

Virtual Learning uk Study Programmes



Performing Arts

Creative Media Practice

Sports Coaching & Development

September 2025

www.vluk.org

The further education option that allows you to study and develop your skills for success.

If you're aged 16-18 and interested in sports, fitness, coaching or performing arts, our range of courses could be for you. VLUK has teamed up with a number of prestigious venues across the UK to bring you the nationally recognised Level 2 and Level 3 BTEC programmes, enabling you to study and perform your way to success. We also offer RSL awarding qualifications and VLUK is proud to be rated Ofsted Grade 2 for our high standards in education.

In addition to studying sport or performing arts, you will have access to a range of professional staff and facilities in the heart of the relevant industry, where you will have the opportunity to develop your passion. It's the ideal introduction to a Higher Education course, in either Sports, Coaching, Fitness or any of the Performing Arts, or as a first step to a career in these burgeoning industries.

The BTEC Qualification

Chosen by over 1 million learners every year, BTECs are vocational qualifications designed to develop skills and knowledge as preparation for employment, higher education, higher apprenticeship or other training.

First introduced over 30 years ago, the proven success of the BTEC programme is leading more and more employers and Higher Education institutions to choose BTEC-qualified candidates for their practical knowledge and employability skills.

The RSL Qualification

RSL leads the way in the creative industries awarding, founded on a strong ethos of providing innovative and contemporary qualifications tailored specifically for the modern creative sector. Recognized by Ofqual in the UK, RSL's dance and performing arts qualifications provide learners with a pathway to build their skills, gain formal recognition of their talents, and pursue further opportunities in professional performance or education.

Course Structure

A typical week on either a Level 2 or Level 3 study programme consists of a minimum 16 hours of study, usually spread throughout the week, and interspersed with dedicated work experience and enhancement opportunities comparable to that of a professional working and/or performing in the appropriate subject.

The **BTEC Level 2 First Extended Certificate is a 1 year course**, equivalent to 3 GCSEs. Upon the successful completion of this programme candidates can choose to go on to the Level 3 study programme, into employment or take up a subject related apprenticeship.

The **BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma is a 2 year course**, equivalent to 3 A Levels. The successful completion of this programme can facilitate going on to university, employment or a subject related apprenticeship.

A TYPICAL
WEEK
INVOLVES A
MINIMUM OF
16 HRS
OF STUDY

Entry Requirements

BTEC Level 2	BTEC Level 3	RSL
To be considered for this programme, you will need at least: 4 GCSEs at grade 3 and above (including English and Maths*)	To be considered for this programme, you will need at least: 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above (including English and Maths*).	To be considered for this programme, you will need at least: 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above (including English and Maths*).

* If you have obtained a grade A*/9-C/4 in GCSE English and/or Maths you no longer need to study it alongside your study programme, although you'll use both English and Maths in your vocational course.

If you have grades D/3 or below, you will need to continue to study on a GCSE course.

At VLUK, we provide weekly taught lessons with a specialist tutor. Here you will be supported in how to pass the appropriate examination, provided with feedback on completed work, and guidance on how to improve.

Alongside this you will be provided with self study materials and additional supported feedback from your designated Maths and English tutor.



Level 3 Programmes in SPORT

Throughout your time studying on these programmes, you will gain an understanding of all of the physical and practical elements required to be at the top of your game and to help others be at the top of theirs.

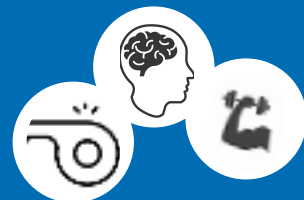
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development

This qualification is intended for post 16 learners wanting to progress directly to employment in the sports coaching and development sector.

In addition, the breadth of content in this qualification allows learners to progress to a large variety of Higher Education and Degree level courses.

