



Arrangements for:
Technical Theatre and Production Arts
Higher National Diploma

Group Award Code: G9YY 16

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SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

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1 Introduction

This is the Arrangements Document for the revised/new Group Award in Technical Theatre and Production Arts, which was validated in August 2010. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Award, its aims, guidance on access, details of the Group Award structure, and guidance on delivery.

2 Rationale for the development of the Group Award

This award provides a progression route from the HNC in Technical Theatre (G8Y4 15) which replaced a previous Award, namely HNC Production and Technical Theatre (G1B9 15)

The HND was developed for the following reasons:

- ◆ To provide a coherent articulation route to candidates who have successfully completed HNC Technical Theatre.
- ◆ To provide a range of approaches to learning and teaching, including opportunities for integration and project work.
- ◆ To provide an award which reflects current industry practice and new technologies at the appropriate level.

The rationale has been developed in response to a range of criteria such as:

- ◆ Feedback from employers within the creative industries citing the need for graduates to possess more focussed vocational and practical skills within stage management, technical and scenic art and construction departments.
- ◆ A complementary demand from employers that graduates are creative independent learners capable of acquiring new skills and multi-tasking.
- ◆ Clear industry demand for graduates entering their first job to have significant placement experience within the industry.
- ◆ The need to develop a greater emphasis on creative and collaborative practice delivered by promoting a culture of team working and peer teaching.

3 Aims of the Group Award

The QAA Guidelines on Drama, Dance and Performance — DDP (2007) note that ‘graduates in the dance, drama and performing arts acquire a range of critical, creative, performance and production skills’. Among the list of subjects that ‘graduates within the broad subject area of DDP will have practised’ the HND aims to:

3.1 General aims of the Group Award

3.1.1 General aims of the Group Award

- 1 Develop in candidates the ability to function as vocationally skilled practitioners.
- 2 Enable candidates to develop as critical, reflective and independent practitioners within the theatre and performance sector of the creative industries.
- 3 Enable candidates to contribute to the development of the theatre and performance sector of the creative industries.
- 4 Develop in candidates a critical and creative approach to their areas of study and to their own development.
- 5 To develop candidate’s analytical, creative and research skills.
- 6 Enhance, through increased opportunities for student-centred learning, qualities of personal initiative, self-motivation, self-discipline and collaborative team-working skills
- 7 Develop candidate’s ability to apply what has been learnt.
- 8 Prepare candidates for a portfolio career in the theatre and performance sector within the creative industries.

3.2 Specific aims of the Group Award

- 9 Enable responsibility for own and others’ learning experience.
- 10 Develop strong communication and team working skills.
- 11 Enable the practice of professional conduct within the general context of the award and with reference to best practice within the industry.
- 12 Develop a knowledge and understanding of the scope of production skills within theatre and allied creative industries.
- 13 Develop a growing familiarity and competence in the application of essential/routine skills, techniques and materials.
- 14 Develop skills for the gathering, critical analysis and presentation of information, ideas, concepts and data incorporating appropriate IT skills.
- 15 Develop the ability to reflect and analyse their practice.

3.3 Target groups

This Group Award is designed for those who wish to pursue a career in Stage Management, Scenic Art and Construction and Lighting and Sound in the creative industries and seek relevant training:

- ◆ An HNC graduate in Technical Theatre or relevant programme.
- ◆ Those with professional experience in production arts and technical theatre who require a formal qualification.

3.4 Employment opportunities

In designing the award, the QDT ensured the qualification contains all the necessary production and transferable skills to enable direct entry into the industry at Assistant level. Candidates will also have knowledge and experience in Heads of Department roles but would be expected to initially gain employment in the creative industries as:

- ◆ Assistant stage manager
- ◆ Technical assistant
- ◆ Design assistant
- ◆ Costume assistant
- ◆ Assistant scenic artist
- ◆ Assistant carpenter

4 Access to Group Award

Access to the HND in Technical Theatre is at the discretion of the delivering centre, however candidates are required to have completed the HNC in Technical Theatre (G8Y4 15) for entry on to the HND (ie second year of HNC/D). 12 Unit credits (96 SCQF credit points) are required for the HNC although candidates wishing to progress to the HND are likely to have completed 15 Unit credits (120 SCQF credit points), allowing for a more even split between the HNC and HND years. The performance of candidates in the HNC will provide an indication to centers as to their likely success at HND level.

