

Dawn Edgar - on becoming an Assistant Teacher Award Approved Tutor



Hi! I'm Dawn, and I own the Dumfries School of Dance in Scotland teaching approximately 200 students, with an excellent team around me of three other teachers and two front of house administrators. I teach all the RAD syllabus grades and pride myself on working towards annual examinations while my other teachers offer Tap, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Contemporary and Acrobatic Arts. One of the highlights of our school is our annual show.

What interested me about the Assistant Teacher Award was that I already work alongside brilliant young and enthusiastic dance teaching assistants who give up their time every week to help my school flourish, so I thought, "Why not allow them to follow a programme which recognises their achievements?" To gain the RAD's Assistant Teacher Award would be a great feather in their caps and help in writing about transferable skills they have gained for college, university and employment applications and hopefully in the future, provide the motivation to apply for RAD programmes, which will lead them towards becoming qualified dance teachers.



As an Approved Tutor, the annual training and standardisation I will receive from the Faculty of Education will help me promote positivity in my mentoring, and give me guidance on doing the best job I can for my young dance teaching assistants. The saying “every day’s a school day” comes to mind as I want to instil my passion for all things dance and use my expertise that I have gained over the past 30 years since graduating from, what was then, the College of the Royal Academy of Dance. As an experienced dance teacher, I believe passionately that working with younger dance teachers helps us to grow and inspire each other personally and professionally. It is a privilege to learn, develop and help in the training/mentoring of assistant teachers and I hope they will keep me young and my teaching fresh and modern.

At the initial training and induction for Approved Tutors, it was so wonderful to meet teachers from across the world. The sessions were brilliant and helped me prepare for my role as an Approved Tutor. My favourite part of the day was when we were split into groups to discuss the Award’s competencies and how we would mentor our Assistant Teachers. It was great sharing my experiences and ideas with other Approved Tutors. It is fabulous that we have ‘Moodle’ to keep in touch with all the other Approved Tutors, and I am already looking forward to the next training day! I feel very privileged to be a part of this wonderful new Assistant Teacher Award, and look forward to start delivering it to my students.