Level 3 Sports Coaching Units include:

- Health, Wellbeing & Sport
- Applied Coaching Skills
- Sport Development
- Sports Psychology
- Developing Coaching Skills



A full list of all of the units can be found at www.vluk.org



Assessment

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. For these qualifications we offer, there are two main forms of assessment that you need to be aware of: internal and synoptic.

If you are unsure about the framework offered via your chosen education centre, contact VLUK or speak to your education centre to find out more.

Progression

BTEC courses have excellent achievement records with a substantial number of learners progressing onto university. The most popular undergraduate courses are in the areas of Sports Science, Sports Development, PE Teaching and Sports Psychology.

Learners have also used these qualifications to gain entry onto non-sport related degree programmes, as they both have up to 140 UCAS points, depending on the grade awarded.

The qualifications may also provide entry to employment in some sport and recreation related careers, for example a recreation assistant, sports coach, or sports development officer.

THERE ARE
NO EXAMS
IN THE
LEVEL 3
SPORTS COACHING
PROGRAMME



50% OF SPORT
COACHING LEAVERS
PROGRESSED TO
UNIVERSITY

Level 3 Programmes in PERFORMING ARTS

A groundbreaking opportunity to develop your passion for the Performing Arts with unique insight into the industry through unprecedented links to theatres and working professionals.

All sessions are delivered either by our outstanding, experienced tutors or by one of a number of practising industry professionals, ensuring that your training is second to none.

Qualifications in Performing Arts

Our qualifications in Performing Arts are 2 year full time courses that meet entry requirements in their own right for learners who want to progress to higher education or vocational training at university or drama school before entering employment.

Our courses are carefully designed and tailored to meet the needs, ambitions and aspirations of our learners, at the same time allowing for flexibility to enable further study in all areas of the sector. As well as outstanding teaching, you will participate in an extensive programme of industry experience, which may include masterclasses, work experience and watching professional performances, as well as performing regularly in a range of settings. These experiences make our learners distinct, giving them not just knowledge and experience, but the confidence to stand out from other applicants.

There are three Performing Arts Qualifications offered by our campuses - RSL Level 3 Diploma & Extended Diploma in Creative & Performing Arts, Pearson Level 3 BTEC Diploma & Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (2016) Externally Assessed, Pearson Level 3 BTEC Diploma & Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (2019). Below are examples of modules studied for each:

RSL Level 3 Diploma & Extended Diploma in Creative & Performing Arts:

Modules:

- Safe Dance Practice
- Jazz Dance for Musical Theatre
- Acting for the camera
- Acting through song
- Dance technique and performance

Level 3 BTEC Diploma & Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (2019):

Modules:

- Performing Arts/Dance/Musical Theatre skills development
- The Performing Arts industry
- Personal Performing Arts profile
- Collaborative project

Level 3 BTEC Diploma & Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (2016):

Modules:

- Musical theatre performance
- Investigating practitioners' work
- Skills and techniques for live performance
- Performing Arts in the community
- Children's theatre performance

Assessment

Our qualifications are equivalent to three A Levels and carry equivalent UCAS points. They are aimed at learners wishing to focus their studies in this sector ahead of progressing to higher education. Qualifications are made up of a range of modules and units which enable learners to acquire substantial cross-sector knowledge in both theory and practical skills. Assessment is based on a combination of units across the two years of the course.

Progression

Our qualifications are primarily designed to support progression to study at university or vocational schools. However, it also supports students choosing to progress directly to employment in a range of sectors, as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give learners an advantage when applying for a range of roles. These may include roles in sectors such as teaching and education, creative arts, production arts, youth work and voluntary work.

Timetable

Our qualifications are aimed at young people who are passionate about the performing arts and are willing to strive towards their ambitions. We have high standards, and expect all learners to meet them.

A typical week will consist of a wide variety of practical workshops and theory classes. Within our qualifications, theory underpins all practical elements, and learners will gain a strong understanding of the history, practitioners and techniques which support their practical learning. Learners may also be given opportunities to take part in specialist masterclasses, theatre trips, work experience and opportunities within their communities.

