



URBAN/DANCE MUSICIAN

ACCESS TO MUSIC / ROCKSCHOOL URBAN/DANCE MUSICIAN COURSES

INTRODUCTION

Our Urban/Dance Musician courses are the ideal way to gain the broad range of skills needed to operate as a DJ/MC/VJ/beatboxer in the music industry.

The courses are designed for musicians who want to work in various sectors of the urban/dance music industry. They are ideal for aspiring DJs, MCs, beatboxers, VJs etc.

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:

- DJ techniques;
- MC, beatbox and vocal skills;
- musicianship;
- rehearsal skills and group work;
- event promotion;
- stagecraft/performance
- recorded performance;
- basic recording and live sound;
- contextual awareness;
- business and marketing.

DELIVERY

- Delivery is centred around practical sessions in DJing, MCing, beatboxing, stagecraft etc. Emphasis is on creation and refinement of performance repertoire.
- There are opportunities to work with musicians and in recording studios and music venues.
- Whole group sessions provide valuable contextual and business input.
- Tutors are all experienced musicians with considerable knowledge of music and the industry. Some have worked with major artists, or have had successful solo careers. See individual Centre entries for more info.
- Centres have DJ rooms, rehearsal rooms equipped with good-quality PAs, as well as recording studios. You are recommended to bring in your own microphone and vinyl.

COURSES & QUALIFICATIONS

- Most courses are full-time one-year programmes.
- 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 Rockscool Diploma for Music Practitioners qualification at either Level 2 or 3. This is a bespoke qualification written by Access to Music.
- Part time courses may be accredited with a Rockscool Award or Certificate for Music

Quite simply, the best course for DJs, MCs and VJs wanting to learn the tricks of the trade.



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

Practitioners.

- The qualifications have been designed for musicians by musicians. They have been carefully structured to assess relevant musical skills in relation to being an urban/dance musician. They are subjected to regular review to ensure their relevance to a rapidly changing industry.
- Rockschool 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 DJing/MCing and in performing music. Your level of skills and experience will determine at which stage you enter the course:

LEVEL 2

This is for intermediate urban/dance musicians with some DJ/MC and performance skills. It is at Level 2 standard (GCSE grades A-C).

LEVEL 3

This is for more experienced urban/dance musicians with a wider range of DJ/MC and performance 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. You should prepare a short DJ or MC/beatbox performance. You will also be expected to talk about your skills and musical experience. Feel free to bring any other recordings or DVDs with you.

*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

URBAN/DANCE MUSICIAN LEVEL 2

- An intermediate-level course for aspiring urban/dance musicians who want to develop the skills required to work in this sector.
- 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 Rockscool 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 Event Organisation (Core unit);*
 - *DJ Skills;*
 - *Virtual DJ Skills;*
 - *MC Skills;*
 - *Beatbox Skills;*
 - *VJ Skills;*
 - *Music Rehearsal Skills;*
 - *Live Music Performance (Core unit);*
 - *Contextualising Music;*
 - *Music Style Development;*
 - *Sound Reinforcement;*
 - *Lighting for a Music Performance;*
 - *Music Promotion (Communication);*
 - *Music Promotion;*
 - *Music Promotion (Internet);*
 - *Podcast Production;*
 - *Setting Up a Music Business.*
- Unit work and the overall qualification is graded Unclassified, Pass, Merit, Distinction.
- Progression is to the Urban/Dance Musician Stage 3 or to further GCSEs or A Levels