While achievement of the HNC can be used as the main entry requirement for the HND award, for candidates who wish to access the combined HNC/D formal academic achievements may not, in themselves, represent adequate entry criteria. A more accurate prediction of candidate attainment may be achieved through appraisal, which includes an element of guidance. This is very likely to include a formal interview, in which interviewees show relevant experience and enthusiasm for the subject areas. Candidates will also have to demonstrate the ability to be independent learners using initiative in their approach to problem solving and production work. This sort of contact should enable an appropriately subtle and realistic assessment of suitability for the award and allow candidates with relevant work experience the chance to gain a place on the award.

An additional guidance interview may also be conducted by academic staff with experience in award tutorship, candidate counseling, advice and guidance, work placement and post-qualification career monitoring.

This informally structured, adaptive interview process will allow the prospective candidate to form a realistic perception of the award and its demands in terms of workload, content and assessment methods. This should improve retention and allow for earlier career planning and development. Where candidates have English as an additional language entry to the qualification remains at the discretion of the centre, however candidates should understand and be able to use industry standard terminology and be able to communicate effectively.

Core Skills

Development of all five Core Skills is integrated across the Group Award, within the various Units. The Core Skills within Units is detailed in the mapping given on page 6, while recommended entry levels for the HND are shown in the table below

Core Skill	Recommended Entry level
Communication	SCQF level 5
Numeracy	SCQF level 5
ICT	SCQF level 5
Problem Solving	SCQF level 5
Working with Others	SCQF level 5

5 Group Award structure

5.1 Framework

Unit title	Code	SQA credit value	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
Mandatory Units (21 Credits)				
Stage Management	F389 34	3	24	7
Technical Theatre: Graded Unit 1	F3NN 34	1	8	7
Stage Lighting: Rigging, Focusing and Operation	F388 34	2	16	7
Technical Theatre: Sound	F38E 34	2	16	7
Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting	F38D 34	2	16	7
Stage Management: Advanced	FA04 35	2	16	8
Stage Lighting and Technology	FA03 35	2	16	8
Stage Sound and Technology	FA08 35	1	8	8
Technical Theatre: Graded Unit 2	FA09 35	2	16	8
Scenic Art and Construction	FA01 35	2	16	8
Technical Theatre: Research Techniques	FA00 35	1	8	8
Technical Theatre: Professional Development	FA06 35	1	8	8
Optional Units (9 Credits)				
Technical Theatre: Lighting Design for Performance	F38A 35	2	16	8
Technical Theatre: Props for Theatre Production	F38B 34	1	8	7
Technical Theatre: Score Reading	F38C 34	1	8	7
Technical Theatre: Stage Design	F386 34	2	16	7
Performance Costume: An Introduction	F18Y 34	1	8	7
Performance Costume: Advanced	F190 35	2	16	8
Live Performance Administration	DG43 34	1	8	7
Digital Audio Workstations 1	DJ23 34	2	16	7
Music and Image — Graphics	DJ2G 34	1	8	7
Manage Operational Resources	J1BY 34*	2	16	7
Sound Production: Sound Reinforcement 1	DJ38 34	2	16	7
Sound Production: Sound Reinforcement 2	H1M0 35	2	16	8
Sound Production Practice 1	DJ36 34	1	8	7
Work Placement	HJ4W 34*	1	8	7
Personal Development Planning	DE3R 34	1	8	7
Audio Visual Technologies for Performance	F387 34	2	16	7
Technical Theatre: Work Placement	FA07 35	2	16	8
Stage Technology and Stage Flying	FA05 35	1	8	8

Special Effects for Theatre	FA02 35	1	8	8
Technical Theatre: Sound Design for Performance	J2SM 35	2	8	16

*Refer to History of Changes for revision details.

5.2 Mapping information

Mapping of Award Aims to Units

Unit title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Stage Management: Advanced	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Stage Lighting and Technology	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Stage Sound and Technology	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Technical Theatre Graded Unit 2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x
Scenic Art and Construction	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Technical Theatre: Professional Development	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Technical Theatre: Work Placement	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Stage Technology	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Technical Theatre: Research Skills		x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x

Core Skills Mapping

The following table shows the opportunities to develop Core Skills at a particular SCQF level in each Unit. Further information on these opportunities is contained in the Unit Specifications.

