

Extended Diploma in Music Performance & Production

Project proposal template

In producing the project proposal, and in preparing for the project realisation, you should familiarise yourself with Units 12 and 13 of the qualification. In particular, you should understand the assessment and grading criteria, which will be used to determine standards of achievement.

Unit 12 requires you to produce a project proposal of about 800 words, excluding the project action plan and bibliography. Project proposals should not be so succinct that they do not address the requirements listed, nor should they be excessively long and unfocused. Your project proposal should be sufficiently challenging to ensure you have the best possible chance of meeting the grading criteria in Unit 13, the extended project.

Your project proposal should include:

- *Centre name and number*
- *Candidate name and number*
- *Project proposal title and date*
- *Main area of activity/ pathway.*

The project proposal must be word processed and presented under the headings listed here:

Section 1 - Context

(Approximately 300 words)

This section provides you with an opportunity to reflect on, review and summarise your progress and achievements through the first 11 units, and the knowledge, skills and understanding you have acquired. What you know now, and what it means to you, compared with what you knew and could do before you started the course, and how this has influenced your choice of pathway and your project proposal.

It also provides an opportunity for you to explain your reasons for choosing a particular pathway and to outline both your immediate and longer-term aspirations. You should use this section to clearly explain the concept and aims of your personal project, and what you anticipate producing, making reference to the critical and contextual perspectives within which your own work is situated.

Section 2 – Research

(Approximately 50 words)

This section provides you with an opportunity to record the initial research sources that you intend to use, both primary and secondary and the ideas that will support and inform the development of your project. Your sources of research should be as wide as

possible, including: libraries, museums and galleries; books and magazines; theatre and live events; film, TV and radio, and websites and digital sources.

You should include references to print or digital media in the form of a bibliography presented using the Harvard system of referencing, within the template provided.

Section 3 – Problem solving

(Approximately 100 words)

In this section, you should describe how you intend to overcome problems you are likely to encounter during the development of your proposed project. Give examples of both practical and theoretical problems that you have resolved through your previous work.

Include examples of personal initiative and commitment that you have previously demonstrated and use this to anticipate the level of comprehension, appreciation, knowledge and proficiency that will be necessary to achieve your identified goals.

Section 4 – Planning and production

(Approximately 50 words)

This section provides you with an opportunity to outline your planning and organisation over a period of weeks, and the activities you will need to carry out in order to successfully complete your project within the agreed time-frame. Your planning should be presented within the template provided. It is important that you consider how you will balance ambition, time and realism in the realisation of the project. This should include what you are going to do, how you will do it and by when.

The more time and thought you give to planning your project, the more successful it is likely to be. Remember to include time spent on: sourcing materials, performing questionnaires, accessing workshops, tutorial and peer group feedback opportunities and where you will incorporate independent study. You should also outline the resources that you will need and an indication of the form in which you will complete and present your final realisation within the allocated timescale.

Section 5 – Practical skills

(Approximately 100 words)

In this section, you should describe the practical elements of your project and the materials processes and technical skills that you will need to apply in order to successfully realise your proposal.

Give examples of techniques and processes that you have used during previous units. This can include the development of a range of skills used to support and ensure the successful communication of experiences and ideas and the resources you will need to access in order to fully explore the potential of your project concept.

Section 6 – Evaluation and reflection

(Approximately 100 words)

This section provides an opportunity for you to explain how you will reflect on and evaluate your work, as both an ongoing activity and at the conclusion of the project.

You should describe how you intend to record your decision making, and how you will document changes to your ideas as work progresses.

The evaluation should be referenced to your stated aims and be reflective and analytical rather than a description of actions completed. When working in collaboration with others you should comment on how this may impact either positively or adversely and steps you can take to minimise disruption to your own progress.

Section 7 – Presentation

(Approximately 100 words)

The final section provides an opportunity for you to describe how you intend to organise and present the work generated throughout the development of your project. You should consider the most appropriate formats for communicating the development of your ideas to an identified audience, both visually and conceptually and how you will present your conclusions and outcomes.