URBAN/DANCE MUSICIAN LEVEL 3

- An advanced-level course for aspiring urban/dance musicians who want to further develop the skills required to work in this sector.
- 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 Rockscool Diploma for Music Practitioners at Level 3. This is approximately equivalent to over one A Level.
- 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:
 - *Working As a Freelance Music Practitioner (Core unit);*
 - *Setting Up a Music Business (Core unit);*
 - *DJ Skills;*
 - *Virtual DJ Skills;*
 - *MC Skills;*
 - *Beatbox Skills;*
 - *VJ Skills;*
 - *Music Rehearsal Skills;*
 - *Live Music Performance;*
 - *Recorded Music Performance;*
 - *Music Stagecraft;*
 - *Music Improvisation;*
 - *Contextualising Music;*
 - *Music Style Development;*
 - *Composing Music (Styles);*
 - *Composing Music (Repertoire);*
 - *Composing Lyrics;*
 - *Sound Reinforcement;*
 - *Radio/Podcast Production;*
 - *Lighting for Music Events;*
 - *Music Contracts (Management/Recording);*
 - *Music Contracts (Various);*

- *Music Stage Management;*
 - *Music Marketing (Research);*
 - *Music Promotion;*
 - *Music Promotion (Internet);*
 - *Music Promotion (Video);*
 - *Music Promotion (Communication);*
 - *Auditioning for Music.*
- Unit work and the overall qualification is graded Unclassified, Pass, Merit, Distinction.
 - Progression (with further Level 3 qualifications) is to Higher Education popular music courses (e.g. ATM's Artist Development Programme and foundation degrees). There is also potential progression into relevant careers within the music industry.

To complete a 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.



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 Urban/Dance Musician courses will give you all, or some, of the skills needed to work in the following roles in the music industry:

- club DJ;
- radio DJ;
- club VJ;
- MC/beatboxer;
- event organiser;
- music promoter;
- 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;
- public performance;
- personal confidence;
- business and marketing skills;

- using computers and the internet;
- communication including writing;
- number skills.

FURTHER STUDY

If you successfully complete the Level 3 Diploma then you may want to consider further study at Higher Education. However, you will need further qualifications at Level 3 to do this.

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

- the Level 3 Diploma generates 48 credits;
- an A Level generates approximately 36 credits;
- this Diploma is thus the equivalent of 1.33 A Levels;
- you will need further related Level 3 qualifications to progress to Higher Education.

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

You may also progress onto other foundation degrees and degrees. Unfortunately there are few urban/dance orientated courses at HE, but you may wish to look at popular music courses such as those offered by institutions such as Barnsley College, Bath Spa University, Bournemouth University, City University London, Kingston University, University of Leeds, Leeds College of Music, Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, Oxford Brookes University, University of Salford, Thames Valley University, Westminster University and University of Wolverhampton. For a full list of courses see our website under STUDENTS.



access to music



Funded by:



Leading learning and skills



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

These fees apply to Access to Music centres for the academic year 2007/08. Partner centres will charge different rates.

ENROLMENT FEES

- FREE if you are a European Union (EU) resident under the age of 19 on 31 August 2008.
- £40 per year if you are aged 19 or over on this date.

TUITION FEES

Urban/Dance Musician courses are funded by the Learning & Skills Council. They are:

- FREE if you are an EU resident under the age of 19 on 31 August 2008;
- FREE if you are aged 19 or over on 31 August 2008 and in receipt of benefits;
- FREE if you are an unwaged dependent of someone who is receiving benefits. You will have to provide proof of receipt of benefit and fill in a tuition fee exception form prior to enrolment.

If you are an EU resident aged 19 or over on 31 August 2008 and not in receipt of benefits, you will

be required to pay a contribution towards the cost of your tuition. This will vary depending on the provider. At ATM centres the contribution is £560 per year: this amount is still heavily subsidised.

If you are not from the EU and have not been resident in an EU or country for the past 3 years, you will have to pay the full tuition costs of your course. At ATM centres they are £9,500 per year for London and £8,000 per year for all other centres.

RESOURCES CONTRIBUTION

This is a compulsory contribution to cover consumable materials and equipment maintenance at your centre. At ATM centres this amount is £75 regardless of status.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

Payment can be made by credit/debit card, direct debit, cheque or cash.

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.

Phone **FREEPHONE 0800 28 18 42** if you require more information. Apply online at **www.accesstomusic.co.uk**