

OPEN CALL: BUDS

DEADLINE: 28 FEBRUARY 2025

AUDITION: 11 APRIL 2025

DURATION: 15 SEPTEMBER 2025 – 15 MARCH 2026

BUDS is an advanced training programme for 6 professional dancers and choreographers of all styles who have already independently realised projects but are still at the beginning of their career. BUDS is aimed at people who want to critically question their dance practice, get to know new styles and network with each other as well as with the production house Kampnagel and the choreographic centre K3. During BUDS, various dance techniques, concepts and theories will be taught – both by the participants themselves in a peer-to-peer principle and by experienced choreographers. BUDS is a 6-month part-time programme that can be completed alongside other commitments, e.g. work or family commitments. The participants have access to a rehearsal stage at Kampnagel for the entire duration of the programme. On the rehearsal stage, participants will also be invited to self-organised showings or discussion formats at least twice a month. The final presentation will take place as part of the FOKUS TANZ festival in February 2026 at Kampnagel, the BUDS ends on 15.03.2026

BUDS takes place in cooperation with representatives of the independent scene, Kampnagel and K3 | Tanzplan Hamburg. In addition to technical dance units and training sessions, the timetable also includes courses in writing funding applications, (critical) dramaturgy, lighting and sound design and awareness/access training. Performances are also watched together and impulses from international dancers and choreographers are given in artist talks. BUDS is held in German and English.

What does the BUDS cover? What are the general conditions?

BUDS begins on 15.09.2025, runs part-time over 6 months and ends on 15.03.2026. The presentation of the final production will take place in February 2026 as part of FOKUS TANZ at Kampnagel. The six months of the BUDS are divided into a first part between September and December, in which the focus will be on teaching and sharing dance techniques and methods. The compulsory core working hours between September and December are planned from 10 am to 2 pm, which can be supplemented by additional artistic activities in the evening. The second part between January and February will focus on rehearsals for the final presentations (core working hours may vary here), followed by the joint final phase from the end of February to mid-March. Continuous participation in all workshops, seminars, rehearsals and presentations is compulsory and free of charge and there are no training costs for you. All participants receive a grant of 500 euros gross per month for a period of 6 months.

Who can apply?

- Dancers and choreographers who are at the beginning of their career but have already realised at least 2 independent projects (funded projects at a theatre, community projects, founding an association & other initiatives)
- Self-taught dancers with several years of dance/movement practice or graduates of a dance training programme
- You must be present in Hamburg for the entire duration of BUDS

How can I apply?

Please apply in writing with a PDF and a video (see below for explanations).
Please answer the following questions in the PDF on a maximum of 2 pages:

- Who are you? What have you done so far?
- What is your motivation to take part in BUDS?
- Is there a project or a specific topic that you would like to pursue during BUDS?
- Where would you like to be in 5 years?

Please attach a current video link to the PDF in which you dance a short improvisation, freestyle or choreography at a location of your choice (maximum 2 minutes).

You can also add further video references of projects that you would like to show us. However, these do not replace the 2-minute dance video.

An application in the form of a voice message or a video (instead of the written PDF) is possible if the Access-Need exists.

Please send us your application by 28.02.2025

Our e-mail address is: buds@kampnagel.de

An Infozoom on the application will take place on 12.02.2025 at 5 pm (CEST). Registration via buds@kampnagel.de until 09.02.2025.

The auditions will take place on 11 April 2025 at Kampnagel. You will receive more information about the auditions when you are invited. The selection will be made by the artistic coordinators, Kampnagel and K3 by the end of April.

Contact for questions?

Send your questions in writing or as an audio file to buds@kampnagel.de
Please also have a look at the frequently asked questions FAQ on the following pages.

Representing the cultural diversity of our society in a place like Kampnagel and K3 is important to us. We welcome applications from people who have experienced discrimination, e.g. Black Germans, people of colour, Sinti*zze and Rom*nja, Jewish, Muslim and/or refugees, as well as people with a family history of migration or flight. We promote professional equality for people of all genders and the compatibility of family and career. Severely disabled persons and persons of equal status will be given preferential consideration if they are equally suitable and qualified.

We look forward to receiving your application!

FAQ – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I apply if I am not from a contemporary dance background?

Absolutely! In fact, we are very happy to receive your application. At BUDS, we are working on expanding the boundaries of genres – together with the future, diverse, professional dance generation.

Can I also apply if I am deaf, disabled or chronically ill? Can costs for Access be covered?

We are aware that very few dance schools in Germany train dancers with disabilities. We would also like to counteract this barrier on the way to professional training with BUDS. Unfortunately, the rehearsal room is only accessible via stairs and there is no barrier-free toilet. There are pillars in the room that can get in the way when dancing freely. There are only very limited opportunities to retreat, which cannot be made available on an ongoing basis. We are looking to provide an access budget, but this is not guaranteed. If you have any further questions about rooms and access, please contact us.

What do you mean by dancers and choreographers? What do you mean by ‘at the beginning of their career’?

BUDS is aimed at people who have already gained experience as dancers/choreographers and have made their first independent projects, such as a funded production at a theatre, the organisation and realisation of a community event, the founding of an association or other initiatives in the artistic field, etc. BUDS is aimed at professional artists who are motivated to take the next step in their young career and to network and further their education.

Can BUDS pay for travelling expenses and accommodation?

Unfortunately, we cannot pay for travel costs and accommodation.

What does the timetable look like? How many hours a day do the lessons last?

We plan a core working time from Monday to Friday for workshops, lessons, peer-to-peer time and other input from around 10am to 2pm. Attendance is compulsory. Working hours may vary before the final presentation in January and February 2026. As a rehearsal stage will be available at Kampnagel for the entire period, individual work can be self-organised and flexible.

What does the final presentation look like?

All participants will create their own short final performance (10-20min, tbd). The final works will be shown and documented on one evening at Kampnagel. Everyone is given the same starting conditions for rehearsals, technology and mentoring. The work can be performed either alone or as a group. The BUDS team and Kampnagel/K3 do not make any artistic decisions regarding the final works, and are only involved as coaches, advisors or mentors.

What do you mean by ‘bottom up’?

For us, bottom up means supporting the participants in their self-determination and self-organisation. The BUDS should encourage them to acquire knowledge, share their own knowledge and expand and utilise individual skills (in contrast to the top-down principle, which is based on the power and authority of management/superiors). The aim of BUDS is to be a bridge between (auto-didactic) training and a career in the free performing arts and to train participants to become individual artists.

What does ‘peer to peer’ mean?

In contrast to traditional training and teaching models, in which experienced people pass on their knowledge to the participants, the peer-to-peer principle emphasises the knowledge of all participants. This knowledge can and should be shared. Peer-to-peer methods rely on the diverse knowledge of various groups; for example, we trust that all participants are already experts in their fields/styles.