Unit title	Communication (Written)	Communication (Oral)	Using Graphical Info	Using Number	Using IT	Problem Solving — C. T.	Problem Solving — P. & O.	Problem Solving — R. & E.	Working with Others
Stage Management: Advanced	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Stage Lighting and Technology	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Stage Sound and Technology	6	6	6	6	6	6	6		6
Scenic Art and Construction		5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
Technical Theatre: Professional Development	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Technical Theatre: Work Placement	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Stage Technology and Stage Flying	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Technical Theatre: Research Techniques	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Technical Theatre: Graded Unit 2	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	

Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) to Units

Unit	CP D4	G6	G1 1	HS 1	MT P1	MT P2	TP 1	TP 2.3	TP 2.4	TP 2.5	TP 3.3	TP 3.4	TP 3.5	TP 3.6	TP 4	TP 5.3	TP 5.4	TP 5.5	TP 5.6	TP 6
Stage Management: Advanced	F	P	F	F	P	F	F	/	/	P	/	F	/	/	/	P	F	/	/	/
Stage Lighting and Technology	F	P	F	F	P	F	F	F	/	/	P	/	/	F	/	F	/	/	/	/
Stage Sound and Technology	F	P	F	F	P	F	F	/	F	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	F	/
TTPA Graded Unit 2	/	/	/	P	P	/	P	P	P	P	/	/	/	/	/	P	/	/	P	/
Scenic Art and Construction	F	P	F	F	P	F	F	/	/	P	/	P	F	/	P	/	P	F	/	F
TTPA: Professional Development	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
TTPA: Work Placement	P	P	F	F	P	F	P	/	/	P	/	P	/	/	/	P	P	P	P	/
Stage Technology	/	/	P	F	P	F	P	/	/	P	/	P	/	/	/	P	P	P	P	/
TTPA: Research Skills	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	P	P	P	P	/

F = Full mapping of content of NOS Unit to HN Unit

P = Partial mapping of NOS Unit to HN Unit

/ = Limited or no mapping of NOS Unit to HN Unit

5.3 Articulation, professional recognition and credit transfer

To achieve the HND in Technical Theatre and Production Arts candidates will require to successfully complete 30 Unit credits (240 SCQF credit points), including the 21 Mandatory Unit Credits (168 SCQF Credit Points) and a further 9 Unit credits (72 SCQF credit points) selected from the Optional Section. Candidates progressing to the HND from the HNC in Technical Theatre will have achieved a minimum of 12 Unit credits (96 SCQF credit points).

Candidates who successfully complete the HND may be able to progress to the second or third year of a degree level program, for example:

BA Stage Management — Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
BA Stage Management — Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff
BA Theatre Arts (Design and Technical Theatre) Degree — Middlesex University
BA Hons Theatre Practice — Central School of Speech and Drama
BA Hons Stage Management — Rosebruford Drama School

Candidates will also have developed the knowledge and skills to benefit from a range of Continuous Professional Development opportunities such as short courses or specialist workshops.

6 Approaches to delivery and assessment

Context and Content

The HND Technical Theatre and Production Arts is a specialised award, which allows candidates to gain skills and knowledge in the core technical areas of Stage Management, Lighting, Sound, Stage Technology and Scenic Art and Construction. It also places a strong emphasis on engaging the candidate in Professional Development. The award is aimed at those who wish to embark on a career as an assistant stage manager or technician, and who wish to develop the necessary skills to progress to further training or employment.

Where candidates are unsure about how they wish to specialise, the wide choice of Units is particularly valuable. As well as broad knowledge and skills, the mandatory section develops a high level of practical skills, analytical research skills and skills in the practical use of technology. The award is set within a rapidly changing industry so candidates should be made aware of the need for multi-skilling and transferable skills.

Delivery and Assessment Strategies

The aim of the HND curriculum design is to provide a balance between awareness, understanding and professional practice in the application of technical and production skills within the context of integrated projects and productions.

This balance is intended to develop candidates' ability to identify and apply individual skills and facilitating abilities in their production roles and projects, thereby enhancing future employability.

