



Media and Performing Arts

The Work

Are you creative?

Are you a good communicator?

Do you have a keen interest in the media or performing arts?

Bristol is the hub of the region's media activity and is now widely recognised as a major international centre for the production of animation, natural history and documentary films. Bristol and Bath have an international reputation for their arts activities. Although there is a wide range of jobs available **competition** can be fierce. Previous experience is essential - start building your career portfolio early. (Applicants need to be highly skilled - most enter after taking higher education courses and there are virtually no apprenticeships in this sector.) Those working in the media and performing arts need to be imaginative, enthusiastic, able to cope with long working hours, and have the commitment to meet deadlines.

What's Happening?

Creative industries employ around 1.3 million people in the UK and contribute £112.5 billion to the country's economy. The creative and media sector covers everything from film, TV and interactive media to advertising, design and music. While London is home to 31% of the sector's workforce, Bristol is the hub of this region's media activity. The opportunities offered by the Internet and other technology mean that, particularly for visual artists and musicians, being based outside London is no longer a major barrier to career development. Despite the current economic slowdown total employment in the sector is expected to grow in the long term. The Government announced plans in May 2009 to create up to ten thousand new jobs for young people in the culture and creative industries sectors. Plans will include working with orchestras, arts organisations, heritage bodies and the music industry who will provide relevant skills-based training. See Work Matters for more labour market information (see page seven - Easy ways to get useful information).

Possible Job Titles

Actor	Live Sound Engineer	Stage Manager
Arts Administrator	Model Maker	TV/Film Camera Operator
Choreographer	Music Promotions Manager	TV Radio Announcer
Classical Musician	Popular Musician	Presenter
DJ (aka Disc Jockey)	Set Designer	VT Operator
Entertainer	Sound Engineer - Recording Industry	Writer
Journalist	Sound Technician	

For information about these jobs see sections E & G of the Connexions library.

Your Options at 16 and 17

- **Further education at school or college** – continue to study, full or part-time, for a career or keep your future options open and simply continue to improve your qualifications.
- **Apprenticeships** (Level 2)/Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3) – learn new skills with an employer, gain qualifications and get some real work experience. You will receive a wage, or, if you are eligible, an Education Maintenance Allowance of up to £30 a week.
- **Job** – regular, paid work that, with training, can lead to recognised qualifications.
- **e2e** (Entry to Employment) & **Pre-e2e** – programmes to help you prepare for a job, an Apprenticeship or further education.

For details of all these options speak to your Connexions personal adviser or see page seven – Easy ways to get useful information.

Section 1

Further education: what's available locally and how to apply.

- This sheet lists full-time vocational courses. Other courses and ways of learning may be available.
- **Futures4Me** – explore all post-16 learning and training opportunities available in the West of England.
- Contact colleges/sixth form colleges for information and an application form. They all have websites.
- Go to open evenings and information events. See page seven – Easy ways to get useful information.
- Ask colleges/sixth form colleges how well previous students have done on their courses.
- Use your school's Connexions Information Centre for information about local colleges and sixth forms.
- Higher education, Apprenticeships, a job with training, self-employment or time out to travel or do voluntary work are all options after college/sixth form college.
- Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment to help with costs if you go into the sixth form, college or go into training. Other financial support exists to help with travel, specialist courses, books and equipment and childcare. Terms and conditions apply to all. For more information - <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>

CIRCOMEDIA

St Pauls Church, Portland Square, Bristol BS2 8SJ

Tel: 0117 924 7615

Website: www.circomedia.com

Circomedia is committed to the principles of performer as creator and the integration of circus disciplines with theatre in its widest sense. Check their website for other courses and costs.

Diploma Course

(1 year). This course aims to develop the student as a rounded performer. Although this is an intensive training course the emphasis is on breadth rather than intense specialisation. It aims to expose students to a wide range of disciplines and styles and incorporates circus, dance, theatre, cabaret and outdoor theatre. With a grounding in physical technique and skill it also explores the various cultural, historical and social contexts in which these disciplines sit. The course will also teach students some of the technical, practical and logistical elements of working professionally as a performer, managing, staging and promoting their own work.

