

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

BTEC Extended Diploma

Version 6/11

Subject Area	Qualification	Level	Awarding Body
Music Technology	BTEC Extended Diploma	Level 3	Edexcel

Course Summary

This programme is designed primarily for young people aged 16+ but mature students are also welcome to join the course. The programme covers a variety of areas relating to Music Production, Performance and Live Music Events and will help to prepare learners for the world of work through taking part in workshops and scenarios that compare closely to the real situations they would experience in the Music industry.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification is achieved through completing 18 units through a combination of practical and theoretical project work, with a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade awarded for each unit.

Entry Requirements

Learners will need 5 GCSE's at grade C or above to be accepted onto the course. English, Maths and Music are desirable but individual circumstances will be considered based on other Music Technology experience. Mature students will be assessed on an individual basis and will not necessarily need the formal qualifications.

How much time will I spend on the course?

The Extended Diploma is a 2 year full time programme and learners will take part in a tutor lead timetable for a minimum of 3 days a week. The other 2 days are to complete self directed activities such as individual project work, group work, booking studios for recording sessions and band practice sessions, and preparing for live music events. Occasionally learners will be expected to attend extra sessions outside normal timetables including evenings, for special projects, live events, day trips and residential trips abroad.

How is the course taught?

A variety of activities are undertaken on the program to give learners a true vocational experience of the Music Industry such as being Producer and Sound Engineer in recording sessions, Computer Music Editor and Composer for Film, TV and Computer Games, being Live Sound Engineer, Stage Manager and Technician for Live Concerts and Festivals, and rehearsing as a Band or Musician for concerts and recording sessions. Some contextual studies are also involved and take the form of tutor-led workshops and seminars.

Where is the Course taught?

Music Technology is based on the Bromsgrove Campus of NEW College in the newly built recording studios, the Artrix Arts Centre and the college Apple Mac Suites.

Who is this course suitable for?

Anyone with an interest in the production of Music, Live Music Events and Music Performance, with a view to pursuing a career within one of the many industry areas or to continue into Higher Education either on the Degree Programme at NEW College or at University.

What materials do I have to provide?

Learners will be provided with portable memory drives, headphones, hearing protection and basic writing materials during the induction programme as part of the studio fee requested at the start of the course (approximately £50). Further items may need to be supplied by the learner such as any other writing materials and replacements for any lost items given in induction. Learners will also be required to bring their own instruments with them for studio and rehearsal sessions. Drum kits, pianos and instrument backline will be supplied.

Are there any additional costs or specialist equipment required?

There will be a cost of £50 at the start of the programme to cover an induction trip plus any other trips and speciality workshops undertaken throughout the academic year. A residential trip aboard during April-May time for 4days/3 nights will be an additional cost and an encouraged optional part of the programme.

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What are the mandatory modules or units?

Mandatory units include:

- Music Production Techniques,
- Sequencing Systems and Techniques,
- The Sound and Music Industry,
- Listening Skills for Music Technologists,
- Planning and Marketing a Music Product.

Other units also include:

- Live Sound Techniques,
- Music Events Management,
- Working as Musical Ensemble,
- Pop Music in Practice plus many more.

The basis of the unit structure aims to prepare learners for the various roles and areas of the Music Industry by allowing them to try out the various scenarios and skills involved in the vocational environment.

What can I do after this course?

Learners achieving the full qualification may progress onto Higher Education courses such as the Degree in Music Production at NEW College or go on to University. Learners may also find work in their particular area of interest such as Technical Stage jobs or administration in live music venues and events, technical or administration jobs in Recording Studios and Record companies, with music equipment retailers, or as musicians and composers in a variety of situations such as function bands, freelance composition and music instrument tuition. The list of possibilities can be endless and depends very much on the learners preferred specialism and ambition to seek out opportunities.

What careers would this course be useful for?

Sound Engineers, Producers, Various Live Sound and Stage roles, Various Event Planning roles, Music Equipment Retail roles, Composers, Performers and Musicians, those wishing to continue to University courses and pursue careers requiring higher education such as teachers, lecturers, Business Management of Music Industry sectors, plus many more which learners will discover as part of the course.

How do I apply / join this course?

Learners need to complete an application form. You can find a form in the back of the Prospectus or you can call our Information Centre on (01527) 570020 and they will send you a form in the post. Alternatively you can complete the form online by visiting the College's website www.ne-worcs.ac.uk.

Once we have the form we will invite learners to attend an interview with a member of the team. At this meeting learners will be required to complete an audition to demonstrate their musical ability or discuss any previous experience within Music Technology to justify their suitability for the course, particularly if learners didn't achieve a Music GCSE. We will then either offer learners a place on the course or give an alternative option or a way to gain the required entry on to the course in the future.

Can I get any financial support with the costs of study?

From September 2011, young people who need financial support to help them stay in Education or training after 16 can apply to NEW College for the new 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Those most in need will be eligible for a bursary of £1200 a year. This includes young people in care, care leavers, young people receiving income support and disabled young people receiving both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. Young people eligible for income support will include some teenage parents, young people estranged from their families, and those whose parents have died.

Other students facing financial difficulties may also be able to claim a bursary to help with costs of transport, food, equipment or other course-related costs.