

HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This programme is only offered at the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance

Final award	Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Music (QCF)
Intermediate awards available	N/A
UCAS code	N/A
Details of professional body accreditation	Edexcel/Pearson
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Music (QCF) Specification QAA Undergraduate Subject benchmarks for music were referenced and extrapolated In addition these documents were also referenced; Dublin Descriptors SEEC Level Descriptors
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The summary - Programme advertising leaflet

Programme content

This one year full-time course is designed to equip aspiring professional musicians with skills and awareness required by today's ever-changing music industry. Successful students will gain a recognised qualification which can be used to progress to ICMP's BMus or to external progression.

Whilst on the programme, students are taught every week in live band situations with other instrumentalists, studying the different musical styles relevant to today's wide-ranging musical arena.

Class sizes are generally no more than 12 students for practical, instrumental study, creating a high level of interaction between students and tutors. This ensures that learning opportunities are maximised and that the learning environment remains extremely focused.

The programme is broken down into two key areas: Core Curriculum and Co-Curricular study. The core curriculum focuses on meeting the award assessment criteria for specific units, whereas the co-curricular classes are skills-building 'toolbox' classes where the student develops the knowledge and techniques to support the principal award.

Students will typically attend for three days per week.

Contemporary Music at ICMP

ICMP has an outstanding reputation, with alumni successes including the internationally acclaimed Daughter, a group which was formed whilst the members studied at the Institute; Foxes, aka Louisa Allen, who won a Grammy for Best Dance Recording in January 2014 for her impressive vocal performance on 'Clarity'; Clean Bandit, a group students who have had a number one single in the pop charts for over three weeks; and many other alumni whom have performed, produced and written with artists as diverse as Adele, Eric Clapton, Sheryl Crow, Keane and Cathy Dennis

Entry requirements

Applicants should possess intermediate skill levels on their instrument and would typically have a minimum of 5 GCSEs grade A to C or similar qualifications. There is an audition prior to acceptance. Sight reading skills are not required.

Before enrolling on a full-time course at ICMP, every student must undergo an audition, which is free of charge and with one of the course tutors. The purpose of an audition is to help us determine the current level of a student's musicianship and to understand professional and academic goals. Once these issues have been assessed the Institute will provide students with feedback and discuss options for study.

ICMP is committed to promoting fairness and equality throughout its provision. Thus, special care is taken to ensure that students with disabilities are offered reasonable adjustment as well as meeting other educational needs early on in the application process.

Programme structure

Students study Live Performance Workshop, Harmony, Theory & Aural, Styles, Keyboards, Creative Arts Research Skills, Music in Context and Band Rehearsal skills. All students also study instrument specific skills.

Learning environment

Modules/units are delivered as appropriate via lectures, seminars and practical workshops at ICMP's bespoke facilities in Kilburn. Students are also required to undertake independent learning activities befitting to the course, including an individual practice regime, the attendance of ensemble rehearsals, and the use of libraries, internet and wider research: as best suits a given task, unit or learning outcome.

Assessment

To gain the qualification, all eight units must be achieved by the end of the course. The learning outcomes and assessment criteria from each of the eight Edexcel units are integrated into the course over two terms and embedded in such a way as to create a holistic and all-inclusive mode of assessment. The teaching of Unit 32: Music Performance Skills in Term 1, for instance, makes ready the students' 'Live Event Project' – and thus Unit 8: Band Rehearsal and Performance in Term 2.

Relevance to work/profession

The programme enables students to develop a range of skills enabling them to work as professional musicians in various capacities. Students develop the practical, critical and intellectual skills relevant to employment in a wide range of professional opportunities as contemporary musicians.

Live Event Project

The 'Live Event Project' is an assignment designed to provide students with the opportunity to research, plan and manage a public live performance. The students will approach the assignment by first looking at the processes involved in event management, including the allocation of production roles, the exploration of production processes (budgeting, marketing, etc.) and the actions that constitute the pre-production process, including financial management and ticket sales. Students will then show knowledge of current legislation related to public performance (Health and Safety regulations, for instance) and apply these to the live event itself.

