

# **Access to HE Diploma (Creative Entrepreneurship in Music)**

## **Diploma Guide**

Valid From August 2025  
Learning Aim Code: 40012049



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## Access to HE Diploma Background and Aims

The Access to Higher Education Diploma is a full Level 3 UK qualification. It is regulated by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) which licenses Access Validating Agencies (AVAs) to accredit and award the Access to Higher Education Diploma in the UK.

Access to Higher Education Diplomas enable students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to progress to higher education. They are key to widening participation from groups traditionally underrepresented at higher education institutions and are therefore aimed particularly, though not exclusively, at adults without traditional qualifications.

The aims of the Access to HE Diploma are to:

- prepare students who are returning to education for progression to Higher Education, further training in a related vocational or occupational area
- help students develop the skills and knowledge they need to achieve on their chosen HE course or career pathway
- familiarise students with the teaching and learning methodologies and assessment strategies found in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- help students to gain confidence in their abilities, to review and monitor their own progress and to become independent students
- develop students' research, planning, analytical and evaluation skills
- enable students to make informed choices about future progression routes.

## Diploma development

Skills and Education Group Access has worked with curriculum specialists and higher education colleagues to develop the Access to HE Diploma (Creative Entrepreneurship in Music). Every Diploma is validated by the AVA through a robust and rigorous peer panel process which then recommends approval to the AVA's Access to HE Committee. By taking into consideration the views of Further and Higher Education practitioners, the AVA ensures that the Diploma meets all QAA requirements and that it enables students to complete a planned, balanced and coherent programme of study, through which they have been able to acquire a subject knowledge and develop academic skills which are relevant to the intended progression route(s).

**LC 50a: This QAA recognised Access to HE Diploma is validated for delivery within the UK by a provider with a main base in the UK (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) only.**

**LC 50c: Only students with a UK address (including BFO) can be registered for an Access to HE Diploma.**

## Diploma Specification

The QAA Diploma Specification states that the Access to HE Diploma is a:

- unitised qualification, based on units of assessment which are structured in accordance with the Access to HE unit specification
- credit-based qualification, operated in accordance with the terms of the Access to HE credit specification
- graded qualification, as determined by the Access to HE Grading Scheme.

## About this qualification

<b>AVA Diploma Access to HE Diploma</b>	<b>Main Classification (Sector Subject Area)</b>	<b>Sub- Classification</b>
(Creative Entrepreneurship in Music)	9 - Arts, Media and Publishing	9.2 - Crafts, Creative Arts and Design

**This Diploma specification is valid from: 01/08/2025**

**Diploma revalidation date: 31/07/2029**

The Access to HE Diploma (Creative Entrepreneurship in Music) provides students with a thorough understanding of the music industry and its various components. This course is designed to prepare students for Higher Education and careers in music entrepreneurship, music production, and related fields. Students will acquire essential knowledge, specific skills, and transferable skills necessary for success in these areas.

### **A. Key Knowledge:**

#### **1. Music Industry Insights:**

- Understanding of how the music industry works, including recorded music, music publishing, and talent management.
- Knowledge of business affairs and the financial aspects of running a music-related business.
- Insights into live events, festivals, and touring logistics.

#### **2. Creative and Cultural Aspects:**

- Exploration of music technology and its impact on culture.
- Understanding the role of digital media in the music industry.
- Development of creative arts projects relevant to music entrepreneurship.

**B. Subject-Specific Skills:****1. Music Business Practices:**

- Skills in managing small business accounts specific to the music industry.
- Competence in understanding the intricacies of music publishing, recorded music, and talent management.
- Develop the ability to organise and manage live events, festivals, and tours effectively.

**2. Creative and Analytical Skills:**

- Proficiency in critical listening, reading, and writing skills tailored to the music industry.
- Development of presentation skills for pitching ideas and presenting projects.
- Skills in using digital media tools and technologies for music production and promotion.

**C. Transferable Skills:****1. Entrepreneurial and Professional Skills:**

- Enhanced understanding of entrepreneurship and how to start and run a music-related business.
- Development of personal development strategies to support career growth.
- Development of the ability to critically evaluate and utilise new technologies, including the safe and ethical use of generative artificial intelligence.

**2. Communication and Analytical Skills:**

- Improved communication skills, both written and verbal, for effective interaction in the music industry.
- Enhanced research and analytical skills through critical reading and writing exercises.
- Develop ability to manage projects and collaborating with others in a creative environment.

## Intended Progression Routes

**LC 61a and 61b: Access to HE Diplomas are intended to provide a preparation for study in UK higher education, but the award of a Diploma does not provide guaranteed entry to UK higher education programmes.**

The following progression routes were agreed at the point of validation as being appropriate choices for students who achieve the Access to HE Diploma (Creative Entrepreneurship in Music), subject to the course entry requirements and application process.

BA (Hons) Music (Production)  
BA (Hons) Music Technology  
BA (Hons) Music Performance  
BA (Hons) Music Business  
BA (Hons) Event Management.

