

# AUDIO/PRODUCTION ENGINEER COURSE @ LEVEL 3

If you are someone who is interested in the science of sound and technical production, then the Audio/Production Engineer course is for you.

As well as gaining skills in live and studio sound, you will also get a grounding in aspects of technical production including studio and stage design, lighting and rigging.

## CREATING SOUND

The core of the course is learning about acoustics and sound in recording studio set-ups and live sound applications.

You will gain skills in mic'ing up instruments and voice and using analogue and digital mixing desks and outboard.

You will also get to grips with the latest recording software such as Logic and

Protools and the science and art of sound manipulation.

## TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

Here you will gain a practical understanding of how recording studios are designed and how live sound reinforcement systems are set up and operated.

You will also gain knowledge of stage design and event lighting and rigging.

## REAL EXPERIENCE

You will work in recording studios and live venues gaining hands-on experience.

You will also have opportunities to work for Atom Live national event production company and the Atom Records label.

## MARKETING YOURSELF

Most audio engineers and technical production staff are self-employed.

You will learn about the current marketplace and how to promote yourself effectively using such tools as websites, social networking and viral marketing.

## NEXT MOVES

This course is a two-year Level 3 course. From here you can either go into the industry or to higher education.

Ideal progression routes are to music technology foundation degrees or full degrees specialising in sound engineering. Our website has a list of HE courses under Students.

## MORE ABOUT YOUR COURSE.

### LEVELS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Audio/Production Engineer course is a Further Education course. It is offered at Level 3 which is the same as A Level.

Level 3 courses last for two years.

The qualification is a Music Practitioner Combined Diploma. This is a bespoke music qualification which is written by Access to Music and is accredited by Rockscool, the UK's only popular music awarding body.

The qualification is government-funded and industry and

university recognised.

Assessment is based on course work (units) rather than exams and the qualifications are graded Pass, Merit and Distinction.

You gain credits for each unit that you achieve.

The Level 3 Combined Diploma generates 96 ten-hour credits.

You will also work towards a Functional Skills qualification.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At Access to Music we believe that people should have the opportunity to benefit from our courses whether they have achieved previous qualifications or not.

So we have no formal entry requirements for our courses. The most important thing is your music and your motivation and drive to succeed.

Please note that some of our partner centres do apply entry requirements. Please check with the college for more information on this.

# MORE ABOUT YOUR COURSE.

## FINDING YOUR LEVEL

In terms of choosing whether the level of course is right for you, it can be roughly described as:

### LEVEL 3

For sound engineers, musicians and producers who have some knowledge and experience of live and/or recorded sound and have the motivation to gain further skills in sound engineering and technical event production.

## PRACTICALITIES

All courses start in September and each academic year runs until late June or early July.

The courses are classed as full-time. However, attendance at actual college sessions is around 16 hours per week.

This is usually spread over three or four days. This means that you will have spare time for part-time employment to support your studies. However, be aware that you will be expected to undertake course work outside of your college hours.

Access to Music, or your partner college, has a range of student support services which can help you

through your studies. This includes advice and guidance on getting things like Educational Maintenance Allowance, Adult Learning Grant, travel and childcare support and hardship funds.

Again the website has more info on this under STUDENTS.

## CENTRES

The Audio/Production Engineer course is offered at some Access to Music centres. Please check the website for up-to-date information of where this course is run.

## MORE ABOUT YOUR COURSE.

### VISIT US

To really get a flavour of a course why not book yourself into one of our centres for our National Open Days? They take place on Saturdays on 14 November 2009, 6 February 2010 and 15 May 2010.

### EQUIPMENT

At Access to Music centres we have fully-equipped recording studios where you will get to grips with recorded sound. These are equipped with a variety of equipment and usually run Logic and/or Protools.

We also have technology suites equipped with Apple Mac Digital Audio Workstations running

Reason and Logic.

Access to Music works in partnership with venues to provide live sound engineering opportunities.

If you do bring any equipment into your centre then we recommend that you insure it to cover any damage or loss incurred through using it during the course. Access to Music Ltd. cannot be held responsible for any damage or theft of personal property.

### COSTS

Access to Music further education courses are government-funded and can be taken free of any tuition charge, or at a subsidised rate.

You will get free tuition

if you are aged 16-18, are on benefits, or are taking a first Level 2 or Level 3 qualification.

Even if you are working, costs are very reasonable in comparison to other music providers.

Add-on costs are also very low and we don't have any of the hidden costs that some of our competitors charge.

The above fee structure does not apply to international students outside the EU. You will have to pay for full tuition costs.

Please check our website for up-to-date info on fees & costs.

# MORE ABOUT YOUR COURSE.

## APPLYING

To give you the best chance of getting on a course, make sure you apply to us as early as possible.

The best way to apply to us is online where there is an easy-to-use application form. You can also apply by downloading and printing off an application form.

You will be encouraged to link to examples of your music/creative works to date such as Myspace or website.

## INTERVIEWS

Most applicants will be invited to the centre of their choice for an interview with centre staff. This should happen within four weeks of us receiving your application.

This session is designed so

that you can find out more about your chosen course and centre and that we can find out more about you.

You will be expected to provide a demonstration to include one or more of the following:

- a demonstration of your audio production skills on a computer workstation (we have Reason, Logic & Garageband available. Please bring your own laptop if you use different software);
- a presentation of music you have recorded (e.g. an MP3 file or link to music on a web page);
- a video of you sound engineering (e.g. a gig, festival or studio etc.);
- a presentation of your web site or web page (e.g. Myspace).

You may want to compile a portfolio of some or all

of the above, either as a computer-based, or paper-based, presentation.

## ENROLMENT

You will be informed of whether you have been accepted shortly after your interview.

If successful, you will receive an enrolment form which you should fill in and send back to us together with any payment required.

All courses start around the third week in September 2010. You must send us your enrolment form and all payments before that date.

# OUTCOMES

## INTO THE INDUSTRY

This is an skills-based course so the main outcome is to enter the music industry as a sound engineer and/or technical event production worker. This might be working in a recording studio, or in live venues or at festivals.

In order to be successful in this aim it will be essential that you have exploited all the opportunities

Access to Music can give you to develop yourself as an audio/production engineer and to market and promote your skills.

Of course you may find you want to go on to work in other areas of the music or creative industries and we will give you opportunities to find out about how different areas of the industry operate.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Some students will be interested in using Access to Music as a pathway to higher education.

Because we have no academic entry requirements our Level 3 courses can offer an excellent access route to HE for those who have no previous qualifications.

The courses that are best suited to Audio/Production Engineer students are foundation degrees and degrees in music technology with a emphasis on acoustics and sound engineering. You may also want to consider an event production or management course. For more info of some of the ones on offer, please go to 'Music @ HE' under STUDENTS on the website.

## TEACHING

Teaching music is a great way to pass on your skills to others and earn income.

Access to Music offers a one-year Music Educator teacher training course @ Level 3 which can gain you the skills to work as a private tutor or in colleges.

[www.accesstomusic.co.uk](http://www.accesstomusic.co.uk)

The one-stop site for more information and applying for courses.  
More advice: [info@accesstomusic.co.uk](mailto:info@accesstomusic.co.uk) / Freephone 0800 28 18 42  
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