

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Audio for Visual Art/Images

Unit code: DV3E 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to develop the candidate's skills in the design of audio to compliment visual art. This is a practical Unit and will allow the candidate to develop the skills required to prepare audio material to accompany a range of visual images or artforms. The skills will include planning, designing, creating and applying audio to chosen visual images. This Unit is intended for anyone planning a career in the sound or audio industries.

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

- 1 Consider the nature of a visual image or artform and select appropriate audio format to accompany it.
- 2 Create audio accompaniment to visual images or artforms that compliments and enhances the work.
- 3 Work as part of a team to ensure the audio accompaniment and the visual images or artforms are properly synchronised into a single coherent entity.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*).

**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 is at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial if candidates had an understanding and experience of digital audio production through, for example, completion of the HN Unit: Digital Audio Workstations 1 (DJ23 34).

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: This Unit lends itself to holistic assessment.

General information for centres (cont)

The assessment of all three Outcomes can be integrated into a project requiring candidates to create an audio accompaniment for a visual image or artform. Supporting evidence should be submitted to substantiate the design process and to provide the required technical evidence.

Alternatively, each Outcome can be assessed individually.

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

Consider the nature of a visual image or artform and select appropriate audio format to accompany it

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Digital audio recording devices
- ◆ Reproduction formats including mono, stereo and surround sound
- ◆ Appropriate sound reproduction systems
- ◆ Software systems for post production

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can take into account the nature of a visual artform/image and select appropriate audio format to accompany it, as stated in knowledge and/or skills above.

Evidence should take the form of a written or oral presentation.

Candidates will identify their chosen visual artform or images and state how it shall be displayed for the purpose of this assessment. Based on the display format the candidate will select appropriate equipment for recording, editing and replaying audio in that format. Reasons for choices should be clearly explained.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome can be assessed by a single written or verbal report or submitted as part of an integrated project covering all Outcomes.

The choices made about how the audio should be created should be appropriate to the display format and explanations should also demonstrate knowledge of a wide range of software, devices and formats.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Audio for Visual Art/Images

Outcome 2

Create audio accompaniment to visual images or artforms that compliments and enhances the work

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Examples of existing works
- ◆ Synchronisation
- ◆ Basic harmonic theory
- ◆ MIDI sequencing
- ◆ Editing and layering audio
- ◆ Timestretching
- ◆ Pitch shifting
- ◆ Use of software

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can complete an audio accompaniment, in the chosen format, which makes good use of the facilities offered by software, as stated in knowledge and/or skills above.

The candidate's effective manipulation of audio material to create an audio accompaniment should be recorded on a high quality format and retained as evidence. While there is no mandatory duration of the submitted accompaniment it must compliment the chosen work in terms of style and mood and enhance the viewing experience by adding an audio dimension.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome can be assessed individually or can form part of an integrated project.

The audio piece should be saved in an appropriate format which allows all the required features to be heard during playback. For the purposes of this Outcome the audio need not be presented along with the full visual image, but a thumbnail sketch of the stimulus will be required to put the piece in context. Accompanying programme notes may serve to assist in the assessment of the piece by providing additional context to the work.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Audio for Visual Art/Images

Outcome 3

Work as part of a team to ensure the audio accompaniment and the visual images or artforms are properly synchronised into a single coherent entity

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Planning and preparation
- ◆ Setting up audio systems
- ◆ Synchronisation and interactivity
- ◆ Lighting/projection systems
- ◆ Testing and fault finding

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can work as part of a team to complete the installation of their chosen artform/visual image with their recorded audio soundtrack.

Candidates should provide a planned timescale of events, a list of required equipment and clearly identify the duties of individual team members. The installation should be completed on schedule and function as specified.

Notes describing the planning, preparation and evaluation of the installation should accompany video evidence of the final installation. The evaluation should concentrate on the candidate's own contribution to the team effort.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome can be assessed individually or as part of an integrated project submission.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DV3E 34
Unit title: Audio for Visual Art/Images
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Version	Description of change	Date
02	Removal of Word Count and Presentation Length.	02/06/11

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is primarily intended to develop the candidate's skills in the design for and use of audio for visual images or artforms. The Unit specifies the technical skills which should be covered in the delivery and teaching while assessment is based on the application of gained knowledge and technical skills. The candidate should, on completion of the Unit, be able to create an audio accompaniment using sampled and recorded audio, programmed MIDI, sound effects and processes where required. Candidates can complete this Unit without playing a musical instrument or creating original melodies.

It is possible that some candidates may have prior knowledge in audio recording or multimedia production. This Unit should be used as a tool to develop the candidate's understanding further, to a competent and professional level, of both the creation and appliance of audio within a specific context.

Although it is advisory that candidates should be subject to an understanding of the general use of audio within a variety of commercially available genres, the candidate is only required to develop course evidence for use within one application.

The definition of visual art/images is intended to be as broad as possible and could include: kinetic sculpture, video, film, theatre, photography, CD sleeve, mobile phone screensavers, computer games, electronic presentations, gallery installations, paintings or any other visual image or artform.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This is an optional Unit in the framework for the HND Sound Production Group Award. As part of this Group Award, it is primarily designed to provide candidates with the technical and professional knowledge and skills related to this specific occupational area. This Unit is designed to give an insight into each stage of the complete production for audio within a multimedia context. It would be expected that the candidates, on completion of this Unit, would follow a career in audio production and design.

This Unit should be delivered in the form of a project. It will be necessary for the candidate to select a suitable visual artform or image on which to design their audio accompaniment. The assessor can offer guidance on what software is available which should help the candidate select a suitable form with which they can fully express their ideas.

Teaching should concentrate on how the technology works and how it may be best used. It is up to the candidate to decide what they use and how they use it. Assessment will be based on the Outcomes of these decisions and the supporting evidence provided to explain the decision making process.

Some time should be spent giving examples of existing works.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Audio for Visual Art/Images

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Delivering centres will be responsible for ensuring authenticity of candidates' work.

For further information and advice please refer to *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, — publication code A1030).

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 Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on the SQA website www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

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This Unit is designed to give you a practical understanding of the technology and techniques that can be used to create and present audio for visual art or images. You will be shown current examples of professional work and asked to create your own. You will be allowed to select the medium in which you will be working, but constraints may be placed on you as to the available technology.

The underpinning concept behind the Unit concerns developing another set of skills for someone working in the field of audio production. The areas that you may wish to create audio for could include kinetic or static sculpture, video, film, theatre, photography, CD sleeve, mobile phone screensavers, computer games, electronic presentations, gallery installations, paintings or any other visual image or artform.

Assessment will be based on a demonstration of your knowledge and skills by decision making and application. The Unit can be covered by a single project where a mixture of written and video evidence will show your understanding of the technology and its uses while also providing an opportunity for you to create your own audio accompaniment. Alternatively, each Outcome can be assessed individually.