Additional requirements (not included in the 800-word proposal):

- Proposal cover sheet and project title
- Bibliography
- Project timetable
- Digital presentation

Extended Diploma in Music Performance & Production

Unit 12 Project Proposal

Candidate Name	Kaitlyn Ashworth
Candidate Number	
Pathway	Music Performance and Production
Project Title	Cover Project
Section 1: Context (approx. 300 words)	

This project, I have decided to work independently as, reflecting on last year's project, working with other people was something that held me back. I will still be asking for help when needed and the collaborations that I have planned will be short-term. Because I have decided to work independently, I have decided to push myself by planning a cover recording project, in which I will be playing three instruments and recording each how I want to and how I think will sound most similar to the original, then mixing and adding certain effects that are heard in the original song. Throughout the recording process, I will be recording videos to put together for a final presentation video.

The song I have chosen is Smashing Pumpkin's 1979 as it sounds like both a challenge and within my ability provided I am consistent in rehearsal.

I will mostly be focusing on drums, then guitar in difficulty order in rehearsal, as the bass part is easy for me. While recording, I will be setting up microphones in ways that I specifically want them, which depending on how much information I can get on the original song's recording process, should be as similar as realistically possible. During the mixing process, I will use past project information to do a basic mix, then work with a staff member to achieve the specific sound that I want and to add effects.

Section 2: Research (approx. 50 words)

I will be researching consistently throughout the project in accordance with my progress using online articles, tutorial videos and potential interviews. I will be looking deeply into mixing overall and specific effects that I wish to achieve, different ways I can record each instrument, specific drum technique, rehearsal techniques and a full analysis of 1979, as well as minor research points like editing software for the video and more.

Section 3: Problem solving (approx. 100 words)

Some potential problems I have identified stem from last year's major project, in which I encountered two main problems. One was falling behind schedule, which I failed to prepare for sufficiently. This year, I have planned well and given myself space to relax and extra time to work on certain things. I will also note what made me fall behind. This method also applies to experiencing burnout.

Another potential problem would be losing progress by losing files, I will be using my USB stick and transferring everything onto that, as well as onto my own mac so that I have all work in two places in case I lose my USB.

There is a risk of not having spaces to work, like not having enough studio time. I will have to plan studio time at least a week in advance, if not two.

Section 4: Planning and production (approx. 50 words)

The schedule allows for three weeks of in-term rehearsal and research time, followed by three weeks of video and audio recording. At the start of the third week of recording, mixing and video editing begins and this concludes after two weeks. That leaves one week before the end of the project to focus on summative evaluation and pre-hand in feedback so that I can make appropriate changes. All specifics will fall into the relevant time ranges.

Section 5: Practical skills (approx. 100 words)

I will be pushing myself by playing drums in a studio setting for the first time using my own recording set-up and with little guidance from tutors, other than directions from the studio.

Otherwise, I will be developing my guitar skills by learning and recording the song and exercising my bass skills.

Specifically in recording, I will be setting up everything with as little guidance as possible to get the sound I want and recording myself in the studio on bass and guitar.

I'll be mixing with some guidance to achieve the sound I want. This is a skill that I will be improving rather than using to my advantage.

Section 6: Evaluation and reflection (approx. 100 words)

Evaluation will be ongoing alongside any progress I make in every area of my project and will have a summative page at the end, and reflection will be used to improve my working process as I go along. I'll be using a simple plan, do, check, and act evaluative cycle, as it is simple enough for me to consistently follow. The plan stage includes noting what action will happen and thinking about possible outcomes. The do stage is carrying out the plan and doing that part of the project. Checking can consist of peer, tutor, or a self-check by either noting or writing feedback on my work and progress, and the act stage is making appropriate changes and implementing changes for future parts of the project.

