

Statement of Purpose

600/6609/X Level 3 Diploma for Music Practitioners

The Level 3 Diploma for Music Practitioners provides a Popular Music Qualification that will equip learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding for entry to employment in the music industry or progression to Higher Education. The qualification aims to offer practical structured learning with the flexibility to specialise in different areas of the music industry, including composition, performance, business and technology.

The qualification is primarily technical in nature, since it equips students wishing to gain a qualification in the vocational area of performing arts with the skills to develop realistic employment opportunities in the music industry or to progress to Higher Education. It focuses upon the recognition of achievement through practical musical skills, business skills and music technology skills, as well as offering flexibility of unit combination. The content of the pathways offered within this qualification is ideally suited to learners wishing to gain a qualification in this vocational area, as outlined in the qualification specification (Section B).

Progression & Employment

Learners completing this qualification will have the skills to progress straight into the music industry. It is divided into specific pathways offering the opportunity to undertake specialised learning that can be accurately matched to specific career sectors in the music industry. However the array of optional units within the qualification also allows learners to cover a range of aspects of the music industry whichever pathway they select. Employment opportunity in the music industry is centred on self-employment or small-team operations rather than contracted employment with large companies and organisations. This qualification contains specific units related to career options in the industry and can lead to employment opportunities as outlined below.

Examples of job roles that those achieving Level 3 Diploma are equipped to undertake include:

A&R roles, Booking Agent, Sound Engineer, Producer, Performing Artist, Entrepreneur, PR, Songwriter, Label Employee, Journalist, Lighting Technician, Marketing Executive, Promoter, Artist Manager, Retailer, Stage Manager.

Alternatively, they can progress to Higher Education courses such as popular music, music technology and music business degrees. They can also progress to Level 4 courses such as the Artist Development Programme offered at Access to Music and other centres. Learners will also gain the skills to progress straight to the music industry.

Age Range and Modes of Assessment

The qualification was developed primarily for 16-19 year olds so the content and assessment methods (i.e. internal assessment using a wide variety of assessment methodologies) are entirely appropriate for this age group.

Learners apply a range of skills, knowledge and understanding and work independently in preparation for employment/further study. Tutors are encouraged to find the mode of assessment which best suits the learner in terms of their strengths, ensuring that evidence demonstrates achievement of the learning outcomes. Evidence may include (but is not limited to) recorded/videoed performances, recorded compositions, assignments, reports, business plans, rehearsal logs, diagrams/graphs, illustrations/screenshots and video evidence. Assessor teams grade each unit (using the detailed grading criteria), each grade carries a numerical value. The points accrued from each unit are amalgamated and the final score determines the overall grade achieved.

Learner outcomes are moderated by a group of moderators appointed by Rockscool who will look at a sample of grading judgements and evidence, and ensure comparability over time and that appropriate methods of assessment are used.

Content

Those on the performing pathway can develop their skills and understanding of musicianship, repertoire, rehearsal, promotion, and live/recorded performance. Those on the composing pathway can develop their skills and understanding of composing and arranging skills, musicianship, repertoire, collaboration, promotion, historical and contextual issues and realisation of repertoire. Those on the technology pathway can develop their skills and understanding of acoustics, inputs and levels, recording and sequencing skills, mixing and production, manipulation, historical and contextual issues and realisation of their repertoire. Those on the business pathway can develop their skills and understanding of the UK music industry, wider creative industries, business planning, project management, freelance practice, artist and event management, revenue, contracts, licensing, historical and contextual issues and marketing & promotion.

Further information regarding the qualification's content can be found in the following sections of the qualification specification:

Section B.1 (A summary of content for each pathway)

Section B.3 (Qualification Structure Tables listing units available in each pathway)

Detailed content information about each unit (including aims/purpose, skills and knowledge developed, suggested delivery and activity ideas, assessment methods, recommended evidence and grading criteria), can be found in the Syllabus Pack, which can be downloaded from the Rockscool website at:

<http://www.rockschool.co.uk/qualifications/vocationalqualifications/musicpractitioner/>

(see folder entitled 'Level 3 Units and Grading Criteria')

Assessment Methodology

Information regarding assessment methodology can be found in the following sections of the qualification specification:

Section C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4

Section C.5

Detailed grading criteria can also be found in the unit specifications within the Syllabus Pack (mentioned above).