

Statement of Purpose

601/7693/3 RSL Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners

Overview

The Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners provides a music industry qualification that will equip learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding for entry to employment in the music industry or progression to further study at a higher level. The qualification aims to offer practical structured learning with the flexibility to specialise in different disciplines directly relevant to employment within the music industry, including composition, performance, business and technology.

The flexibility and range of unit choice are directly applicable to the Music Industry where portfolio careers are the norm and those seeking employment often require knowledge and skills covering a breadth of relevant disciplines. "The UK's music sector is dynamic, innovative and fast-moving, and the range of job roles available follows suit. Many of those working in the sector take on more than one role at a time, or adjust the role to suit the needs of their business." (Creative and Cultural Skills, The Music Blueprint – An Analysis of the skills needs of the music sector in the UK, 2011)

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for learners aged 16+ who wish to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding for entry to employment in the music industry. There are no specific requirements for entry, though learners are likely to hold related qualifications at Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2 or have related musical experience.

What does the qualification cover?

This qualification focuses upon the recognition of achievement through practical musical skills, production skills and business skills as well as offering flexibility of unit combination. The learner can follow one of four pathways – Performing, Composing, Technology or Business.

Those on the **performing pathway** undertake two externally assessed core units ('Rehearsal & Performance' and 'Composing Collaboration & Recorded Performance'), which require learners to work to briefs, set with input from industry practitioners (employers) specific to the area of specialism. In addition they take an internally assessed core unit (Planning a Career in Music) together with a number of optional units that can develop their skills and understanding of musicianship, repertoire, rehearsal, promotion, and live/recorded performance.

Those on the **composing pathway** undertake two externally assessed core units ('Composing & Sequencing' and 'Composing Solo, Remixing & Production'), which require learners to work to briefs, set with input from industry practitioners (employers) specific to the area of specialism. In addition they take an internally assessed core unit (Planning a Career in Music) together with a number of optional units that 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** undertake two externally assessed core units ('Live Sound Recording & Sound Reinforcement' and 'Studio Sound Recording and Mixing'), which require learners to work to briefs, set with input from industry practitioners (employers) specific to the area of specialism. In addition they take an internally assessed core unit (Planning a Career in Music) together with a number of optional units that 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** undertake two externally assessed core units ('Music Promotion & Event Management' and 'Setting up a Music Business & Music Marketing'), which require learners to work to briefs, set with input from industry practitioners (employers) specific to the area of specialism. In addition they take an internally assessed core unit (Planning a Career in Music) together with a number of optional units that 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.

Learners apply a range of skills, knowledge and understanding and work independently in preparation for employment/further study. Tutors 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.

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 can be found in the Syllabus Pack, which can be downloaded from the RSL website at: <http://www.rslawards.com/vocational/syllabus> (see folder entitled 'Level 3 2016 Tech Levels')

What could this qualification lead to?

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 choice of optional units within the qualification also allows learners to cover a range of aspects of the music industry whichever pathway they select, reflecting the nature of employment within the music industry which often involves individuals undertaking multiple roles as part of a 'portfolio career', many in a freelance capacity.

Occupational areas this qualification can lead on to include:

- Songwriter/Recording Artist/ Performer & Session Musician
- Promotion/Management/Artist Support Services
- Producer & Engineer
- Live Music Production, Promotion & Organisation

Further Learning

Learners can progress to higher education courses such as popular music, music technology and music business degrees. There are more than 70 courses in higher education institutions (HEIs) offering degrees in popular music or music technology, enabling students to develop further the knowledge and skills obtained from the RSL Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners, preparing them for work in the music industry. This qualification carries up to 420 UCAS points, and is recognised for entry to HEIs.

Why should a student take this qualification instead of another in the RSL suite of qualifications for Music Practitioners?

The Extended Diploma is one of a suite of qualifications ranging from Level 1 to Level 3 and ranging in size from Certificates to Diplomas. The reason for the different sizes is to meet the varying needs of learners. The Extended Diploma is designed for learners wishing to take a substantial two-year qualification such as this, which would prepare them to progress directly into areas of employment such as those listed above, or to obtain sufficient UCAS points for entry to a higher education course. However, other qualifications in the suite suit learners hoping to develop their skills in a more specific area with a smaller qualification that can be completed in a smaller time frame.

Who supports this qualification?

i) Industry

The following professional bodies and employers support this qualification as being fit for purpose, in that it will equip learners with the knowledge and skills relevant to various sectors of the music industry:

MIA (Music Industries Association)
MPA (Music Publishers Association)
Coda Music Agency
ATC Management
Supajam
Music Sales
DJ Tech Direct
Leftfoot Venues

Letters of support can be found at:

<https://www.rslawards.com/vocational/letters-of-support>

Further Information

This is intended as a **Tech Level** qualification, which is a rigorous advanced (level 3) technical qualification, on a par with A levels and recognised by employers. Tech Levels are for post-16 students wishing to specialise in a specific industry, occupation or occupational group. They equip a student with specialist knowledge and skills, enabling entry to employment or progression to a related higher education course.