Performance – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Applicants should have at least 4 GCSEs grade C or above and will be invited to a workshop audition and interview on receipt of a completed application form. Applicants without these qualifications who give a strong audition will also be considered. This course is most suitable for students who have an interest in dance, theatre or sport. This course is free to students aged 16 - 18. It gives students the opportunity to study a wide range of performance disciplines. In the first year students begin with an emphasis on improvisation, playing, the imagination and potential for performance. This is explored through genres such as Greek, Shakespeare, Commedia and Melodrama as well as devising techniques and working with stimulus. Students also begin training in all circus disciplines with a strong focus on safe practise and core stability. This is complimented by movement and physical theatre classes. In the second year students continue to train in all circus disciplines. Students perform in a contemporary piece of theatre combining physical theatre, and also choreograph and perform their own dance piece.

CITY OF BATH COLLEGE

Avon Street, Bath BA1 1UP

Tel: 01225 312191

Website: www.citybathcoll.ac.uk

Media – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 3 GCSEs grade D or above and an enthusiasm for learning about some aspect of the media. This course introduces students to the basic production techniques used in video making, photography, web design, animations and writing.

Media Pathways – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above, including English Language. This course will enable students to reach the professional standards required in the media industry. There are pathways available in television/film and print based media.

Music Technology – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above and some basic knowledge of music technology. You will need to be able to demonstrate experience in music technology, a musical instrument or music composition, ideally all three. The aim of this course is to provide a background in all areas of

music technology including sequencing, sound recording, acoustics and composition.

Performing Arts – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 3 GCSEs grade D or above. This is a vocational course for students interested in developing their potential as actors, dancers and singers.

Performing Arts (Performance) – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above, including English although a discretionary place may be offered if the applicant shows potential to be a very strong performer in their audition. This course will provide a practical, hands-on approach to learning about the performing arts. Pathways are available in acting and dance.

Music Practice (Popular Music) – National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above and audition. Students need to be a competent singer and/or instrumentalist with an interest in performing, recording and writing popular music. All applicants will attend an audition. This course is designed to give students the practical skills for a career in the music industry.

Music – First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 3 GCSEs grade D or above along with an interest in music and music technology. A basic skill in an instrument or voice is desirable. This course is designed for students interested in popular music who wish to develop their skills.

CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE – COLLEGE GREEN CENTRE

St Georges Road, Bristol BS1 5UA

Tel: 0117 312 5000

Website: www.cityofbristol.ac.uk

Media Production (Television and Film) – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above including a related subject or a BTEC First Diploma in a related subject at Merit grade. You will be asked to bring a portfolio of your work to an interview. Using video and audio equipment you will undertake a variety of assignments allowing you to express your creativity. You will study a whole range of techniques including: interview and presentation techniques, video editing, corporate and promotional video, shooting single camera drama, factual programme production, advertising production, news production and music video production.

Multimedia – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above including a related subject or a BTEC First Diploma in a related subject at Merit grade. You will be asked to come to an interview with samples of your creative work. On this course you will get an insight into multimedia authoring and web design and also learn the practical skills needed to start work. Using the latest computers and industry standard software you will study a range of subjects including professional practice, multimedia technology, website design, type and letterforms, graphic image and sound recording techniques.

Music Technology – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above including a related subject or a BTEC First Diploma in a related subject at Merit grade. You will be asked to come to an interview with samples of your creative work. You'll learn about the latest digital music as well as using the very latest digital equipment to complete a range of practical projects.

Photography – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above including a related subject or a BTEC First Diploma in a related subject at Merit grade. You will be asked to come to an interview with samples of your creative work. This course could lead to a career in photography or the digital imaging industry. Working independently or with other students, and with the support of your tutors, you will complete a series of photographic assignments in the studio or on location. Using our excellent facilities you will study a range of skills including using computers in art and design, darkroom practice, location techniques and photography and digital imaging.

CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE – SOUNDWELL CENTRE

St Stephens Road, Bristol BS16 4RL

Tel: 0117 312 5000

Website: www.cityofbristol.ac.uk

Media – BTEC Introductory Diploma

(1 year). You do not need to have studied media previously, but you will need good communication skills in speaking and writing. This course may help if you are interested in working in television, radio, advertising, newspapers or magazines. You will investigate all aspects of the media including video production, advertising and print media. You will also examine the impact of digital and Internet technologies and how ideas and information will be passed on in the 21st Century.

Media – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade D or above, an Introductory Diploma at Merit or an equivalent qualification. On this course you will examine TV, films, radio, magazines and newspapers and their influence on life.

Music Technology – BTEC Introductory Diploma

(1 year). You do not need to have studied music previously, but you will need to have a keen interest in music. If you are interested in working in the music industry but are not sure where to start, this qualification provides a broad introduction to music technology. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on workplace situations, activities and demands.

Music Technology – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade D or above or a BTEC Introductory Diploma in a related subject at Merit. This is a practical, work-related course where the units are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. You will study a range of units including music projects, exploring the music profession, working as a music ensemble, producing a music recording, solo performance, DJ-ing and understanding music.

CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE – AT THE BRISTOL DANCE CENTRE

Jacobs Wells Road, Hotwells, Bristol BS8 1DX

Tel: 0117 312 5000

Website: www.cityofbristol.ac.uk

Drama – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are an audition and one of the following: 4 GCSEs grade C or above, including a related subject (or equivalent Key Skill Literacy or Numeracy qualification) or a BTEC First Diploma in a related subject at Merit. This acting and movement-based course aims to provide you with the professional performance skills required to work in a theatre company. Initially you will learn acting techniques, physical theatre skills, performance techniques and undergo a vocal training programme. In the second year you will develop these skills and cover units to enable you to devise and direct theatre, learn audition techniques and develop your live performance skills, by producing a public performance each term. There is considerable emphasis on group-work and collaboration, so you must be committed to group-work and to the discipline of rehearsal and performance.

CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE – THE PARK CENTRE

Daventry Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 2LF

Tel: 0117 903 9772

Website: www.cityofbristol.ac.uk

Acting – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are normally one of the following: BTEC Introductory Diploma in a related subject, an NVQ in a related subject at Merit grade, GCSEs grade D - G, including a related subject and a good standard of Literacy & Numeracy or appropriate work experience. You will be asked to come along to an interview with an audition piece to show your performance ability. This gives you the opportunity to show us your potential for the programme. You will learn by completing assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to progress on to higher study in your chosen specialised subject – in this case the BTEC National Diploma in Dance.

Dance – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are normally one of the following: BTEC Introductory Diploma in a related subject, an NVQ in a related subject at Merit grade, GCSEs grade D - G, including a related subject and a good standard of Literacy & Numeracy or appropriate work experience. You will be asked to come along to an interview with an audition piece to show your performance ability. This gives you the opportunity to show us your potential for the programme. You will learn by completing assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to progress on to higher study in your chosen specialised subject – in this case the BTEC National Diploma in Dance.

FILTON COLLEGE

Filton Avenue, Bristol BS34 7AT

Tel: 0117 931 2121

Website: www.filton.ac.uk

Performing Arts (Acting) First Diploma or Higher Diploma in Creative and Media – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements are 1 GCSE grade D (preferably English). You need enthusiasm, commitment and a passion for performing arts.

Acting National Certificate/Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade A* - C to include English. Exceptional entry may be possible if a high level of skill in drama can be demonstrated. People over 19 without formal qualifications will be considered.

Performing Arts (Dance) First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 3 GCSEs grade D (including English). You need enthusiasm, commitment and a passion for performing arts. Dance experience is essential.

Dance – National Certificate/Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade A* - C. Exceptional entry may be possible if a high level of skill in dance can be demonstrated and also students over 19 without formal qualifications will be considered. There is a materials fee payable which will cover the cost of theatre visits, costume, master class and venue hire.

Foundation Diploma in Creative and Media

(1 year). There are no formal qualifications necessary for this course. It will suit you if you want to know more about what it means to work in the creative and media arts.

