

RETRAINING  
PROGRAM  
FOR DANCERS  
THE NETHERLANDS

OMSCHOLING  
DANCERS  
NEDERLAND

[www.omscholingdancers.nl](http://www.omscholingdancers.nl)

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This brochure gives an idea of the options offered by the Omscholingsregeling to dancers whose career is taking another direction.

The exact rules are set out in regulations that can be found on

**[www.omscholingdancers.nl](http://www.omscholingdancers.nl)**

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Working as a dancer is more than just a job. It is an intensive, demanding career, which requires passion and dedication. Dancers are so dedicated that they forget that dancing is their job – it is their life.

The downside of a dancing career is that its intensive and demanding character means that it doesn't last long. At a certain point, dancers have to end their performing career and choose a new profession. This happens at an age when a career is just starting to take off in other professions.

Omscholing Dancers Nederland (ODN) provides support for dancers who want to make a new start in society.

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## Who can apply to the Omscholingsregeling?

All professional dancers are welcome at the Omscholingsregeling. ODN makes no distinction between the various types of dance or dancers. It is an independent organisation that provides customised advice and counselling and works on a confidential basis.

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### Principles

There are so many dancers and so many wishes. The situation of each dancer is unique. Some are happy with a short, practice oriented course, some want to take on a long-term course of study and others want to start up their own business and combine it with a course or several courses. In assessing someone's plans for the future, ODN provides customised solutions and takes account of their individual ambitions, possibilities and circumstances.

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### Possibilities

ODN provides support for dancers through giving counselling and careers advice and a financial contribution towards realising the new choice of a profession. Careers advice is free of charge and is offered to all professional dancers during their career. Whether their career has just started or is nearing its end every dancer can drop by for a good talk about their perspectives.

Financial support is subject to certain conditions and there are two options:

- A Contribution towards Study Costs
- A Study and Income Allowance

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### Contribution towards Study Costs (TS)

The Contribution towards Study Costs is a refund of the costs of a training or a course. Every dancer who would like to start a course or study during their dancing career can submit a request to do so.

In order to be eligible for a refund of study costs, a dancer must have paid a minimum of 60 premiums. The maximum amount that can be refunded in this situation is €10,000. Study costs include the cost of books, registration fees, materials and travel expenses, etc.

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### Study and Income Allowance (TSI)

The Study and Income Allowance is intended for dancers who are putting a definitive stop to their dancing career. It comprises a refund of the study costs and, if necessary, a contribution to maintenance costs.

A dancer who has worked for at least ten years and has paid a minimum of 96 premiums is eligible for a contribution towards the costs of living and a refund of study costs. Sometimes it is possible to receive financial support when setting up a business.

The amount of the allowance depends on what a dancer needs to fulfil their plans. The total amount for which a dancer may be eligible is determined on the basis of the total number of premiums that have been paid and the average salary that has been earned during their dancing career.

A contribution to the costs of maintenance can take various forms. Most dancers who end their career apply for Unemployment Benefit (WW) through the Omscholingsregeling. That makes it possible to study while receiving an unemployment benefit. In case that the unemployment benefit amounts to less than 70% of the last-earned salary as a dancer, the Omscholingsregeling can provide a supplementary benefit up to 70% of that last-earned income. The duration of a WW benefit depends on someone's employment history. For more information, please check: [www.uwv.nl](http://www.uwv.nl).

If the unemployment benefit comes to an end and a dancer is still studying, it is possible to apply for a substitute benefit for the remaining length of the study. This substitute payment

depends on the number of study hours and amounts to a maximum of 70% of the last-earned salary as a dancer.

Another option for a contribution to the costs of maintenance is an income guarantee. This can be given, for instance, if someone starts up their own business and the income in the starting-up phase is unpredictable. The guarantee of a certain income is then a real support.

However, other combinations are also possible. It is advisable to contact ODN in good time.

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## Eligibility Criteria

In order to apply for financial support from the Omscholingsregeling, a dancer must have paid a minimum number of premiums and have danced for a certain number of years. Only the years in which premium was paid count towards this! The number of dancing years does not have to be a consecutive period.

Dancers working for companies that take part in the retraining program are paying contributions. These companies deduct 1% of the dancer's gross

monthly salary, as well as paying a contribution of 3% themselves. The total of these contributions (4%) is called a premium.

Dancers who do not work for a company that automatically pays premiums can join the Omscholingsregeling on a voluntary basis. When a dancer meets certain conditions this is also possible from abroad. They must pay the total premium amount of four per cent to the program every month.



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## Particularities

- It is possible for dancers working on short-term contracts to pay extra premiums per year. The number can be doubled. Someone on a three-month contract can voluntarily pay extra premiums for a further three months. Someone working for five months can pay ten premiums. Of course, it is not possible to pay more than twelve premiums a year. This makes it easier to meet the eligibility criteria and increases the financial options.
- If a dancer has no ideas or concrete plans as yet about a second career, there is the option of postponing an application. The time to do so is limited to twelve months.
- Different criteria for eligibility for the Omscholingsregeling apply to dancers who have to end their active career on medical grounds. They are advised to contact the Omscholingsregeling.

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## Procedures

To make an appointment please contact us.

To apply for refunds from the Omscholingsregeling it is necessary to fill in an application form. This form can be found on our website or requested from the office of ODN.

The application will be dealt with by the board and in general the board meets five times a year. The exact dates of the meetings and the closing dates for submitting applications are given on the website.

## The program's options briefly outlined:

For dancers who have paid at least 60 premiums:

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- Refund of the study costs to a maximum amount of €10.000

For dancers who have paid at least 96 premiums within ten years:

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- Refund of study costs
- Refund of costs involved in setting up their own business
- Substitute payment, if required for a plan



## Omscholing Dansers Nederland

For additional information, obtaining forms and submitting an application: [www.omscholingdansers.nl](http://www.omscholingdansers.nl)

For customized advice and appointments:  
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