By its nature the award is intensely vocational. At its core is an ethos of learning by continuous engagement in the production process and subsequent reflection.

The collaborative ethos will develop most successfully in a group with a shared work ethic and mutual respect.

Each individual will develop their innate potential through having a supported creative environment within which they feel safe to take creative risks.

In this way, the candidate is placed firmly at the centre of the learning process. The Learning and Teaching strategies are designed to facilitate independent progress within a collaborative and supported structure. This will include:

- ◆ Production Work
- ◆ Lectures
- ◆ Practical workshops
- ◆ Group creative projects
- ◆ Individual and group research
- ◆ Tutorials

All of the Units contain a mixture of collaborative and individual work.

Throughout the award candidates will be asked to produce evidence which is designed to promote reflective practice and would normally be expected to contain;

- ◆ A record of production work.
- ◆ Reflection and analysis on that work. (production analysis)
- ◆ Personal theory arrived at as a result of this process. (Self assessment)

In this way, reflective learning is promoted.

Although centres can choose in what order to teach the Units within the awards, it is envisaged that the key skills of stage management, lighting, sound, stage technology and scenic art and construction will be employed throughout the duration of the award. It is likely that delivery of the Graded Unit will start while elements of the mandatory Units are also still being delivered, however it is important that the mandatory Units have been assessed prior to assessment of the Graded Unit.

The assessment strategy of the Design Principles, ie to encourage a more holistic approach to assessment, has been adopted in this award. The new HN Unit specification places the emphasis on reducing the assessment load for both candidates and centres by devising assessments, which assess the entire Unit or join the assessments of Outcomes together.

Assessment through projects and practical tasks is encouraged.

Unit specifications detail exactly the Evidence Requirements and assessment procedures for each assessment event. An exemplar assessment instrument will be produced for the Graded Unit, which indicates to centres what is required.

7 General information for centres

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.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these Group Award(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* (www.sqa.org.uk).

8 General information for candidates

The aim of the HND in Technical Theatre & Production Arts award is to allow you to continue to develop your skills and knowledge as a theatre practitioner. The HND will offer the opportunity to study subject areas Stage Management, Lighting, Sound, Scenic art and Construction and Stage Technology up to professional level.

You will be expected to have prior knowledge or experience in theatre production. The award is aimed at those who wish to pursue a career in technical theatre and stage management.

The HND has been designed to allow you to be assessed as practically as possible, but there is the need for additional methods of assessment eg evaluation essays in production analysis. Assessment is ongoing throughout the year.

You must achieve the 30 mandatory credits (240 SCQF credit points).

On completion of the HND, successful candidates could potentially progress to the second or third year of a similar degree programme or into the profession at assistant level.

9 Glossary of terms

SCQF: This stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework, which is a new way of speaking about qualifications and how they inter-relate. We use SCQF terminology throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk

SCQF credit points: One HN credit is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points. This applies to all HN Units, irrespective of their level.

SCQF levels: The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HN Units will normally be at levels 6–9. Graded Units will be at level 7 and 8.

Subject Unit: Subject Units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Graded Unit: Graded Units assess candidates' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the Units of the Group Award. Their purpose is to add value to the Group Award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage candidates to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

Dedicated Unit to cover Core Skills: This is a non-subject Unit that is written to cover one or more particular Core Skills.

Embedded Core Skills: This is where the development of a Core Skill is incorporated into the Unit and where the Unit assessment also covers the requirements of Core Skill assessment at a particular level.

Signposted Core Skills: This refers to the opportunities to develop a particular Core Skill at a specified level that lie outwith automatic certification.

Qualification Design Team: The QDT works in conjunction with a Qualification Manager/Development Manager to steer the development of the HNC/HND from its inception/revision through to validation. The group is made up of key stakeholders representing the interests of centres, employers, universities and other relevant organisations.

Consortium-devised HNCs and HNDs are those developments or revisions undertaken by a group of centres in partnership with SQA.

Specialist single centre and specialist collaborative devised HNCs and HNDs are those developments or revisions led by a single centre or small group of centres who provide knowledge and skills in a specialist area. Like consortium-devised HNCs and HNDs, these developments or revisions will also be supported by SQA.