Section 7: Presentation (approx. 100 words)

I will present this project as a split-screen video displaying each instrument played within the recorded song, which will be paired and synced with the video. I will have this video uploaded to YouTube publicly, as the aim is to begin building a portfolio displaying my instrument, mixing, and recording skills. I want this to be public rather than unlisted for no particular reason. I have no goals for profit or gaining attention but if those things come naturally, I won't be unhappy. I would like to consider the possibility of having the final video displayed at the final showcase.

Proposed Research Sources and Bibliography (Harvard Format)

Hunter, Y. (2020) *How to mix live drums in Logic Pro X*, YouTube. Available at: <https://youtu.be/ZT3dfqrP11M?si=Heglvt1fh3iAvGVq> (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

Box, I.T. (2021) *How to do a reverse reverb effect : Logic Pro X*, YouTube. Available at: <https://youtu.be/RWBSsEeu0bk> (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

How the pros get wide guitar mixes (2023) YouTube. Available at: <https://youtu.be/liaL3WFN4K4> (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

Divine, S. (2020) *Identify and fix phase issues in the mix*, YouTube. Available at: <https://youtu.be/kJ6Jgn4T8Zw> (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

Guides, M. (2023) *How to split screens in Davinci Resolve 18: Easy*, YouTube. Available at: <https://youtu.be/41wygOc8EeI> (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

Benks, A. (2023) *The history of mellon collie's guitar tone and recording process - smashing pumpkins*, YouTube. Available at: https://youtu.be/i_BM-2nSkgo (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

Divine, S. (2017) *Logic pro X compressor and compression types explained*, YouTube. Available at: https://youtu.be/Nx7G-p_My5w (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

Pumpkins, S. (2021) *How flood saw the 'Real soul' of the band during recording of Mellon collie*, YouTube. Available at: <https://youtu.be/qk9uKBazec8> (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

Flood (music producer) (2024) Wikipedia. Available at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flood_\(music_producer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flood_(music_producer)) (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

1979 drum tab by Smashing Pumpkins (2023) Songsterr Tabs with Rhythm. Available at: <https://www.songsterr.com/a/wsa/smashing-pumpkins-1979-drum-tab-s91981> (Accessed: 04 March 2024).

Project Action Plan and Timetable

Week	Date Week Beginning	Activity / What you are intending to do - including independent study	Resources / What you will need to do it - including access to workshops
1	4/3/24	Research, drum and guitar rehearsal. Record video progress.	A drum room for two hours a week.
2	11/3/24	Research, drum, guitar and bass rehearsal. Record video progress.	A drum room for two hours a week.

3	18/3/24	Research, drum, guitar and bass rehearsal. Record video progress.	A drum room for two hours a week.
4	8/4/24	Begin recording bass and drums. Record video for the presentation video.	Control room & live room, mic stands, drum mics, XLR cables, DI box, bass amp mic, jack lead.
5	15/4/24	Continue recording drums. Start recording guitar. Record video for the presentation video.	Control room & live room, mic stands, guitar amp mic(s), drum mics, DI box, jack lead, XLR cables.
6	22/4/24	Back-up recording week, in case studio and live room are fully booked / I can't record within the given time. Continue recording missing parts and / or attempt vocals. Start mixing bass and drums.	Studio & Live room. Other equipment depends on previous progress. Will be using my own mac to mix by transferring files from the studio on a USB stick.
7	29/4/24	Continued mixing. Start putting together the videos for the split screen video and have them in a rough format. Sync video to the un-mixed audio as long as everything will still be on beat.	Control room for a couple hours once I think I'm close to being done with mixing.
8	6/5/24	Finish the video, finalise the mix and upload the project on YouTube. Ask for final feedback before handing in. Evaluation and reflection catch-up from previous weeks and work on final evaluation pages.	

9	13/5/24	Any last bits of evaluation and coursework. This week is a catch-up week in case I fall behind, as well as time to make the project as good as possible.	
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