

Statement of Purpose

500/7717/X – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music (QCF)

The music sector has a value of almost £4 billion in revenue and employs more than 100,000 people in the UK. The UK is one of only three countries in the world which can lay claim to being a net exporter of music in the world. The sector also contributes significantly to other sectors, including tourism due to almost 8 million visits by music tourists made annually, and the sector continues to be a driver of growth in the digital technology sector.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music (1080 GLH) is part of a larger suite of BTEC National qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the music sector at the appropriate level. This can follow either directly after achieving the qualification, or via the stepping stone of Higher Education (HE) in university or college. By studying a BTEC National, learners develop knowledge, understanding and skills required by the sector, including essential employability skills, and apply them in real work contexts. Learners can operate at a standard that can reasonably be expected of an 18 year old in full-time education.

Within this suite, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music (QCF) (1080 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to three A levels, which has been designed as a full two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a substantial common core of knowledge, including aural perception skills, major music project, music and society, the sound and music industry, and allowing them the maximum opportunity to study in more depth a full range of option areas of their choice, such as:

- classical music in practice
- modern music in practice
- music theory and harmony
- contemporary song-writing
- special subject investigation.

It is mainly designed for those learners who know in which sector they would like to specialise. Learners can achieve breadth of study through the large core and extensive options, rather than by studying complementary qualifications alongside it. The qualification allows learners to develop the wide-ranging knowledge, understanding and skills required for direct progression into a broad range of roles within the industry they are going to be a part of. It also meets the needs of those who wish to progress first to further study.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council for the music sector, Creative and Cultural Skills. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music (QCF). This means it is a highly respected route for those who wish to move into employment in the sector, either directly or following further study. A significant proportion of recruitment in this sector is at graduate level.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music (QCF) also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector and beyond, fully meeting entry requirements for most courses. UCAS has reviewed the qualification to assess its value for access to higher education, and has allocated UCAS points. See details published on the Pearson website here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/results/Pages/BTEC-equivalence.aspx>

In addition, a number of universities have individually confirmed that this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music fulfils their entry requirements, either on its own or when achieved alongside other qualifications.