By drawing upon critical and reflective skills, students will then provide an evaluation of this process, providing evidence of an understanding of the approaches, practices and knowledge deployed during the pre-production process, and how these impacted upon the final performance.

Added value

By studying at the Institute students will work in a highly creative environment, with like-minded and energetic peers. ICMP is an exciting and vibrant environment, in which new students are expected to add to as well as benefit from.

ICMP is located in London – at the heart of the music capital of the world; this provides students with unrivalled opportunities to experience and interact with all aspects of the music industry and allied professions in the arts, media and research.

Your future career

The Higher National Certificate will prepare students for a variety of careers in the music industry, as well as progression to further study at university. As such, students may progress to study on BA or BMus Undergraduate Degree Programmes, or move into a career involving private teaching, session musician, band leader, or one of the other many roles in the music industry.

How we support you

All students have access to the Student Services Department for support and advice concerning welfare, finance, personal development, safeguarding etc. Students also have access to 'The Hub', ICMP's Professional Development Team, who provide careers advice, student opportunities, auditions, internship, gigs, etc.

Students with disabilities or learning difficulties are offered continuous support on all academic and pastoral matters via Student Services Department (SSD). The SSD works with students from an early stage in their studies to devise and implement a plan of personal study and support where applicable.

Students will also have access to the Learning Resource Centre, containing key texts and industry journals, online resources, listening library, PC resources etc., as well as access to the wider Institute facilities which include rehearsal / performance studios, project studio, digital audio workstations, drum booths.

In addition, all students have 'open-door' access to their Programme Leader and Personal Tutor and are invited to instrumental master classes and seminars from guest speakers.

Bonus factors

Studying in London, the musical capital of the world provides unequalled opportunities to engage with the music industry. Students have immediate access to gigs, events, conferences, industry, promoters, agents, managers, aggregators and distributors, fixers, agents, publicity and PR agents.

ICMP also has a dedicated Careers Service, known as 'The Hub', whose remit is to support and assist students in transitions to the workplace. The Hub provides a wide range of services to meet these aims, including one-to-one sessions (such as A and R, career planning and personal development), careers events and fairs, networking events, internships, auditions, performances, showcases, industry days, etc.

Members of the ICMP faculty are drawn from a pool of musicians and business leaders who have all performed at the highest levels professionally. More importantly, all are still active in their fields, allowing students to benefit from their practical experience and industry networks.

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of learners in the fields of music performance, music business, research skills and music in context.
- Focus on the development of instrumental and ensemble skills in a music performance context
- Develop a range of skills and attributes essential for successful employment in working life.
- Achieve a nationally recognised Level 4 qualification.

What will you learn?

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Music (QCF) offers an engaging programme for those who are clear about the area they want to learn more about. These learners may wish to extend their programme through the study of a complementary NVQ or other related vocational or personal and social development qualification. These learning programmes can be developed to allow learners to study complementary qualifications without duplication of content.

For adult learners the Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Music (QCF) can extend their knowledge and understanding of work in a particular sector. It is a suitable qualification for those wishing to change career or move into a particular area of employment following a career break.

Where relevant, Edexcel BTEC Level 4 qualifications are designed to provide some of the underpinning knowledge and understanding for the National Occupational Standards (NOS), as well as developing practical skills in preparation for work and possible achievement of NVQs in due course. NOS form the basis of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs).

The programme structure

Introduction

The QCF is a framework which awards credit for qualifications and units and aims to present qualifications in a way that is easy to understand and measure. It enables learners to gain qualifications at their own pace along flexible routes.

There are three sizes of qualification in the QCF:

- Award (1 to 12 credits)
- Certificate (13 to 36 credits)
- Diploma (37 credits and above).

Every unit and qualification in the framework will have a credit value. The credit value of a unit specifies the number of credits that will be awarded to a learner who has achieved the learning outcomes of that unit.

