday to Whit Monday.

### **Training Weeks:**

Training weeks are held in the second week of the autumn, sports, and spring holidays. Attendance is compulsory for all advanced students. Students attending Foundation Studies and Preparatory Classes will have these weeks off.

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In exceptional cases, rehearsals may be scheduled on public holidays. Parents and students will receive advance notice of such special arrangements.

**Addresses:****Correspondence Address:**

Tanz Akademie Zürich  
Baslerstrasse 30  
CH-8048 Zürich  
Telefon +41 43 446 50 30, Fax +41 43 446 55 19  
E-Mail: [info.tanz@zhdk.ch](mailto:info.tanz@zhdk.ch)  
[www.tanzakademie.ch](http://www.tanzakademie.ch)

**Studios, Theory Rooms, Offices:**

Tanz Akademie Zürich  
Media Campus  
Entrance at Freihofstrasse 7  
8048 Zürich

**Boarding School:**

Tanz Akademie Zürich  
Karl-Stauffer-Strasse 26  
8008 Zürich  
Telefon +41 43 446 50 36  
E-Mail: [taz.internat@zhdk.ch](mailto:taz.internat@zhdk.ch)

**SportClinic:**

SportClinic Zürich  
Tödistrasse 49  
8002 Zürich  
Telefon +41 44 209 60 30 (Arzt)  
Telefon +41 44 209 60 40 (Physiotherapie)  
E-Mail: [medizin@sportclinic.ch](mailto:medizin@sportclinic.ch)  
[www.sportclinic.ch](http://www.sportclinic.ch)

**Compulsory Education (Secondary School):**

Lernstudio Zürich  
Frau Luzia Fust, School Principal  
Freiestrasse 122  
8032 Zürich  
Telefon +41 44 382 90 15  
[www.lernstudio.ch](http://www.lernstudio.ch)

Or:

K&S Zürich  
Schulhaus Neumünster  
Herr René Scheidegger, School Principal  
Neumünsterstrasse 25  
8008 Zürich  
Tel. +41 44 381 52 16  
[www.kunst-und-sportschule-zuerich.ch](http://www.kunst-und-sportschule-zuerich.ch)

## House Rules

**Order:** Rooms are cleaned on a regular basis. However, Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) cannot have rooms cleaned between lessons. All users are therefore kindly requested to leave studios in a tidy and clean state. Teaching staff are kindly requested to remind students to observe the general house rules.

**Notice Board:** All important information is posted on the school notice board. Students must check the notice board every day for timetable changes, school events, etc.

**Eating and drinking** are allowed only in the designated areas (entry foyer, recreation and common rooms). Drinking is allowed in the studios; students must use the designated rubbish bins and plastic bottle containers (PET) to dispose of all empty bottles and beverage containers.

**Shoes:** Students are not allowed to enter studios in outdoor shoes.

**Windows:** Please ensure that all studio windows are kept shut when playing music during lessons. This rule applies throughout, but especially during rest periods (in accordance with environmental health and noise emission rules; neighbours). Windows in Studio 5 may be tilted only for ventilation purposes; all blinds in Studio 5 must remain lowered (heightened risk of theft). Studio 5 may also be ventilated by turning on the air conditioning. The ventilation controller for Studios 5 and 6 is located in the boys' changing room. The ventilation controller for Studio 4 is located on the 2nd floor next to the ladder. The last person to leave a studio must shut all the windows and switch off the air conditioning.

**Lights:** Lights will switch off automatically in all studios, with the exception of Studio 1. The last person to leave Studio 1 must switch off all lights manually. This rule must be observed especially in the evenings and at the weekends.

**School property:** Students must treat all school property with **care**. Students are not allowed to handle any technical equipment or demonstration materials (including visual aids) unless otherwise instructed by a member of staff. Climbing around on ballet rails and playing the piano is strictly forbidden. Willfully soiling or damaging other people's property and throwing any items out of school windows is strictly prohibited and will be sanctioned. Students failing to respect these rules will be required to bear the costs of all repairs or special cleaning required in case of damage.

The use of **music and video equipment** is strictly reserved to teaching staff. The last person to leave a studio must switch off all devices. Listening to one's own music is prohibited.

Students must **comply with all instructions** given by teaching staff or any other member of staff.

Any **lost property and valuables** must be gathered up after each lesson and deposited in the designated containers. Valuables should be handed in to the taZ School Office.

**Mobile telephones** are a nuisance in classrooms and studios. They should remain switched off at all times during lessons.

**Gymnastic mats** should be stacked in the designated storage space after each use.

**Computers:** There are two computers for student use in Theory Room 1. All users are requested to treat these machines with care. No settings may be changed. Please contact

taZ Facility Management staff for questions concerning computer use. Students are strictly forbidden from interrupting theory classes to play private computer games.

Several **automatic Food & Beverage Vendors** are available. All users are requested to treat these machines with care.

Students may deposit personal items in the designated **changing room lockers**. Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) declines any liability in case of theft or the loss of any valuables. Badges and keys to cabinets can be obtained from taZ Facility Management staff. These must be returned unasked on leaving the taZ. Any loss or theft of badges and keys must be reported without delay to the taZ School Office or a member of the taZ Facility Management staff. Badge and key users are liable for any loss and the costs of replacing lost items.

**“Cool & Clean“:** Students are strictly forbidden from consuming tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, and drugs.

**Using lifts:** Students may use the passenger lift to reach studios located on other floors. Children must be accompanied by adults. Students are strictly forbidden from using the goods lift.

**Bicycles, mopeds, and scooters** must be parked and securely locked in the designated areas. The taZ declines any liability for vehicles parked on its premises.

**Neighbours:** Students must respect all other tenants and neighbours on the school premises. They must behave quietly in the foyer and on all corridors. This rule applies especially to all students attending preparatory and basic-level classes.

**Damages:** Students must report any damage immediately to the taZ School Office.

**Insurance:** Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) declines any liability. Students and studio users are responsible for making all necessary insurance arrangements (third-party liability, theft, accident etc.)

**Enthebung der ärztlichen Schweigepflicht**

Die Tanz Akademie Zürich ist befugt, Erkundigungen über meinen Gesundheitszustand bei Ärzten und Pflegepersonal einzuholen.

Name .....

Vorname .....

Ort .....

Datum .....

Unterschrift .....

Bei minderjährigen Schülern Unterschrift der/des Erziehungsberechtigten:

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**Doctor's Release Form:**

The undersigned hereby authorises Zurich Dance Academy (taZ) to make enquiries concerning

Name .....

First name .....

Place .....

Date .....

Signature .....

For students under the age of 18, the signature of the legal guardian is required:

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