

- School of Music -

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Studio Music Production and Live Events

PRE-INDUCTION PACK



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1. Course Overview

- **Who is this course for?** This heavily practical course is suitable for students who are serious about following a career in the music industry. You will be taught by industry professionals who will provide you with the skills, knowledge and experience to 'get out there' and start pushing your career forward, using a mixture of software and hardware. You will study a range of topics, with year one providing you with the core skills to challenge your abilities in studio music production and live music technology, which we then build upon in year two, preparing you for employment or further study.
- **Knowledge and Work Ethic:** As an engineer, technician or music producer, we are the ones who others in the music industry come to for answers. We are expected to know how everything works, how to keep the show rolling (The Show Must Go On!), and know the best solutions to technical problems. We are the first to arrive and the last to leave and we rarely get a thank you.
- **Be a YES person.** These people are the ones who will get the experience, and the more experience you have, the more opportunities will arise. Make sure you are in a position to say yes to every opportunity that comes up. Be the first to volunteer for a job. You don't choose to do music, you are here because the pursuit of music is something that you HAVE to do in order to survive; it is your lifeblood.
- **5 Days:** You are in class 3 days per week...but it is actually a 5 day commitment. The other 2 days are meant to be spent on coursework, and memorising production facts and techniques and independent pursuits regarding music production. **You will fall far behind if you cannot commit to this time at home.**
- **Evenings:** Every gig and some recording projects happen in the evening. Gigs are sometimes booked as several in a week or over a couple weeks and you will be scheduled for various roles within that. We will also be doing, throughout the year, the sound and lights for filmed TV shows, or for other events such as awards shows, guest public speakers, or fashion shows. You will not be required to attend all of these events. There are enough of you that I will have it on a rota plus the year 2 students are involved as well. Be prepared to spend 1 or 2 evenings per month (on average) working on projects with clients. Occasionally it might be more and some months not at all. You will generally know well in advance when these events are so that you can arrange transport. When I can, I will give you time off to make up for your evening shift.
- **Work Experience:** Every student will need to undertake approximately 40 hours of work experience each year – however, you will achieve this easily by producing gigs and other live events and recording projects for clients of the studio.
- **Grades:** Every piece of work you submit will be graded at a pass with an indication of your working level (Satisfactory, Good or Outstanding). You must pass every piece of work. Your final grade is based upon a large project you will do at the end of each year that is graded at Pass, Merit or Distinction. This course is equivalent to **3 A-levels**, with a distinction grade overall the same value as 3 x A*
- **Maths and English:** If you are under 19 before the course starts, and do not achieve a GCSE grade 4 in Maths or English before the course starts, you will have to continue to study these subjects at college. If you achieved a 3 at GCSE you will study GCSE next year, below a 3 and you will study Functional Skills.
- **Costs:** The college offers a bursary fund which may be applied for through the college website. We strongly recommend that you apply as soon as possible and contact your local authority for bus passes, if required. Please follow the link on the front of the college website. We are happy for our students to undertake paid work when they are not in college, but **this must come second to college** and any personal development opportunities that arise. Students 19 and over will need to apply for the Advanced Learner Loan. This is currently going through the system, but will be available by September.



2. Equipment List

Clothing

As mentioned already, this is a highly practical course. You will regularly be getting down on the floor to adjust equipment or crawling under the stage or up in the rigging. Sometimes you will get dirty as a result. Dress accordingly. Sturdy footwear is required.

Please purchase dark un-faded jeans or cargo trousers; black is preferred but blue will be fine. In addition, please allow for the purchase of at least 1 crew t-shirt and optionally a crew hoodie (available through us). These are required at all live performances but you are encouraged to wear them everyday at college because you will often be setting up or tearing down sound, lighting, and stage equipment around campus and it identifies you as someone authorised to do so...plus you will look really cool.

Personal Protective Equipment

Please consider purchasing the following to help ensure your safety:

- steel toe reinforced shoes or boots
- earplugs
- Rigger's gloves
- small LED torch with aluminium housing and belt clip
- multi-tool ("Leatherman") in belt pouch (any blades in this tool need to be 3 inches or less)

Headphones

Closed Back headphones with a ¼ inch jack should be purchased before the course commences. These vary in price and quality, so please contact us for any advice with regards to purchasing these. Some good brands to choose from are AKG or Sennheiser. You will be spending considerable time wearing headphones, so it is important that these are comfortable and provide sufficient audio quality to let you get the most of your productions. Earbuds are not suitable.

Memory Stick / Hard Drives

Please purchase a USB-C memory stick or hard drive with a minimum of 32Gb storage space. You will need this to backup your project files.

Classroom Supplies

Laptops, iPads, and phones, etc. are all welcome in the classroom. There is a lot of information given to you everyday; it is therefore wise for you to take notes in class.

Pro Tools

We teach and use the industry standard recording software Pro Tools which is used in every professional recording studio in the world. We do not require you to have it but it is highly recommended. Fortunately, they offer a major educational discount for students. Contact us to help you with this.

MagicQ

The lighting software we use for gigs is called MagicQ made by a company called Chamsys. It is free to download. We can help you with the installation.



Summer Project 'Microphone Specifications'

DUE DATE: Email this to andy.guy@easterneducationgroup.ac.uk by **23rd August 2024**

If you do not get a reply from me within a day or 2 to say that I received it then get in contact with me ASAP in case there are IT problems

To prepare yourself for 2 years of intense training to be a qualified music technician you need to begin filling your head with knowledge. We will start with Microphones.

You will prepare a document that will be used by you to start memorising the microphones and their specifications.

You will add to this over the first few months and use this regularly so make it clear, organised and concise.

- For each of the microphones listed at the bottom of this page, provide the following information in an organised and typed document:
 - The company name and model number
 - A picture of it
 - The type of mic: Dynamic, Condenser, or Ribbon
 - Does it require Phantom Power? (you might need to look up what that means)
 - What size of diaphragm: Large or Small
 - Its Frequency Response Chart
 - What instruments is it typically used for
- I am not looking for an essay here. Bullet point lists to accompany your pictures and charts are preferred.

MICROPHONE LIST:

Shure SM57

Shure Beta 52a

Shure Beta 91a

Sennheiser e902

Sennheiser e609

Sennheiser MD421

AKG D112

AKG C451

AKG C414

Neumann U87

Neumann KM184

Neumann TLM103

Aston Spirit

Sontronics Sigma 2