The credit value of a unit is based on:

- one credit for those learning outcomes achievable in 10 hours of learning
- learning time, defined as the average time taken by learners at the level of the unit, to complete appropriate learning outcomes to the standard determined by the assessment criteria.

The credit value of the unit will remain constant in all contexts, regardless of the assessment method used for the qualification(s) to which it contributes. Learning time should address all learning (including assessment) relevant to the learning outcomes, regardless of where, when and how the learning has taken place.

Credit rating

Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Music (QCF)

- 1 Qualification credit value: a minimum of 120 credits
- 2 Minimum credits to be achieved at, or above, the level of the qualification: 65 credits
- 3 Mandatory core unit credit: 35 units
- 4 Specialist unit credit: 85 credits
- 5 All credits must be achieved from the units listed in this specification

Typical duration

The typical duration of this programme is one year full-time.

How the teaching year is divided

The programme has one intake in April. Each cohort has an academic year that is divided into two, 15 week semester. Examination periods are held halfway and in the final week of each semester. Re-sits are held approximately four weeks after the final coursework submission date in term two.

What you will study when

Due to the integrated delivery model used on the programme, upon completion students achieve the learning outcomes relating to the nine Edexcel units that underpin the course content (see below).

Level	Edexcel Unit	Module Title	Credit	Status
5	15	Creative Arts Research Skills	20	Core
4	30	Music in Context	15	Core
4	7	Aural Perception	15	Optional
5	8	Band Rehearsal and Performance	15	Optional
4	31	Music Notation	15	Optional
5	32	Music Performance Skills	15	Optional
4	33	Music Performance Studies	15	Optional
5	47	Singing Techniques and Styles	15	Optional (vocals only)
5	20	Improvisation in Music	15	Optional (guitar, bass and drums only)

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to obtain the Level 4 HNC in Music (QCF), students will need to obtain 120 credits consisting of two mandatory units and six optional units. The student is required to pass all units to gain the award.

Award Classification

The Level 4 HNC in Music (QCF) is a 120-credit and 300 guided learning hour (GLH) qualification that consists of two mandatory units plus six optional units that provide for a combined total of 120 credits (where at least 65 credits must be at Level 4).

P	Pass
M	Merit
D	Distinction

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through:

- Lectures
- Live Performance Workshops
- Workshops

Thinking skills are developed through:

- Reading
- Critical analysis and evaluation
- Research
- Reflective critique

Practical skills are developed through:

- Performance
- Media production
- Research
- Presentations

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through:

- Presentations
- Writing
- Research
- Networking
- Event Management

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Course work
- Student presentations
- Performance

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Course work
- Student presentations

Practical skills are assessed by

- Performance
- Oral presentation
- Event Management

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Performance
- Course Work
- Oral presentation
- Event Management

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following were checked:

- There are sufficient qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources will be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives are appropriate;
- the content of the programme meets national Level 4 and Edexcel descriptors the programme meets any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal meets other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy, and student support mechanisms.

This was achieved through a process of programme approval which involved consulting academic and music industry experts including subject specialists from other academic institutions in the UK.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.
- tutor feedback
- industry feedback

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at institutional level and includes student and alumni participation. The process is monitored by the Quality Standing Committee.

Periodically an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff, managers and faculty before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others (e.g. library/technician staff) who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme. The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;

- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that Edexcel regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables the programme leadership to make improvements for the future.

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations (e-survey)
- Programme evaluations (e-survey)
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting each term)
- Academic Programme committee (meeting annually)
- Suggestions box

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Publishing the minutes of the Student Rep meeting on the student website
- Providing details on the programme notice board

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Annual student satisfaction questionnaire
- Alumni questionnaires
- Industry liaison
- Student Representatives
- Suggestions received informally or ad-hoc from staff, teaching faculty, students, alumni and colleagues from other institutions.

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from our website:

www.icmp.ac.uk