

national centre for circus arts

Health and Safety Statement for the BA (Hons) degree in Circus Arts

The National Centre for Circus Arts accepts its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the management of Health and Safety at work regulations 1999. We ensure reasonably practicable measure to protect the safety of employees, users, performers and others affected by the activities at the National Centre.

As an employer in a unique environment, we must also extend the definition of 'reasonably practicable' to protect and promote the interests of the artistic performer. The appeal of the circus performer often lies in the illusion of risk, and while training safety protocols may be reduced or absent for rehearsals or performance, this will only be done with the consent of the teacher(s) involved and the when it has been agreed by all that the performer is capable of working safely at that level.

This process shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis, shall follow any agreed guidelines regarding progressive training and/or the development of the performer, and through the undertaking of a specific risk assessment for the performance in question. Risk assessments for specific circus disciplines are also undertaken annually. Each performer must be aware of this safety issue and accept the risks associated with their individual performance.

All students are expected to comply with health and safety regulations and to apply the knowledge gained from health and safety topics covered in their course modules, together with their awareness of safe practice, which is inherent in their professional circus training.

Students who fail to accept or act upon reasonable standards set to ensure their own health and safety and that of others and to maintain the safety of the working environment may be subject to disciplinary action.

Last reviewed: Feb 2026

Next Review: Feb 2029