EXPERIENCE
IS YOUR **KEY**
TO OPENING
INDUSTRY
DOORS



Level 3 Programmes in CREATIVE MEDIA PRACTICE

This qualification has been designed to provide post-16 learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to progress to further education, higher education and training or employment in the industry.

The qualifications are designed for progression and to provide a substantial portfolio as an outcome of undertaking significant projects. The structure of the qualifications is in keeping with current industry practice and university teaching and assessment methodology.

The completion of an extensive portfolio which showcases learners' skills and knowledge will prepare them for progression. Minimising the number of assessment units allows for large-scale projects and provides a holistic learning experience. This enables a diagnostic process that balances development of skills with personal growth and intentions.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Creative Media Practice

This qualification is aimed at learners who want to progress to employment in the Creative Media industry, or who may aspire to enter higher education.

It is the equivalent of 3 A Levels, and is intended to be taken on its own as part of a full time, 2-year study programme.

Level 3 Creative Media Practice Units include:

Modules:

- Exploring and developing Creative Media skills
- Advancing Creative Media Practice

Subjects covered:

- Creative media skills
- Social media & content creation
- Photo/videography & photo/video editing
- Film/TV/media productions
- Digital design, motion graphics & video effects
- Sound recording & editing
- Digital marketing & market research

Assessment

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose of the qualification.

It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in this sector.

For this qualification, there are two main forms of assessment: Synoptic and Internal.

Progression

In addition to the creative media sector-specific content outlined, the requirements of the qualification mean that learners will develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education and employers. For example, learners will develop increasing self-direction, reflection and problem-solving skills and the ability to synthesise approaches to their practice.

Learners will also learn to respond creatively to unfamiliar industry contexts and demands, using a variety of skills to communicate personal ideas and intentions while recognising and meeting the needs of audiences. This qualification gives learners the opportunity to develop their technical creative media skills over their course of study, through a process of critical evaluation, practice and review, which are key skills for progression to higher education. The qualification also supports learners in becoming confident in taking ownership of and responsibility for their projects.

The qualification attracts UCAS Tariff points and meets the admission requirements for most relevant courses, such as film, television, video, radio, games, web/app, visual communication, digital media and media subjects.

100%
INTERNALLY SET
AND ASSESSED



Level 2 Programme in SPORT

Throughout your time studying on this programme, you will gain an understanding of all of the physical and practical elements required to be at the top of your game and to help others be at the top of theirs.

Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Sport

The BTEC Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Sport is a 1 year course, equivalent to 3 GCSE's. Upon the successful completion of this programme, candidates can choose to go on to the Level 3 study programme, into employment or take up a subject related apprenticeship.

Entry Requirements BTEC Level 2: To be considered for this programme, you will need at least: 4 GCSEs at grade 3 and above (including English and Maths*).

*You will be expected to work towards re-taking your GCSE English and/or Maths if not already achieved at Grade C/4

Level 2 First Sport Units include:

- Practical Sports Performance
- The Mind in Sports Performance
- Training for Personal Fitness
- Leading Sports Activities



Assessment

For BTEC Level 2 First qualifications, most of the units are assessed through internal assessment, which means the delivery of the programme is in the heart of the sport industry in a way that suits learners, and which relate continuously to the sporting industry.

During the programme, learners will complete two externally examined units in anatomy and physiology along with fitness for sport and exercise.

A full list of all of the units can be found at www.vluk.org

Learning with VLUK

VLUK is a registered training organisation with the Department for Education (DfE). Like a College we are directly funded by the ESFA, and subject to the same checks and balances through Ofsted.

We are proud that the programmes we offer have consistent retention and achievement rates of 95%+ per year.

As a learner on one of our programmes, you will be taught in the classroom with a fully qualified, experienced VLUK tutor, many of whom have a strong background in your chosen field.

Every VLUK learner is provided with an **Individual Learning Plan** (ILP).

