



AUDIO PRODUCER

# ACCESS TO MUSIC / ROCKSCHOOL AUDIO PRODUCER COURSES

## INTRODUCTION

Our Audio Producer courses are the ideal way to gain the broad range of skills needed to operate as an audio producer/engineer in the music industry.

The courses are designed for people who want to work with recorded and live sound as well as with music sequencing.

These courses generate many transferable skills which can be used in all walks of life. They are linked to government-approved and funded qualifications which have parity with GCSEs and A Levels.

## SKILLS GENERATED

You will gain skills in:

- music sequencing and production;
- sound recording;
- mixing;
- audio production and mastering skills;
- studio design;
- live sound and design;
- contextual awareness;
- business and marketing.

## DELIVERY

- Delivery is centred around project development sessions conducted in fully-equipped technology suites, recording studios and music venues.
- Whole group sessions provide valuable contextual and business input.
- Tutors are all experienced audio producers/ musicians with considerable knowledge of music technology and the industry. Some have worked with major artists or have had their own tracks released. See individual Centre entries for more info.
- ATM centres use Apple Mac music workstations running Propellorhead Reason, Emagic Logic and Ableton Live. Studio, post-production and sound reinforcement specifications will vary from centre to centre.

## COURSES & QUALIFICATIONS

- Most courses are full-time one-year programmes. However, the Level 3 course span two years in line with A Levels and BTEC National Diplomas.
- Some centres may offer part-time courses. Please see the Centres section of the website for more details.
- Full-time courses are accredited by a Rockschool Diploma for Music Practitioners qualification at either Level 1, 2 or 3. This is a bespoke qualification written by Access to Music.
- Part time courses may be accredited with a

*Quite simply, the best  
course for  
musicians  
wanting to learn about  
sequencing and studio  
and live sound.*



*All qualifications are approved by QCA (Qualifications & Curriculum Authority).*

Rockschool Award or Certificate for Music Practitioners.

- The qualifications have been designed for musicians by musicians. They have been carefully structured to assess relevant musical skills in relation to being a audio producer. They are subjected to regular review to ensure their relevance to a rapidly changing industry.
- Rockscool and Access to Music have over 25 years combined experience of popular education and are the UK's leading team in developing exciting music qualifications that are fit for purpose.
- All qualifications are QCA approved and LSC fundable and have direct parity with GCSEs, A Levels and BTECs, to which they provide an attractive alternative.

## PRIOR SKILLS & APPLICATION

You should already have some skills in audio production/music technology. Your level of skills and experience will determine at which stage you enter the course:

### LEVEL 1

This is for beginners with few music technology skills. It is at Level 1 standard (GCSE grades D-E).

### LEVEL 2

This is for intermediate producers with some music technology skills. It is at Level 2 standard (GCSE grades A-C).

### LEVEL 3

This is for more experienced producers with a wider range of music technology skills. It is at Level 3 standard (A Level).

There are no formal academic requirements to access our courses (e.g. a certain number of GCSEs etc.). Anybody with the right level of musical skills and the desire and motivation to develop can apply.

You must be over 16 to apply.

The best way to apply for a course is by completing the online application form on the Access to Music website.

You will then be invited to an audition/interview at your specified centre. Where possible you should bring a CD or MP3 of at least 2 tracks which you have recorded or mixed. You will be expected to talk about the creation of these tracks as well as your skills and musical experience. You may be required to undertake a short music sequencing activity.



*All courses can be accessed with no previous qualifications.  
All you need is commitment and motivation to be a musician.*

# All Single Diplomas generate 48 ten-hour credits

## COURSE DETAILS

### AUDIO PRODUCER LEVEL 1

- A beginner-level course for aspiring audio producers who want to develop the basic skills required to work in studios and/or live sound.
- It is usually run as a full-time, one-year course over 35 weeks. However, there are flexible options for students looking for a gap-year vocational course. Please check Centres for places where this course is running.
- It is accredited by a Rockschool Diploma for Music Practitioners at Level 1. This is approximately equivalent to four GCSEs grades D-E.
- The qualification **generates 48 credits** based on the standard ten-hour credit. These credits are gained by completing eight units. There are no final examinations.
- Typical unit options include:
  - *Music Sequencing & Production (Core unit)*
  - *Live Sound Recording (Core Unit);*
  - *Sound Reinforcement;*
  - *Basic Event Lighting;*
  - *Using a Harmony Instrument;*
  - *Using a Keyboard with a DAW;*
  - *Arranging Music (Parts);*
  - *Understanding the Music Industry;*
  - *Music Promotion;*
  - *Setting Up a Music Business;*
- Unit work and the overall qualification is graded Unclassified, Pass, Merit, Distinction.
- Progression is to the Creative Music Producer

To complete this Diploma you have to successfully complete the core unit plus seven other units. Please note that the units covered may vary from centre to centre. You may take more than eight units, but a charge will be made for additional units.

### AUDIO PRODUCER LEVEL 2

- An intermediate-level course for aspiring audio producers who want to develop further skills required to work in studios and/or live sound.
- It is usually run as a full-time, one-year course over 35 weeks. Please check Centres for places where this course is running.
- It is accredited by a Rockschool Diploma for Music Practitioners at Level 2. This is approximately equivalent to four GCSEs grades A-C.
- The qualification **generates 48 credits** based on the standard ten-hour credit. These credits are gained by completing eight units. There are no final examinations.
- Typical unit options include:
  - *Music Sequencing & Production (Core);*
  - *Live Sound Recording (Core);*
  - *Using a Digital Audio Workstation*
  - *Digital Recording & Production;*
  - *Sound Reinforcement;*
  - *Lighting for a Music Performance;*
  - *Podcast Production;*
  - *Music Style Development;*
  - *Using a Keyboard with a DAW;*
  - *Arranging Music (Styles);*
  - *Music Promotion;*
  - *Music Marketing (Internet).*
  - *Setting Up a Music Business.*
- Unit work and the overall qualification is graded Unclassified, Pass, Merit, Distinction.
- Progression is to the Creative Music Producer Stage 3 or to other GCSEs and A Levels.

