

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7351/8	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music Technology (1080 GLH)

Overview
<p><i>The music technology sector</i></p> <p>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 £2.2bn. The core music industry grew in 2013 by 9% from the previous year and contributed £3.8bn to GDP, including £102m from producers and recording studios (UK Music, Measuring Music, Annual Report September 2014).</p> <p><i>Who is this qualification for?</i></p> <p>The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music Technology is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 3 A levels, which would be the main focus of learning in a typical two-year 16–19 study programme. This size qualification is particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing directly to a career in music technology. It is also appropriate for those wishing to progress to higher education to specialise in a related field.</p> <p>Students wishing to take this qualification will already have completed a level 2 programme of learning, including GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, but they might not necessarily have studied music previously.</p> <p><i>What does the qualification cover?</i></p> <p>The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to confirm that it is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. In addition, higher education has been consulted to ensure that it also supports progression to higher education.</p> <p>The qualification provides an in-depth, comprehensive exploration and experience of the range of areas covered by the sector. It enables students to develop a significant common core of knowledge and skills relating to the structure of the music technology industry and the use of recording and technical equipment.</p> <p>Everyone taking this qualification studies seven mandatory units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studio Recording Techniques • Music Technology Project • Music Technology in Context • DAW Production • Music Technology Enterprise Opportunities • Live Sound • Music and Sound for Media

Students choose a further seven 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
- mixing and mastering techniques
- studio design and acoustics
- commercial music production
- designing a music technology product
- 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 the Music Technology Enterprise Opportunities unit, through work experience, 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.

Successful completion of this qualification will prepare students for a range of roles in the music industry. The broad nature of the industry provides multiple employment entry-points for students who have completed this qualification. Trainees/new employees are normally expected to rotate across a number of industry areas during their training/induction; the range of optional units supports this, as well as allowing for employment opportunities based on the breadth of the industry.

Typical job roles include:

- engineer (sound/audio/technical)
- mixing/mastering engineer

- DJ
- creative sound composer/designer
- post-production specialist
- music producer
- studio designer.

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

The qualification 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 is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as meeting 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 specialist or a music producer.

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 Extended Diploma in Music Technology** is the largest qualification in the suite of BTEC Nationals in Music Technology and is equivalent in size to 3 A levels. It is for those students who know they want to work in the music technology sector.

The suite also includes the following qualification:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Music Technology** is equivalent in size to 2 A levels and is for 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.

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