

Statement of Purpose

600/6818/8 – Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Music

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is equivalent in size to one GCSE. It is a Technical Award designed for pre-16 students working at level 2 who want to include a study of the music industry in their broader Key Stage 4 curriculum. Students will engage with music as an industry and will develop a range of relevant practical and technical skills.

This qualification provides students with the opportunity to explore music product development and events management, and to apply their knowledge in new and practical industry-related contexts.

What will the student study as part of this qualification?

The qualification consists of two mandatory units which provide the fundamental knowledge skills and understanding required for the music sector. An additional two units are then chosen from a choice of five optional units.

Mandatory units

- Unit 1 'The Music Industry' provides an overview of the music industry. It covers the fundamental knowledge and understanding of music industry organisations and the roles and responsibilities of those that work within them, and at the variety of musical activity.
- Unit 2 'Managing a Music Product' requires students to plan, develop and deliver a music product, by undertaking basic business planning activities, research and marketing as well as the promotion and running of an event or launch of a product.

Optional units

The five internally assessed optional units are:

- Unit 3 'Introducing Live Sound'
- Unit 4 'Introducing Music Composition'
- Unit 5 'Introducing Music Performance'
- Unit 6 'Introducing Music Recording'
- Unit 7 'Introducing Music Sequencing'

Optional units enable students to develop an appreciation of two of the music industry's sub-sectors, creating or performing music and the management of musical events. Students learn the fundamentals behind the creative, technical or performance elements of the music industry, extending and challenging their innovative abilities, knowledge or musicality.

The mandatory units embed the skills required to manage the production of an event or musical product. The optional units complement this learning. For example, a student could plan the production of a festival performance in Unit 2: Managing a Music Product, safely set up and use live sound equipment in Unit 3: Introducing Live Sound and produce an audio recording of the performance in Unit 6: Introducing Music Recording.

What knowledge and skills will the student develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

Students will develop broad knowledge and skills relating to the music industry, outlined above. This will enhance their knowledge of enterprise, applying that knowledge in the context of the music industry, and delivering a music product. The sector-specific knowledge and skills will support progression to a level 3 academic, applied general or technical level music or music technology qualification or an apprenticeship.

Students will also develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication (including analytical writing skills), research and project management (providing an opportunity for them to demonstrate reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem and not simply stopping at the first hurdle), working in a team, taking and giving direction, negotiation and delegation. All of these are crucially required in the music industry and in level 3 or higher music qualifications, as well as being valuable in support of progression to any level 3 course.

Which subjects will complement this course?

This qualification is designed to be taken as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4. It will go particularly well alongside GCSEs in EBacc subjects (including computer science), non-core GCSEs (e.g. drama, media) and/or other Technical Awards (e.g. BTEC IT) to provide both curriculum breadth and the skills needed to make informed choices about study post-16.

This qualification is part of a larger suite of BTEC Music qualifications

Pearson BTEC Level 1/ Level 2 First Award in Music provides a general introduction to the sector and enables students to acquire, develop and apply the skills and knowledge required for further academic and/or vocational study.

Pearson also offers a BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Certificate in Music. This is equivalent in size to two GCSEs. It incorporates the two mandatory units in the Award and, through the study of additional mandatory and optional specialist units, provides a programme for students who wish to develop broader knowledge and understanding of the sector at this level.

(Pearson also offers two larger qualifications in the suite at this level, the Extended Certificate and the Diploma, but they are designed for use by post-16 students and would make up the main part of their programme of study.)

The Award and Certificate both support progression to *post-16* qualifications at level 2 and 3 for students who wish to continue with their study of music and to take up a career in the sector.