Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Location Sound: Complex Recording and Wireless Microphone Operations

Unit code: DM13 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to allow the candidate to develop the skills necessary to understand the operation of a multi function location sound mixer and a wireless microphone system and use these facilities to make location recordings.

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

1. Configure a multi function location sound mixer.
2. Make a two track recording and a stereo recording.
3. Make a recording using wireless microphones.
4. Manage sound recording on a complex shoot.

Credit points and level*:* 2 HN 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.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the Centre. However it would be beneficial if the candidate possessed the following HN Unit:

- Location Sound: Single microphone recording and boom operations.

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills 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: Assessment of this Unit should be based upon practical projects which allow the candidate to accumulate evidence within the context of the production process.
The candidate will be assessed on the production of:

General information for centres (cont)

Sound recordings from 3 separate locations which should include:

- One two channel recording
- One stereo recording
- One recording utilizing wireless microphones

Production documentation for the 3 locations

There is potential for integration with other Units such as HN Units *Camera and Lighting,*

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Configure a multi function location sound mixer

Knowledge and/or skills

- Configure the mixer for a two channel recording.
- Configure the mixer for a stereo recording.
- Use of the monitoring & metering modes
- Utilisation of other mixer functions
- Functions of different mixers

Evidence requirements

The candidate will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate that he/she can, for three discrete locations:

- configure the mixer to give discrete mono signals on each of the two outputs
- configure the mixer to give a stereo output with channels able to be panned left and right
- access the different monitoring and metering modes available
- utilise functions available on the mixer.

Assessment guidelines

It is unlikely that all mixer functions will require to be utilised on one or even a number of shoots. It is therefore appropriate that the candidate is required to demonstrate competence in the use of the mixer functions before undertaking a complex location shoot.

Note- Different mixers will have different functions. However it is important that the candidate is familiar with and utilises, where appropriate, all of the functions available on the mixer he/she is using.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Location Sound: Complex Recording and Wireless Microphone Operations

Outcome 2

Make a two track recording and a stereo recording.

Knowledge and/or skills

- Two channel recording.
- Stereo recording

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- produced a two track recording with the discrete sound sources controlled to the level, tonal quality and perspective appropriate to the required sound
- produced a stereo recording with the discrete sound sources controlled to the level, tonal quality and perspective appropriate to the required sound.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome can be assessed as part of Outcome 4. A two channel recording and a stereo recording should be made by the candidate as required by the production or as separate wild tracks.

Outcome 3

Make a recording using wireless microphones.

Knowledge and/or skills

- Check, line up and rig a wireless radio microphone system.
- Make a recording using a wireless radio microphone system.

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- check that a wireless microphone system is safe, has properly charged batteries and is in working order
- minimise interference to and from other wireless channels.
- adjust the audio parameters of the wireless system.
- position equipment safely and for optimum R.F. performance.
- make a recording which demonstrates that the equipment has been rigged and aligned satisfactorily.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Location Sound: Complex Recording and Wireless Microphone Operations

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome can be assessed along with Outcome 4. A recording using wireless microphones should be made by the candidate as required by the production or as a separate wild track.

Outcome 4

Manage sound recordings on a complex shoot.

Knowledge and/or skills

- Prepare schedule of resources required on locations.
- Record required production sound on locations.
- Record wild tracks as required
- Label recording media so that it can be easily identified.

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- prepare schedules of equipment required for a location shoot involving at least three separate locations
- record and log sound as required for the production on each location
- record and log wild tracks of ambience and other necessary sound sources on each of the locations
- ensure that all media is accurately labelled.

Assessment guidelines

The location media and logs should provide the necessary evidence on which the assessment is based.

The recordings produced by the candidate should be comprehensive, easily identified and of a high technical and aesthetic quality.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DM13 35
Unit title:	Location Sound: Complex Recording and Wireless Microphone Operations
Superclass category:	KG
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Location Sound: Complex Recording and Wireless Microphone Operations

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 xx hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Candidates should gain a high level of competence in using a multi function location sound mixer in a variety of location recording situations. They should understand the purpose of the different monitoring and recording configurations and where and when to use them.

The use of these functions and the use of wireless microphones should, where possible, be incorporated in location productions. It is unlikely that all of the functions will be required on the productions. It is therefore important that the candidates are given examples of situations requiring the use of each function.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcome 1 – The functions available on a multi function location mixer for monitoring and recording sound should be explained. The monitoring functions should include stereo, left channel, right channel, MS and pre-fade. The use of an auxiliary input for monitoring from the camera should also be explained. Recording modes should include stereo with panning facilities, two discrete mono outputs and MS recording.

Outcome 2 – The recordings made by the candidate should be undertaken as part of a location shoot. These recordings can be in synch or wild tracks. If, for example, the production only requires mono sound a stereo wild track could be recorded.

Outcome 3 – The candidate should appreciate the importance of checking that the equipment is in working order with charged batteries and necessary spares. The candidate should be able to line up the transmitter with the appropriate audio input sensitivity and the appropriate limiter operation for the anticipated use. The final recording should demonstrate that this has been achieved.

Outcome 4 – The location shoot(s) should provide assessment evidence for all of the outcomes. Candidates should provide recordings of all necessary synch sound and wild tracks. The importance of wild tracks in facilitating the audio post production process should be emphasised. As well as high quality sound recordings the candidate should provide logs, notes and clearly labelled media to ensure easy access to all of the recordings.

Open learning

Due to the specialist nature and technical requirements of this unit it is not able to be delivered by Open Learning

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Location Sound: Complex Recording and Wireless Microphone Operations

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Location Sound: Complex Recording and Wireless Microphone Operations

This unit is designed to give you an understanding of the functions available on a professional location sound mixer. Different configurations of the mixer and their uses will be explained.

You will prepare and line up a mixer for a location shoot and use the mixer on location to make mono and stereo recordings.

You will use wireless microphones on location.

You will record sound on a project involving at least three different locations.