



## Higher National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre and Production Arts: Work Placement

**Unit code:** FA07 35

**Superclass:** LE

**Publication date:** August 2010

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to allow the candidate to undertake a work placement within a professional theatre company or in-house production. This will allow candidates to place their learning within a professional context and also to develop professional contacts and potential employment opportunities.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Engage in and contribute to the process and product of the host company.
- 2 Analyse the company's aims and organisational structure.
- 3 Critically evaluate their own performance within the work placement.

### Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the delivering centre, however it would be beneficial if candidates possessed a knowledge and understanding of the manager's role within a theatrical production team. This may be evidenced by achievement of the following Higher National Units or equivalent:

- ◆ *Stage Management* (F389 34)
- ◆ *Stage Lighting: Rigging, Focusing and Operation* (F388 34)
- ◆ *Technical Theatre: Sound* (F38E 34)
- ◆ *Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting* (F38D 34)
- ◆ *Performance Costume: An Introduction* (F18Y 34)

## **General information (cont)**

### **Credit points and level**

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8\*)

*\*SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

### **Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Working with Others*, *Numeracy*, *Problem Solving*, *Communication* and *ICT* at SCQF level 6 and in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

### **Context for delivery**

If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

### **Assessment**

Outcome 1 of this Unit could be assessed by feedback from the placement provider on the candidate's contribution to the production process. Outcomes 2 and 3 could be assessed by a single report or two separate reports.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre and Production Arts: Work Placement

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

### Outcome 1

Engage in and contribute to the process and product of the host company.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Independent working
- ◆ Team working
- ◆ Use of equipment, tools and materials
- ◆ Organisational structures
- ◆ Receiving feedback
- ◆ Self-awareness
- ◆ Professional practice
- ◆ Health and Safety policies and procedures

#### Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ work independently maintaining a productive work rate and professional manner
- ◆ display a positive attitude to teamwork, showing ability to function effectively within a team at all times
- ◆ demonstrate practical skills making effective and efficient use of equipment, tools and materials
- ◆ work effectively within existing organisation structures
- ◆ accept instruction, advice and criticism in a positive manner
- ◆ compare professional practices and own knowledge base
- ◆ comply with all relevant Health and Safety policies and procedures

#### Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed through an assessment scheme completed by the placement provider which provides evidence of the candidate achieving all the above Evidence Requirements.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre and Production Arts: Work Placement

### **Outcome 2**

Analyse the company's aims and organisational structure.

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Company aims and objectives
- ◆ Company structural organisation
- ◆ Remit of placement department
- ◆ Placement department resources
- ◆ Placement department processes and practices

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ analyse the aims and objectives of the company
- ◆ explain the structural organisation of the company
- ◆ explain the remit of the placement department
- ◆ identify the resources within the placement department
- ◆ analyse the key processes and practices of the placement department

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

This Outcome could be assessed by a written or recorded oral placement report. The assessment for this Outcome could be combined with Outcome 3.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre and Production Arts: Work Placement

### **Outcome 3**

Critically evaluate their own performance within the work placement.

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Self-evaluation
- ◆ New processes and techniques
- ◆ Best practice

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ reflect on and coherently discuss the placement experience
- ◆ analyse the effectiveness of own contribution
- ◆ evaluate new processes and techniques
- ◆ evaluate own response to routine problems
- ◆ discuss a broad range of methods used in the context of a specific production role

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

This Outcome could be assessed by a written or recorded oral self-evaluation report of approximately 600 words or equivalent. The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcome 2 in a single report (the report could be approximately 1,200 words or equivalent for the combined assessment).

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre and Production Arts: Work Placement

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

### Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit will provide an opportunity for the candidate to investigate the professional workplace and the wider context in their area of interest. It requires the candidate to undertake a placement with a professional theatre or events company or in house production in order that they may place their learning in a professional context. It is recommended that the placement be undertaken over a period of approximately three weeks (approximately 100 hours) to allow the candidate sufficient time to generate evidence for the Unit. It also provides the candidate with professional contacts and potential employment opportunities.

The candidate is required to identify, plan, liaise and undertake a placement with a host company, engaging with the professional production processes, theatre union regulations and safe working practises of their chosen department/s. It is essential that the candidate is encouraged to make comparisons between professional techniques and their own knowledge base.

In Outcome 1 the candidate will engage in and contribute to the process and product of the host company. They will be expected to work independently with the minimum of managerial supervision, demonstrating effective teamwork within the company's organisational structures. They will also be required to demonstrate effective use of equipment, tools and materials.

In Outcome 2 the candidate should be able to describe the remit of and resources within the placement department, and analyse the aims and objectives of the host company.

In Outcome 3 the candidate should reflect on and coherently discuss the placement experience, and be able to evaluate the effectiveness of their contribution, and a broad range of methods used within their production role.

As this Unit is based on a work placement the timing of delivery of the Unit will depend on when suitable placements are available. For candidates progressing from the HNC to the HND they will frequently undertake the work placement in the summer between academic years.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre and Production Arts: Work Placement

### Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit, which is likely to form part of a Group Award, is primarily intended to provide candidates the opportunity of working with a professional host company, and to build up appropriate and useful professional contacts outside the college environs. It would be expected that those who successfully complete the award would progress into the industry as a professional assistant technician or assistant stage manager and therefore the placement role/s should reflect this.

The Learning and Teaching strategies are designed to facilitate independent progress within a collaborative and supported structure, which will include production work, individual tutorials and support and guidance from the host company.

It is recommended that Outcome 1 is assessed through an assessment scheme completed by the placement provider at various points during the placement.

A placement report or equivalent which addresses the criteria in Outcomes 2 + 3 should contain a self assessment on the engagement with the process and host organisation.

Centres must make every effort to ensure that the placement for each candidate offers sufficient opportunity to develop evidence towards this Unit. Centres should make the placement providers aware of the requirements of this Unit and seek assurances that the candidate will be engaged in suitably varied and challenging work.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Working with Others*, *Numeracy*, *Problem Solving*, *Communication* and *ICT* in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may offer opportunities to develop the components Critical Thinking, Planning and Organising and Reviewing and Evaluating of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component 'Written Communication' of the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6, particularly in the preparation of production paperwork, de-briefing and evaluation report. The general skills of the component are 'read, understand and evaluate written communication' for its reading element and 'produce well-structured written communication' for its written element. The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component Oral Communication of the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6, particularly in production meetings, departmental meetings, pre and de-briefing sessions. Any preparation towards producing a report within the folio of evidence, such as reading and research will facilitate development of the component's reading element, as candidates will need to examine a variety of information. The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component Working with Numbers of the Core Skill of *Numeracy* at SCQF level 6, particularly in dealing with petty cash and financial management.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre and Production Arts: Work Placement

### **Open learning**

Given the nature of this Unit it may be possible for it to be delivered via open or distance learning, however the candidate would still require a suitable local work placement.

### **Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs**

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)



## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for candidates

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On completion of the Unit you will be able to:

- ◆ engage in and contribute to the process and product of the host company
- ◆ analyse the company's aims and organisational structure
- ◆ critically evaluate your own performance within the work placement

You may be assessed in this Unit by feedback from your placement provider along with one or more reports on the placement and your own contribution to it.

There may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Working with Others*, *Numeracy*, *Problem Solving*, *ICT* and *Communication* in this Unit, however there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.