This is used through regular tutorials with an academic mentor to set and monitor academic, personal and career aspirations throughout your time with VLUK.

Checkpoints of progress against Minimum Expected Grades (MEGS) are recorded 3 times in each Academic Year. These are used to update and inform the ILP, and reported to parents/guardians through reports and consultation events in each academic year.

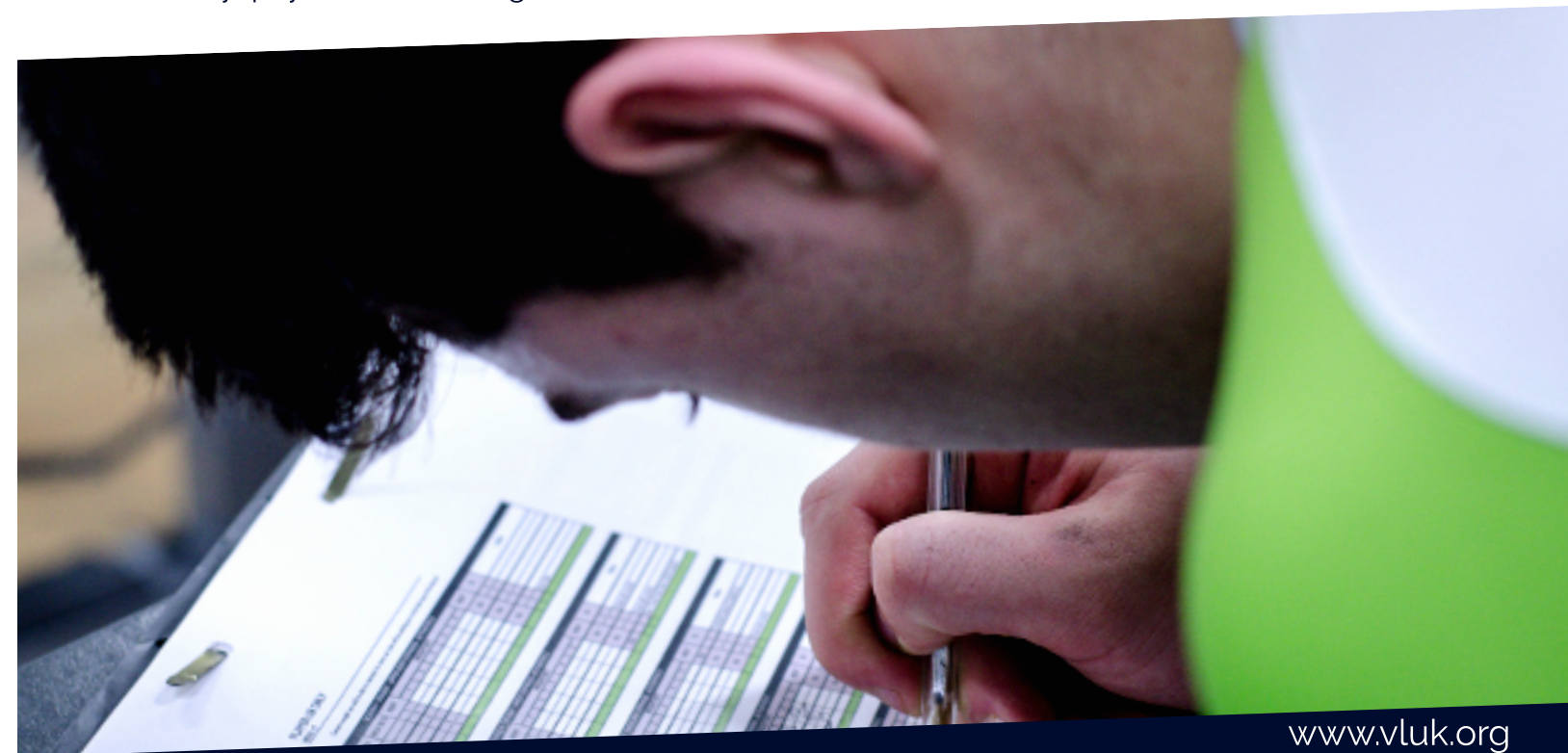
Bursary

All learners are entitled to apply for a bursary to support the education. VLUK will support learners to apply.

