



# Programme Specification

## MUS-HNC-2022: Music (Technology)

---

Pearson Higher National Certificate awarded by Pearson (FHEQ Level 4)

Programme Status: Draft | Version: 1

## Introduction

This programme specification provides a summary of the main features of the Music (Technology) programme and includes the learning outcomes that you as a student are expected to have achieved on successful completion of the programme.

Further detailed information related to this programme and the College can be found in the following resources:

- Programme Handbook
- B&FC Admissions Policy
- Work based and placement learning handbook (for foundation degrees)
- Student guide to assessment and feedback

## Key Programme Information

<b>Programme Code</b>	MUS-HNC-2022
<b>Programme Title</b>	Music (Technology)
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Blackpool and The Fylde College
<b>Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) Accreditation</b>	None
<b>UCAS Code</b>	
<b>Language of Study</b>	English
<b>Version</b>	1
<b>Approval Status</b>	Draft
<b>Approval Date</b>	Not yet approved
<b>JACS Code</b>	Other: Other
<b>Programme Leader</b>	Thomas Durkan

## Programme Awards

<b>Award</b>	<b>Award Type</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Awarding Body</b>
Pearson Higher National Certificate	Higher National Certificate	Level 4	Pearson

## Programme Overview

The HNC Music (Technology) provides an exciting opportunity to study a vibrant, industry relevant curriculum that develops multi-skilled practitioners that are aligned to a range of careers in the industry. The curriculum allows freedom to experiment across a variety of industry focused and creative specialisms and will equip you with the necessary knowledge and skills to enter the industry, develop a freelance profile, set up a small business or progress to further studies. The programmes incorporate technical training and practical elements that will be highly desirable in a range of roles in the live music production industry and broader events and entertainment sectors that do not necessarily require a full degree. This provides you with a platform to begin or enhance your career within the music industry.

This highly technical programme aims to provide graduates with the skills to access industry jobs in areas such as sound designer, music technician, sound engineer, monitor engineer, music producer, studio engineer, studio technician, theatre technician, rigger and events promotion. You will benefit from the expertise of the curriculum team who are actively engaged with the local industry which will provide real world work-based experiences and training. You will have access to multiple rehearsal and performance studios as well as recording studios and

editing/mixing suites, think spaces and a stunning public gallery. Our studios are equipped with the latest industry standard technology and are beautifully presented, providing a spacious and inspiring environment in which to work. Class sizes are normally small and again this is very beneficial, affording the opportunity for a tailored personal learning situation and plenty of help and support.

Our university campus is well-positioned to the local music, entertainment and events sectors which are incredibly diverse, there are many small and large scale music industry based businesses and events. These vary from sectors such as; recording studios; Rock Hard Studios, The Unit, Berlin Studios to venues; Bootleg Social, The Grand, Winter Gardens, Pleasure Beach Arena and events; Blackpool Rocks, The Switch On, Lytham Festival and finally event management; KRS, SSL, Cuffe & Taylor, Piper Music Management. Furthermore, there are a number of successful events and hospitality businesses including wedding venues, hotels and pubs that create additional employment opportunities and encourage entrepreneurship in the local area.

## **Admission Criteria**

For applicants who have recently been in education, the entry profile will typically include one of the following:

A minimum of 48 UCAS points in an appropriate discipline

2x A Levels in appropriate discipline

Level 3 Extended Diploma or Merit from Level 3 Diploma in an appropriate discipline

Level 3 Access to Higher Education Diploma or Foundation Diploma Art & Design

An international equivalent of the above qualifications

Grade 4/C in both GCSE Maths and English, or L2 equivalent

Applicants who do not meet these criteria but can demonstrate relevant work/life skills or knowledge will also be considered on an individual basis. Blackpool School of Arts welcomes applications from mature students without formal qualifications for HNC programmes or from mature students whose Level 3 qualifications were gained more than 5 years ago. All applicants will be interviewed, and we will consider your prior formal qualifications, and enable you to discuss evidence of experience gained through employment or other verifiable source. We will consider the following:

Related work experience

An international equivalent of the above qualifications

RPL may also be considered in accordance with the awarding body's regulations

Applications may also be considered from individuals who can demonstrate a strong interest in the subject and a willingness to commit to the goals of lifelong learning and personal development.

## **Career Options and Progression Opportunities**

Progression

The Level 4 Higher National Certificate provides a solid grounding in music, which students can build on, should they decide to continue their studies beyond the Certificate stage.

## Employment Opportunities

Live music production covers several careers in the music industry and there are different routes to follow. Music producers create music and sound for a range of creative outputs. Live music productions may also involve running concerts, festivals or live show. Other employment opportunities include studio session musician, Live session musician, Performer, Sound designer/assistant sound designer, Sound Engineer, Music Technician, Music producer, Music education, events manager, booking agent.

Portfolio careers are also common in the music business. This means having several streams of income at the same time, often combining jobs with other freelance work. Freelance work can also incorporate seasonal live events, tours, concerts, sports games or ceremonies.

