

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7350/6	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Music Technology (720 GLH)

Overview

The music technology sector

The UK leads the world in song writing, composing, production, recordings and live performances. The music industry helps drive economic growth by creating jobs and opportunities for young people. In 2013, the music industry supported more than 111,000 full-time jobs, with exports of £2.2 billion. The core music industry grew from 2012 to 2013 by 9 per cent and contributed £3.8 billion to gross domestic product (GDP), including £102 million from producers and recording studios (UK Music, Measuring Music, Annual Report September 2014).

Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Music Technology (720 GLH) is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It has been designed as part of a two-year programme, normally in conjunction with one or more qualifications at level 3. It could be a component of the Tech Bacc measure, along with level 3 mathematics and an extended project.

The qualification is aimed at students looking to progress to specialist employment in this sector, and whose aspirations would be best supported by taking a complementary qualification alongside the Diploma.

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, but they might not necessarily have studied music previously.

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 has been consulted to ensure that the qualification also supports progression to higher education.

The content of the qualification meets the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the role of the music technician.

Everyone taking this qualification studies five mandatory units:

- Studio Recording Techniques
- Music Technology in Context
- DAW Production
- Live Sound
- Music and Sound for Media

Students choose a further five option units, which have been designed to support progression to a range of specialist areas in music technology, these include:

- creative synthesis and sampling
- DJ performance techniques
- music technology in performance
- mixing and mastering techniques
- working and developing as a production team.

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.

Through each unit, students will also develop a range of transferable skills, including communication, independent learning, teamwork, presentation skills, critical thinking, research, analysis and self-evaluation, as well as professional behaviours. These skills and behaviours are specifically sought by employers as an essential complement to technical knowledge and skills, and so will provide an advantage when students progress to the workplace.

All units will be mapped to current national occupational standards and professional body qualifications, wherever relevant

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, particularly in standard occupational classification 3, 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 recording and technical equipment. It provides the breadth and practical application of music technology learning that will prepare students for a number of job roles in the sector or surrounding sector, either in its own right or when taken alongside an additional complementary qualification.

Students with this qualification could progress to the following job roles:

- studio assistant
- assistant sound designer
- trainee sound engineer.

Students who have taken additional level 3 qualifications could progress to a wider range of roles, such as:

- digital performance artist, if taken with a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts
- broadcasting agent, music publishing or arts administration, if taken alongside an A level or Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business.
- technical engineer, if taken alongside an A level or Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering.

Through each unit, students will also develop a range of transferable skills, including communication, independent learning, teamwork, analysis and evaluation. These skills and behaviours are specifically sought by employers as an essential complement to technical knowledge and skills, and so will provide an advantage when students progress to the workplace.

All units will be mapped to current national occupational standards and professional body qualifications, wherever relevant.

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

Since a significant proportion of jobs in the sector are achieved through graduate entry, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Music Technology also prepares students for further study. When taken alongside an additional level 3 qualification as part of a two-year programme of learning, it will enable students to progress to a range of degree programmes related to the music technology sector.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. For example, if taken alongside:

- an A Level in Music, it could lead to a BMus (Hons) degree in Creative Music Technologies
- a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering, it could lead to a BSc (Hons) degree in Music Technology (Music Production)
- A Levels in Maths, Physics or Computing, it could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Digital Broadcast Technology.

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

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 Diploma in Music Technology** is equivalent in size to 2 A levels and is for those students wanting to progress directly 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 suite also includes the following qualification:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music Technology** is equivalent in size to 3 A levels, and focuses study entirely within the music technology sector. Normally, it would be the only qualification in the study programme. It is for students who know they want to work in this sector, or progress to a sector-related degree.

For more detail of this qualification, and the different progression opportunities it particularly supports, please refer to its statement of purpose.

This qualification is supported by the following organisations

Professional and trade bodies

Joint Audio Media Education Support (JAMES)

Employers

Integral Learning

Medusa Management

Roland

Higher education

University of Huddersfield

University of Chichester

Kingston University

Southampton Solent University

University of the West of England