

Purpose Statement

| Name of regulated qualification | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| QAN: 601/7091/8 | Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music (1080 GLH) |

Overview

The music sector

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 in the UK, with exports of £2.2bn. There are many different career paths for those wishing to work in the music sector. These include performance, events management, artist management, media law, copyright, music publishing and music marketing to name but a few, with the opportunity to work both in the UK and internationally.

Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 students wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, probably in the music sector. The qualification is wide ranging and equivalent in size to 3 A levels, and it has been designed as a full two-year programme. Students wishing to take this BTEC will have successfully completed a level 2 programme of learning with GCSEs, and potentially some vocational qualifications.

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted, in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate and consistent with current practice for students planning to enter employment directly in the music sector.

In addition to the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin study of the music sector, this BTEC gives students the experience of the breadth and depth of the sector that will prepare them for further study or training. This includes the opportunity for students to choose several topics from a selection of options reflecting the progression pathways within music.

Everyone taking this qualification will study seven mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- music performance and composition
- professional practice in the music industry
- music skills development
- creating a music product
- critical listening.

As the core content is equivalent in size to 2 A levels, HE representatives have confirmed that it is appropriate to allow students to choose their six option units from a wide range, so that they can explore their own choice of areas for further study. The option units have been designed to support progression to music courses in HE, and to link with relevant occupational areas. They cover content areas such as:

- arranging and composing

- music promotion
- live music events
- vocal development
- music for sound and moving image
- contemporary song writing techniques
- contemporary art music in practice.

What could this qualification lead to?

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

In addition to the music sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean the student develops the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers. For example, they will learn how to develop independently their skills of evaluation, reflection and justification through the music investigation unit, and personal practice and reflection through the various musicianship units. Critical listening is a synoptic unit in which students identify and apply the concepts and theories developed in previous units, so demonstrating understanding in an integrated way.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses, for example:

- BSc (Hons) in Music Composition
- BA (Hons) in Music
- BA (Hons) in Music Performance, Production and Composition
- BMus (Hons) in Music (Performance)
- BA (Hons) Creative Musicianship
- BMus (Hons) Contemporary Music Performance.

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

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

This qualification is designed primarily to support progression to employment after further study at university. However, it also supports students progressing directly to employment, as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give successful students an advantage in applying for a range of entry level roles, or 'school leaver' industry training programmes and higher apprenticeships in areas such as music business, and live events and promotion.

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** is the largest qualification in the suite of BTEC Nationals in Music and is equivalent in size to 3 A Levels. It is best suited to students who want to focus on this sector in order to progress to higher education, probably to study music.

The suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music** is equivalent in size to one A Level. It is for students interested in learning about the sector alongside other fields of

study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of HE courses, but not necessarily in music.

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

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma** in Music is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It typically makes up two thirds of a 16–19 study programme, and is taken alongside other qualifications. The additional qualification(s) studied allow students either to give breadth to their study by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give their studies more focus by choosing a complementary subject.

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

Higher education

University of Huddersfield

University of Chichester

Kingston University

Southampton Solent University

University of the West of England