## Programme Aims

Enable students to identify opportunities in the music and creative sectors and further studies

Develop a range of technical audio and music production skills and techniques and transferrable skills that are essential to succeed in the music industry.

Enable students to perform in their chosen field and will have the qualities necessary for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making.

Provide students with transferable skills (including digital, problem solving) which can be applied to employment in the live music production industry.

Provide a thorough grounding in music principles leading to the identification of individual career progression within the music industry.

Provide an alternative route into HE for those who wish to pursue education relevant to their level of study and ability, which serves as a foundation for further study and/or the workplace.

Equip individuals with business acumen, understanding and musical skills for success in a range of roles within the music industry.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

### Level 4

Upon successful completion of this level, students will be able to:

1. Apply a range of marketing and promotional tools and techniques to create a professional marketing presence required for effective networking in the music industry.
2. Evaluate their own continuing professional development in line with wider commercial awareness of industry trends and the employment market.
3. Record audio sources to industry standards and be competent with all pre-production planning
4. Set up a PA system and provide effective live sound for a small music or other related events.
5. Apply knowledge to implement recording techniques used by sound engineers and music producers when using technology to record audio sources.
6. Explore the potential avenues of employment that relate to music technology specialisms, with an awareness of how to effectively present to the marketplace and music sector.

## Programme Structure

Module	Level	Credits	%	Category	Description	Length/Word Count	Grading Method
<b>Stage 1</b>							
H/616/0191 (UNIT 1): The Music Industry (Mandatory)	4	15	50%	Coursework: Report	n/a	1000	Pass/Merit/Di st
			50%	Practical: Presentation	n/a	20	Pass/Merit/Di st
H/616/0207 (UNIT 16): Music Production Fundamentals (Mandatory)	4	15	100%	Practical: Portfolio / e- Portfolio	n/a	2000	Pass/Merit/Di st
K/616/0211 (UNIT 20): Live Sound Techniques (Mandatory)	4	15	100%	Practical: Practical Skills Assessment	n/a	20	Pass/Merit/Di st
L/616/0203 (UNIT 12): Applied Sound Principles (Mandatory)	4	15	40%	Coursework: Report	Technical report	800	Pass/Merit/Di st
			60%	Practical: Practical Skills Assessment	Documenting practical skills and technical notes	20	Pass/Merit/Di st
M/616/0193 (UNIT 2): Marketing and Promotion for Musicians (Mandatory)	4	15	100%	Coursework: Assignment	Pearson-set Assessment	2000	Pass/Merit/Di st
R/616/0204 (UNIT 13): Recording Technology (Mandatory)	4	15	100%	Practical: Portfolio / e- Portfolio	E-portfolio to include creative audio outputs, demonstrating the development of recording techniques	2000	Pass/Merit/Di st
T/616/0194 (UNIT 3): Professional Development (Mandatory)	4	15	100%	Coursework: Portfolio / e- Portfolio	evidencing engagement with professional development activities and professional development plan.	2000	Pass/Merit/Di st
Y/616/0205 (UNIT 14): Creative Software Techniques (Mandatory)	4	15	100%	Practical: Portfolio / e- Portfolio	Practical portfolio comprising of audio files, DAW sessions and technical notes	2000	Pass/Merit/Di st

## Study Workload

For each unit, you will have a number of hours timetabled each week where you will be supported by a subject specialist academic tutor. You are expected to attend all timetable sessions. If you wish to see a member of staff at another time either drop in, make an appointment in person, by phone or email. In addition to your timetabled sessions, you will be expected to undertake further study independently as described in the section on teaching and learning.

## Programme Delivery: Learning and Teaching

Throughout this programme, you will take an active role in your learning through a combination of enquiry, project and problem-based learning by working collaboratively and in partnership with your fellow students, lecturers and specialist practitioners to take ownership of your personal and professional development. Working in partnership will support your learning processes and enable you to develop as an independent creative practitioner, peer to peer review, class discussions and seminars encourage the development of analysis, reflective thinking, and self-evaluation. Processes such as problem solving, deconstructing, and experimenting are all facilitated within industry relevant assignments. The teaching methods provide a range of skills and strategies to enable you to develop an understanding of the music industry and complementary sectors such as entertainment and events.

Collaboration with other programmes across the school, formally and informally, will enrich the learning environment, supporting the discursive approach to learning. You will acquire an insight into industry through lectures, seminars, and live briefs, this will support you in the transition from student to industry practitioner. Throughout the programme you will acquire skills in traditional and digital techniques, and will engage with hands-on skills, whilst building confidence in industry-standard software. Sessions will be delivered through tutor led demonstrations, one to one development workshops and group work. There will be a combination of music studio practice and opportunities for on-line delivery and learning on-site/location learning. As a learner on the HNC Music technology programme, you will be able to book access to state-of-art music production facilities. This will vary from professional recording studio access to live sound facilities, allowing you to develop your audio production skills outside of timetabled sessions.