**It is essential that providers delivering this Diploma consult receiving HEIs themselves to ensure that suitable and relevant progression opportunities are sound. Evidence of HEI consultation and progression possibilities will be identified in the provider's Programme Submission Document.**



## Access to HE Diploma provider assessment strategy advice

QAA states that the Access to HE Diploma provides '*HE progression opportunities for adults who, because of social, educational or individual circumstances may have achieved few, if any, prior qualifications*'. They also state that, '*Students who are awarded the Diploma will have completed a planned, balanced and coherent programme of study, through which they have been able to acquire subject knowledge and develop academic skills which are relevant to the intended progression route(s)*'. Therefore all approved providers need to develop diploma assessment strategies which outline what assessment activities the students will undertake, how they will be used and why they have been chosen in order to achieve the learning aims:

1. **What** is the aim of the diploma assessment strategy?
2. **How** will it be achieved?
3. **Why** has this approach been chosen?

### **Assessment design:**

Access to HE Diplomas should be assessed using innovative and contemporaneous methods, tailored to prepare students studying at Level 3 for study at Higher Education. Assessment design should be holistic, ensuring students can demonstrate attained knowledge, skills and behaviours in and across units and assessments should reflect those likely to be encountered on Higher Education courses in the same field of study. Specific assessment guidance should be provided for each unit to ensure consistency and fairness across all student achievements.

In addition, providers must ensure that assessment methods are chosen which afford students opportunities to demonstrate the requirements of the three Grading Standards; Knowledge and Understanding, Subject Specific Skills and Transferable Skills.

Assessment design should comply with the requirements of the QAA Grading Scheme (2024) and also be aligned to the principles of assessment: Validity, Authenticity, Reliability, Currency and Sufficiency (VARCS).

### **Assessment guidance specific to this diploma:**

Tutors are encouraged to deploy a wide variety of assessment methods which could include an increasing use of Viva Voce style approaches, open book and time constrained assessments.

### **LC 50g: Tutor/Assessor qualifications and experience specifically required for delivery and assessment of this diploma:**

Generally, and as a minimum, it is expected that provider staff teaching on the Diploma have the required professional competence and skills necessary for the mode(s) of delivery to be used, and the level of subject expertise necessary to teach and assess the units available on the Diploma.

## Rules of Combination

Where options are available within a single set of rules of combination, which allow alternative requirements for the achievement of a named Diploma, the alternatives permitted by the options are consistent, in terms of academic challenge and demand, and will require equivalent standards for achievement, whenever and wherever it is delivered.

<b>Access to HE Diploma (Creative Entrepreneurship in Music)</b>	
Credit Value of the Diploma:	<b>60</b>
Students must achieve all the units within the Diploma.	
<p>All Diplomas are 60 credits, irrespective of the place, subject or mode of study. Of the 60 credits 45 must be from graded units concerned with academic subject content, with the remaining 15 credits to be achieved from ungraded units.</p> <p>In addition, all students must study a minimum of <b>ten 3 credit units</b> and at least <b>one 9 or 6 credit unit up to a maximum of 30 credits</b>, which may or may not be graded.</p>	
Students can achieve up to a maximum of 30 credits at Level 3 through credit transfer and the award of credit through the recognition of prior learning.	
<p>Students undertaking any Access to HE Diploma, whatever their mode of study, must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) registered and certificated for units to a maximum value of 60 credits</li> <li>b) registered for units to the value of 60 credits no later than 84 days from the start date of their Access to HE course, or before the student makes a formal application to a higher education course through UCAS or any other application process, whichever date occurs first.</li> </ul>	



## Appendix 1 - Units of Assessment – Access to HE Diploma (Creative Entrepreneurship in Music)

For every unit included in the table, further information is included in the Unit Specifications, including learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

### Grading Standards (Applied to all units)

<b>1</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding of the Subject</b>	<b>KU</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	<b>SS</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Transferable Skills</b>	<b>TS</b>

**Students must study a minimum of TEN, 3 credit units and at least ONE 6 or 9 credit unit up to a maximum of 30 credits.**

### Graded Units. All units must be taken.

Unit Title	National Code	Level	CV
Entrepreneurship	AB6/3/AA/01G	Three	3
Digital Media	KA2/3/AA/02G	Three	3
How Music Publishing Works	KH1/3/AA/01G	Three	3
Creative Arts Project	LF1/3/AA/01G	Three	3
How Business Affairs Work	LF1/3/AA/02G	Three	3
How Recorded Music Works	LF1/3/AA/03G	Three	3
How The Music Industry Works	LF1/3/AA/04G	Three	3
How Talent Management Works	LK3/3/AA/02G	Three	3
Music, Technology and Culture	LF1/3/AA/05G	Three	6
Personal Development	LF1/3/AA/06G	Three	6
Live Events, Festivals and Touring	LK3/3/AA/01G	Three	9

### Ungraded Units. Choose 15 credits from:

Unit Title	National Code	Level	CV
Small Business Accounts	AK6/3/AA/01U	Three	3
The Safe and Ethical Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence	CK5/3/AA/01U	Three	3
Critical Listening Skills	HB7/3/AA/01U	Three	3
Presentation Skills	HC7/3/AA/12U	Three	3
Critical Reading Skills	HC7/3/AA/13U	Three	3
Critical Writing Skills	HD3/3/AA/02U	Three	3

### Inclusion and exclusion rules of combination

**There are no barred units in this Diploma.**