

Music

Core technical qualification

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance

What will you be learning?

This course has a strong focus on performance.

There are three compulsory units:

- Ensemble music performance
- Professional practice in the music industry
- Practical music theory and harmony

In addition, students will undertake **one more unit** from a list of options that support progression to courses in higher education and that link with jobs in the music industry (composition, technology, performance, and business).

These optional units include: solo performance; improvising music & composing music.

Methods of assessment

A mixture of internally assessed and externally assessed work, using projects and specific assessment periods (usually May/June).

What are lessons like?

- Rehearsing with your band
- Creating and practising music alone and with others
- Watching and reviewing rehearsals and performances that have been recorded
- Individual research and presentations about the music industry
- Group-work and planning sessions
- Practical demonstrations (from teachers and/or peers)
- Practical work, working to a brief (performing, setting up mics, recording sounds etc.)
- Wider understanding about the music industry in relation to organising music events
- Developing understanding of music theory in order to support practical music

How will we work with employers and the community?

Visits to recording studios such as Parr Street Studios in Liverpool in order to work with their sound engineers on your music. Visits to related professional venues, such as concert venues in the local area in order to develop knowledge of how the music industry roles relate. We may have visits from professional performing musicians who are currently working in the industry to give advice and guidance on performance and life in the music industry.

Where can this pathway lead?

This qualification is designed primarily to support progression to employment following further study at university. However, it can also support students progressing to employment directly. Some examples of options beyond this course are:

- BA (Hons) degree in Performing Arts, Music Industry Management or Music Business and Arts Management (if taken along with other A-levels)
- BA(Hons) Popular Music & Recording at the University of Salford
- BA(Hons) in Music (Popular) at Leeds College of Music
- Other accredited courses involving music performance, music business, or the performing arts
- Employment in the music industry

Updated July 2022