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

## AUDIO PRODUCER LEVEL 3

- An advanced-level course for aspiring audio producers who want to develop the industry-level skills required to work in studios and/or live sound.
- It is usually run as a full-time, two-year course over 70 weeks. However, there is an exit option at the end of the first year. Please check Centres for places where this course is running.
- It is accredited by a Rockschool Combined Diploma for Music Practitioners which consists of two Level 3 Diplomas. This is approximately equivalent to almost three A Levels.
- The first year is a foundation year covering general music skills at Level 3, while the second year covers more specialist/applied skills in preparation for employment, or further training.
- The Combined Diploma **generates 96 credits** based on the standard ten-hour credit. These credits are gained by completing sixteen units. There are no final examinations.
- Typical unit options include:
  - *Music Sequencing & Production (Core unit);*
  - *Digital Recording & Production (Core unit)*
  - *Studio Sound Recording & Production (Core unit)*
  - *Studio Sound Mixing (Core Unit);*
  - *Mixing for Surround Sound;*
  - *Audio Mastering;*
  - *Understanding Recording Techniques;*
  - *Understanding Music Studio Design;*
  - *Music Sequencing & Production (Media);*
  - *Using a Digital Audio Workstation;*
  - *Rewiring & Synchronisation for DAWs;*
  - *Development of Sound Sources;*
  - *Virtual Analogue Synthesis;*
  - *Digital Synthesis;*
  - *Using Equalisation & Filters;*
  - *Using Dynamic Processors;*
  - *Using Multi-Effects;*
  - *Creating a Sample Library;*
  - *Radio/Podcast Production;*
  - *Understanding Live Sound Design;*
  - *Sound Reinforcement;*
  - *Live Sound Engineering (FOH);*
  - *Live Sound Engineering (Monitors);*
  - *Lighting For Music Events;*
  - *VJ Programming;*
  - *Music Promotion;*
  - *Music Promotion (Internet);*
  - *Working as a Freelance Music Practitioner;*
  - *Setting Up a Music Business.*
- Unit work and the overall qualification is graded Unclassified, Pass, Merit, Distinction.
- Progression is to Higher Education popular music courses (e.g. music technology foundation degrees and full degrees) and potentially into related employment within the music industry.



## KEY SKILLS

The government requires that all students should develop their key skills while studying. At Access to Music you will usually be expected to improve your skills in three areas:

- communication (writing and speaking);
- application of number (maths);
- information technology (using computers and the internet).

At our own centres, you will work on these areas in music-related projects leading to the production of a portfolio and the completion of online tests. These lead to recognised Key Skills qualifications.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Depending on qualification and unit choices, the Audio Producer courses will give you all, or some, of the skills needed to work in the following roles in the music industry:

- music programmer;
- music producer;
- studio/recording engineer;
- live sound engineer;
- music marketing co-ordinator;
- internet-based music entrepreneur.

The course also generates many transferable skills which can be used in all sorts of other careers such as:

- team working/working with others;
- using computers and the internet;
- personal confidence;
- business and marketing skills;
- communication including writing;
- number skills.

## FURTHER STUDY

If you successfully complete the Level 3 Combined Diploma then you can progress to further study at Higher Education.

Our Level 3 Combined Diploma is not mapped to UCAS points. Instead we use the currency of 10-hour credits which are becoming increasingly widespread:

- The Combined Diploma generates 96 credits;
- an A Level generates approximately 36 credits;
- our Diplomas are thus the equivalent of 2.66 A Levels;
- this is sufficient to gain access to most Higher Education popular music degrees. However, you are free to take two further units to give you the same number of credits as three A Levels (108).

Access to Music has three Higher Education courses which you can progress to. Information on these can be found on the website.

You may also progress onto other foundation degrees and degrees. The most suitable are courses in music technology and commercial music such as those offered by institutions such as Barnsley College, Bath Spa University, Bournemouth University, Coventry University, Kingston University, University of Leeds, Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, Thames Valley University and Westminster University. For a full list of courses see our website under STUDENTS.



*‘One of the best training providers in the country’  
Adult Learning Inspectorate.*



access to music

## PRACTICALITIES

### DELIVERY

Full-time courses are delivered during the day (usually between 09.00 and 17.00) over three or four days per week.

Students can usually rely on having at least one weekday free for part-time employment.

### FEES

Most specialist music education is expensive. However, Access to Music is committed to offering quality industry-focused music training at a price which is affordable to everyone.

Access to Music Audio Producer courses are government-funded and can be taken free of any tuition charge, or at a subsidised rate. Add-on costs are also very low and we don't have any of the hidden costs that some of our competitors charge.

Simply, they are the most cost-effective way of gaining the skills needed to develop your music making.

Please check out the fees information on our website to find out exactly what you may have to pay.

### ENROLMENT & YOUR COMMITMENT

When you accept a place on a course, you will be sent an enrolment form which you must complete and return. By accepting a place on a course you are making a commitment to regularly attend that course and to complete the necessary work assignments. We are looking for musicians who are motivated and serious about making music their career.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

Access to Music has a student support department which can help you with aspects such as childcare, travel, housing advice etc. See website for more detail.



Funded by:



Leading learning and skills



Phone **FREEPHONE 0800 28 18 42** if you require more information. Apply online at **[www.accesstomusic.co.uk](http://www.accesstomusic.co.uk)**