



Pearson

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 603/0211/2	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Music Technology (540 GLH)

Overview
<p>The music technology sector</p> <p>The UK leads the world in song writing, composing, production, recordings and live performances; one of every seven albums sold across the world is by a British artist. The music industry helps drive economic growth by creating jobs and opportunities for young people. The 2015 UK music survey, <i>Measuring Music</i>, identified that the music industry supported more than 117,000 full-time jobs in the UK, of which 69,300 were professional musicians. The music industry contributed £4.1 billion to the UK economy, outpacing the overall growth of the economy by 2.5 per cent. In 2016, live music alone created £3.7 billion in direct and indirect income for the UK (UK Music, <i>Wish You Were Here</i>, Annual Report June 2016).</p> <p>Who is this qualification for?</p> <p>The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Music Technology is intended to be a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels. It is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure, if achieved alongside level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). It has been designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the study of music technology.</p> <p>The qualification is aimed at students looking to progress to specialist employment in this sector. Its size means that it also provides opportunities for those whose aspirations would be best supported by taking complementary qualifications alongside the Foundation Diploma.</p> <p>No prior study of the sector is needed, but students should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.</p>

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to confirm that the content is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. In addition, higher education representatives have been involved to ensure that the content also supports progression to relevant specialist degree courses in higher education.

Students will study four mandatory units, which cover the following topics and meet the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the role of the junior music technician:

- studio recording techniques
- music and sound for media
- music technology in context
- music technology enterprise opportunities.

In addition, students choose three option units, which have been designed to support progression to specific occupational areas, allowing students to build on areas of particular interest, and to the range of sector-related courses in higher education. They cover content areas such as:

- creative synthesis and sampling
- remixing and reworking
- working and developing as a production team
- music investigation
- music technology and musicianship.

All students taking this qualification will be required to have a significant amount of meaningful engagement with sector employers as part of their course, for example, through work experience in the sector, and through attending lectures from visiting employers.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at which level?

The main purpose of this qualification is to prepare students for working in the music technology sector, particular in standard occupational classification, sub-group 34:

- 3415 – musicians
- 3416 – arts officers, producers and directors
- 3417 – photographers, audio visual and broadcasting equipment operators.

This qualification enables students to develop a core of knowledge around the music technology industry, and the use of studio recording equipment, sound creation and manipulation. It provides the breadth and practical application of music technology learning

that will prepare students for a number of job roles in the sector, and will lead to further opportunities when taken alongside additional complementary qualifications.

Students with this qualification could progress to the following specialist job areas within the role of junior music technician:

- music assistant in the media
- assistant sound technician: broadcasting/TV/film
- digital intern in a music content organisation.

Students who have taken additional level 3 qualifications, such as a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Engineering, could progress to a wider range of roles, such as:

- mixing/mastering engineer
- creative sound composer/designer
- music producer
- post-production specialist.

Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Music Technology** provides a route for progression into the second year of the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music Technology or to another Foundation Diploma in a complementary sector.

This qualification, when studied with other level 3 qualifications such as AS/A levels in maths or physics, or a second BTEC Foundation Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production or Engineering, also prepares students for further training or study in music technology, either through technical training within the sector or via higher education courses. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements to many relevant courses, for example:

- Music Technology BSc (Hons), which could lead to job roles such as a sound engineer or a mixing/mastering engineer.
- Creative Music Technologies BMus (Hons), which could lead to job roles such as a creative sound composer or designer.
- Music Technology (Music Production) BSC (Hons), which could lead to job roles such as a post-production specialists or a music producer.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific higher education providers.

Why do this size of qualification

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should the student choose this one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Music Technology** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels and is for students looking for a one-year course of study full-time, or alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements the qualification, over a two year full-time study programme.

The suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Music Technology**, which is equivalent in size to 0.5 A level. Its size means there is time in a study programme to take several additional qualifications. It will support progression to a wide range of higher education courses, depending on the other subjects taken.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Technology**, which is equivalent in size to one A level. It is for students interested in progressing to a higher education course that will be supported by a qualification in music technology. Its size means there is time in a study programme to take additional complementary qualifications to support a specialist progression route.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Music Technology**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A levels and is for students wanting to progress into work in the music technology sector. Its size means there is time in a study programme to take an additional complementary qualification to support a specialist progression route.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music Technology**, which is the largest qualification in the suite. It is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and is for students who know they want to work in the music technology sector.

For more detail of the other qualifications listed here, and the different progression opportunities they particularly support, please refer to their statements of purpose.

This qualification is supported by the following organisations

Professional body

JAMES (Joint Media Education Support)

Higher Education

Kingston University

Leeds Beckett University

University of Chichester

University of Huddersfield