Bursary funds are limited and learners should be aware they will not cover all of the costs associated with the programme.

Bursary payments are not guaranteed.

MORE THAN
1,200
LEARNERS
STUDIED WITH US
IN
2023-24



THE BRAIN

Our bespoke online learning system the **The Brain** is designed to help improve learner engagement and academic success, by making learning more accessible.

To get onto The Brain learning platform, you will be given a unique login, which allows you to easily download work files, complete assignments and share information.

You will have access to everything you need at the click of a button, so that you can study at a time and place that suits you.

To find out more about The Brain & The Sport Brain™ visit www.vesystems.org



PRACTICAL TRAINING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

To help you develop industry competence in your chosen vocation, each week you will have the opportunity to participate in practical training under highly qualified, professionals, based in the heart of your chosen industry. Practical experiences depend on the pathways you have chosen, and can also be shaped by the interests you have shown in your ILP.

For example, a sports playing pathway would be likely to include: technical development; tactical and competition set up; physical fitness and game related practice.

Whereas a Performing Arts pathway may see you applying your skills in different performance roles, such as exploring and developing physical, vocal and interpretative styles through live performance.

Many locations also offer industry based work experience, allowing learners to develop an understanding of the specific needs of their chosen vocation, as well as further preparing them for the world of work.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

At VLUK, we pride ourselves on supporting you throughout your development and this includes your next steps after completion. Information, Advice & Guidance (IAG) is provided by VLUK tutors and other staff members through the Careers Development Programme. Our aim is to simply provide all our learners with the impartial information, advice and guidance needed to help you succeed in your chosen field. Here at VLUK your best interest is at the forefront of every decision we make.

- To ensure learners make informed decisions about their chosen programme of study.
- To provide clear and concise information regarding the learning aims/objectives of the vocational/academic education programme being studied.
- To support learner's progress and completion of qualifications relevant to their intended career path.
- To provide impartial information, advice and guidance through the Careers Development Programme, which supports decision making around career development and higher education.
- To provide an online careers platform (START) which serves as a record of all the employability skills and qualities developed whilst studying with VLUK.

SUCCESS STORIES



Emily Kay - Actor

Emily studied at our Stagedoor Learning campus from 2019-2021 and on completion of her BTEC Performing Arts programme went on to study at the prestigious Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Emily has just landed a role in 'Sex Education' which is currently being aired on Netflix.

Sam Spencer

On successfully completing a BTEC Sports Coaching & Development programme with VLUK, Sam was undecided about whether to pursue further education or to move into full time work. He knew that traditional university would not suit his personality, which is when he decided to pursue a degree course with UCS (VLUK's higher education provider). Sam said "VLUK and UCS have constantly supported me enabling me to experience great things alongside university. The support and connection they have with their students is what makes VLUK and UCS superior to traditional universities".

Sam is now studying for a PGCE at Brunel University with aspirations of becoming a secondary school teacher.



Josh Gracey Football Scholarship, Kansas, USA



Josh studied the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport at Northampton Town FC and is now on a soccer scholarship in the USA and studying a degree course in Sports Management.

As well as playing regular football, Josh is also gaining other qualifications including refereeing and coaching.

After he has finished his studies, Josh hopes to play professionally, but he knows that he will now have lots of other options open to him.

Paddy Henderson - Sports Journalist

Paddy studied the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport and went on to university to study Sports Journalism. During his studies Paddy gained valuable experience working as a Sports Journalist and reporter with the BBC, where he has interviewed many famous faces.

Paddy has also worked on the Sports Personality of the Year and at the Cheltenham Races and attributes a large amount of his success to his BTEC qualification.



Virtual Learning uk