## Programme Delivery: Assessment

Assessment strategies will be varied so that you are able to develop transferable skills such as independence, collaborative working, digital and communication skills as well as subject specific knowledge for preparation into a successful and long-term employment sector. Each individual unit has a detailed assessment strategy that reflects that the units' aims and objectives. You will be formatively assessed throughout the programme, by means of interactive workshops, practical demonstration, verbal questioning, written information and participation in group work and discussion.

The range of assessment techniques comprises of industry-based projects situated in our state-of-the-art recording studio and production suite, there will also be practical demonstrations based on the recording technology and techniques as well as live sound techniques. Additionally, there will be reports on the music industry, applied sound principles, recording techniques. Class presentations with Q & A will also take place based on music business and marketing and promotion. The overall method of assessment within this programme is coursework and practical assessment with no examinations although the Individual Project units set by the awarding body. You will be fully supported throughout the programme with feedback on your progress and constructive guidance on ways to improve your work.

Overall, you will be assessed using a variety of methods both formative and summative:

- Interactive Workshops (Studio & Live)
- Practical Demonstration
- Individual online portfolios/promotion of work
- Tasks aimed at the assessment of specific skills (for example digital skills, production skills, research skills and skills of application)
- Individual and group presentations
- Group and individually produced artefacts
- Professional Development
- Written essays and reports
- Reflections and evaluations

Assessment for learning strategies will include:

- Independent written research to develop arguments, reflection and evaluation.
- Group work to develop problem solving.
- Demonstrating techniques, best recorded as practical task rather than written, such as a demonstration of the mastering process.
- Potential assessment at local industry settings/sessions: using industry standard resources outside of the institution to demonstrate readiness for employment.
- Review of progress in the form of continuous self-reflection; may include journals, blogs, setting of and achieving targets to improve professional practice.
- The assessment of a project/product, which may include multiple assessments in different formats.

## **Programme Delivery: Work Based and Placement Learning**

The programme provides work-related learning opportunities which are designed to embed and develop a range of transferrable skills to prepare you for employment opportunities in a range of related creative professions. These include skills in spoken, written and visual communication, the ability to manage collaborative and independent projects, creative problem-solving.

Assessments are related to scenarios that occur in the industry.

The curriculum team are also working professionals engaged in various aspects of the industry, alongside the expertise of the team, local employers will be engaged in certain aspects of the course which will be tailored to your development, skill set and knowledge. External engagement with industry representatives may include:

- field trips to local music gigs and performances
- inviting members of the local music community to present guest lectures
- using employers to judge the quality of assessed presentations and/or products
- establishing a panel of experts who students can pitch an idea to.

## **Programme Delivery: Graduate Skill Development**

Upon completion of your programme of study not only do we want to ensure that you have a great qualification but it's important to us that you are fully ready to embark on an exciting career and join our successful graduates working in the creative industries. To ensure this, we've placed an enormous focus on developing and refining graduate attributes through teaching, learning, assessment and engagement with a wide range of peers, employers and other stakeholders. We call these graduate attributes and they're designed to help you prepare for employment and succeed throughout your career.

As a B&FC graduate, you'll benefit from these graduate attributes:

- A commitment to lifelong learning and career development
- Collaborative teamwork and leadership skills
- Personal and intellectual autonomy
- Ethical, social and professional understanding
- Communication, information and digital literacies
- Global citizenship
- Research, scholarship and enquiry skills
- Enterprise and entrepreneurial awareness and capabilities

Graduates successfully completing the Higher National Certificate will be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of the basic concepts of music. They will be able to communicate accurately and appropriately, and they will have the qualities needed for employment that requires some degree of personal responsibility. They will have developed a range of transferable skills to ensure effective team working, independent initiatives, organisational competence, and problem-solving strategies.

They will be adaptable and flexible in their approach to music, show resilience under pressure and meet challenging targets within a given resource.

## **Study Costs: Equipment Requirements**

There is no demand for students wishing to study on our programme to purchase any additional equipment to support learning. However, we do advise buying some extra equipment, listed in additional costs, should students wish to do so.



## Study Costs: Additional Costs

There will be a variety of trips and other activities that may incur a small fee.

We recommend the following products:

- **1TB External Portable Hard drive**
- **AKG K92 Closed Back Headphones**
- **Beyerdynamic DT770 – 80ohms**

## Related Courses

The college offers a range of Higher Education programmes in complementary disciplines such as Fashion, Fine Art, Commercial Illustration, Photography, Musical Theatre, Acting, Filmmaking and Hospitality and Events Management which offer avenues for collaborative working with other students. This ethos is at the heart of our Higher Education provision and is something that truly enhances your experience whilst you study, your ability to develop connections, internal and external to the college, and your prospects of landing the employment you seek. In addition, upon completing the course can continue with further study in this field or a related discipline. This avenue allows a more focused approach to your learning and gives you the opportunity to continue your education.