Music Technology

A Level

What goes well with this course?

- Music
- Mathematics
- Physics

Progression

Studying Music Technology offers a variety of career paths. There are many employment opportunities including: composing for film, TV and games, live sound, studio engineering, music management and events, solo artist, session musician and song-writer.

Further Study opportunities include degree courses in all areas of Music Technology, in particular:

- Surrey University Tonmeister course. Usually two or three students a year secure places on this highly acclaimed course. Tonmeister course requirements are stringent. Students must have high grades in Maths, Physics, Music Technology/Music and Grade 5 Theory
- Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts
- Popular Music and Recording, University of Salford
- Popular Music, Napier University, Edinburgh

Overview

The Music Department has five recording studios running Logic Pro on Macs and there is a wide range of microphones, suitable for all recording applications. Additionally there is a large suite of Macs equipped with Logic Pro to allow students to undertake individual work in their own time.

The A Level Music Technology course is split into four main disciplines: Recording, sequencing, producing and listening. In order to get the most out of the course, students should be interested in a variety of popular styles of music – from the 1950s to the present day.

The Music Department is a great place to meet like-minded musicians and form bands. Performance opportunities are in abundance and include lunchtime gigs, the Spring and Winter Concerts, annual Battle of the Bands competition and Reigate College Leavers Music Fest.

Course Content

Each year students produce two assessed recordings, and at the end of each year there are two exams, one covering the technical aspects of Sequencing and Recording, and one the analysis of production techniques throughout music history.

Students will develop skills in:

- Sequencing, synthesis and sampling
- Multi-track recording, mixing and mastering
- Arranging and composing
- Listening and analysing styles most common in popular music

Educational Experiences

Course Specific Trips, Visits & Experiences

Music Technology students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of course related experiences. During the first year, students will visit a professional recording studio to record a song and sit in on a mixing session. They will return to the same studio during the second year and take full control of a mix session on an analogue SSL desk.

Assessment

The course is assessed through two practical and written examinations in June and externally assessed coursework.

The exam board for this A Level is Pearson Edexcel.

Entry Requirements

All students need to have at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above (and a satisfactory school reference) in order to be accepted on an A Level/BTEC Level 3 Programme.

In addition, students should meet the following minimum course requirements:

- Evidence of musical ability, e.g. GCSE or BTEC Music, ABRSM Grades or those offered by similar awarding bodies
- Grade 4 in Maths and

- Grade 4,4 in Combined Science or Grade 4 in Physics

Acceptance on the course is subject to an audition, at which prospective students will be asked to perform their instrument to Grade 5 ABRSM standard, willl be given a basic piano sight reading test and discuss why they wish to take the course. A pass at Grade 5 ABRSM Instrument is not required as long as students can play to this standard.

Students will do well on the course if they are:

- Creative
- Confident
- Natural performers – perhaps already in a band
- Fascinated by the workings of music studios and production companies
- Good with IT
- Team players
- Keen to develop studio skills to a high level

Students should be able to perform in public both as solo artists and as members of a group. In addition, students should be willing and able to organise groups of people for a recording session.