



## THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC.

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### The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Teaching Certificate

The training of teachers has been an important feature of the work of the RSCDS since its inception in 1923. The ability of RSCDS teachers to pass on their skills to others is one of the main factors in ensuring the future the Society and Scottish country dancing.

Training for the Teaching Certificate can give teachers greater skill and confidence in their teaching at club. On completion of the Teaching Certificate, teachers can also teach a wider range and higher level of classes. All the teachers at branch Summer Schools, most region weekend schools and other formal region classes are holders of the Teaching Certificate.

The RSCDS Teaching Certificate comprises five units, split into two parts.

**Part 1** contains three units:

**Unit 1:** Written Paper (Based on RSCDS Manual)

**Unit 2:** Practical Dancing (Assessment of the dancing of steps, formations and 12 dances nominated by the RSCDS)

**Unit 3:** Teaching Level 1 (Teaching steps and formations)

Candidates are able to take all three of these units in one year or a selection of them. There are rules regarding the timeframe when units need to be completed once the process has started. These are given in the syllabus and can also be discussed with the New Zealand Branch Examination Course Tutor. Contact details are listed at the end of this information.

After successful completion of Part 1, candidates gain teaching experience over a minimum of two years before completing Part 2.

**Part 2** contains two units:

**Unit 4:** The assessment of a Record of Teaching Practice. The preparation for this is undertaken in the candidate's local area in conjunction with a mentor of their choice

**Unit 5:** Teaching Level 2 (Teaching steps, formations and a dance)

#### What is the syllabus?

The [syllabus](#) for each unit describes what candidates need to know or demonstrate in order to pass, conditions of entry for the examination, a description of the examination and exam process.

#### How is the training undertaken for the exams?

The RSCDS specifies the type of training course that must be undertaken for each exam. For some exams completion of the specified training is one of the conditions of entry.

It is important, however, that candidates also undertake additional individual preparation in their local area. Suggestions for this will be given to candidates when they apply to sit a unit.

It is particularly important that candidates note that for the dancing examination, Unit 2, "the candidate must be proficient in the steps and formations before starting the course". This is one of the conditions of entry. The training course for this unit focuses more on the specified dances. Whilst critique of individual dancing is given, the candidate is expected to dance to a high standard before starting the course.

## **The N Z Branch offers the following training courses for the RSCDS Teachers Certificate:**

### **Unit 1**

The Unit 1 course is an on-line correspondence course. Candidates will need to read and understand the RSCDS Manual as the course is comprised of online quizzes and exam questions based on the Manual. Candidates will be able to discuss topics and questions with other candidates and the tutor. The RSCDS Unit 1 exam is sat in October each year on day set by the RSCDS.

### **Unit 2**

Training for Unit 2 will be partly undertaken locally under the guidance of a mentor. Training will be completed at a New Zealand Branch Summer School.

### **Unit 4**

Unit 4 is done locally under the guidance of a mentor. On completion, the Record of Teaching Practice is submitted to the RSCDS for assessment and feedback.

### **Unit 3 and Unit 5**

Courses for these units are held at a New Zealand Branch Summer School.

### **How do I apply for the course?**

The Unit 1 course is run by the branch each year. Courses and examinations for Units 2,3 and 5 are held at a New Zealand Branch Summer School on a three year cycle. Check the NZ Branch [Training and Examination Schedule](#) to see when there will be a course for the Unit you wish to undertake then:

1. Complete an [Examination Training Registration Form](#) stating which units you wish to take and send this to the Examination Course Tutor who will confirm acceptance of the form and acceptance into the training course.
2. Register for Summer School directly with the Summer School organiser. The Summer School application form is available on the NZ Branch website.
3. Once the training courses have been confirmed, you will be asked to complete the RSCDS application form for examination and will need to pay the fees as specified in the syllabus. This is payable in New Zealand dollars to the New Zealand Branch. The conversion rate will be advised at the time of payment. The training courses will be confirmed once the minimum number of candidates have registered.
4. Registrations are required by **30 June**.

### **Teacher Preparation Course**

You will find information on the NZ Branch website about the [Teacher Preparation](#) course which you may want to consider before starting the Teaching Certificate programme.

### **Who can I contact for more advice?**

**All matters:** The NZ Branch Education and Training Co-ordinator

**Unit 1:** The Course Tutor, [Unit1@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:Unit1@dancescottish.org.nz)

**Units 2,3,4,5:** The Examination Course Tutor, [exam@dancescottish.org](mailto:exam@dancescottish.org).