Media – First Diploma or Higher Diploma in Creative and Media

(1 Year). Entry requirements are A-Level 1 or 2 qualification, Introductory Certificate in a related subject, 4 GCSEs grade D, or related work experience for older students.

Media Production – National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs grade A - C including English, or overall Merit at First Diploma. Media portfolio presentation at interview; students with life experience will be considered.

Music First Diploma

(1 year). Entry Requirements are 1 year's experience on voice or instrument, together with a commitment to taking music performance seriously.

Musical Practice (Classical, Pop and Jazz) – National Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade A - C or a GNVQ Intermediate. A GCSE in music would be desirable. You should be around grade 5 or 6 on your instrument or the equivalent with a view to reaching grade 8 by the end of the course. Exceptions to the above academic criteria may be made for outstanding students.

Musical Theatre – National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade A* - C to include English. First Diploma in Performing Arts at Merit level. National Diploma in Drama, Acting, Performance, Dance with at least two Distinctions. There is a materials fee payable which will cover the cost of theatre visits, costume, master class and venue hire.

Technical Theatre (Performing Arts) – BTEC National Diploma

(2 Years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C. Exceptional entry may be possible if a high level of skill in practical subjects can be demonstrated. People over 19 without formal qualifications will be considered. There is a materials fee payable which will cover the cost of theatre visits, costume, master class and venue hire.

ST BRENDAN'S SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Broomhill Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 5RQ

Tel: 0117 977 7766

Website: www.stbrn.ac.uk

Media Studies – BTEC First Diploma

This course examines how the media industry works and influence our lives.

Music Technology – BTEC Certificate

(1 year). On this course you will develop a range of skills in the recording studio and on computer. You should have a passion for music and some understanding of it.

Music Technology – BTEC National Award

(2 years). This course covers a wide range of topics with particular emphasis on recording and studio work. You will work with both software and hardware systems to develop skills in composition, arrangement, studio engineering and production.

Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) – BTEC National Award or Certificate

(2 years). These are practical, work-related courses. Students will learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic, workplace situations. They will focus on a particular subject area and develop a range of specialist skills and knowledge. You can study for an Award or Certificate which is equivalent to one or two A levels.

Music Performing – BTEC National Award

This is aimed at students who are interested in developing practical music skills and might be considering a future in the popular music industry. It is a very practical course and is centred around popular music performance and related activities.

Technical Theatre – BTEC First Certificate (Double Award)

This one-year course is aimed at students who have an interest in working in the performing arts industries. It can also facilitate access to Level 3 Courses such as AS Drama, BTEC Performing Arts, and AS Music Technology.

WESTON COLLEGE

Knightstone Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2AL

Tel: 01934 411411

Website: www.weston.ac.uk

Creative and Media – Foundation Diploma

(1 Year). Entry requirements are some GCSEs in the C - E range and evidence of competence in Literacy and Numeracy would be an advantage. You must be able to demonstrate an interest in the subject and a willingness to study this course.

Creative and Media – Higher Diploma

(1 Year). Entry requirements are at least 4 GCSEs in the C - E range preferably to include English Literature and Maths at C grade or above. Alternatively you will need a Foundation Diploma in Creative and Media.

Creative and Media – Advanced Diploma

(2 Years). Entry requirements are at least 5 GCSEs in the A - C range including English Language and Maths. Alternatively, you will need an appropriate Level 2 qualification accompanied by GCSEs in English Language and Maths, grades A - C or equivalent (e.g. Key Skills, Level 2 in Communications and Application of Number), or the Higher Diploma in Creative and Media.

Media Moving Image – BTEC National Diploma

(2 Years). Entry requirements are at least 5 GCSEs in the A - C range, to include Art or Design and preferably Maths and English Language. Alternatively you will need an appropriate Level 2 qualification such as a BTEC First Diploma in Art and Design. A commitment to, and an interest in media production are essential.

Music Practice – BTEC National Diploma

(2 Years). We recommend you have at least 5 GCSEs in the A - C range, preferably to include Maths and English Language and a successful course guidance interview.

Music Technology – BTEC First Diploma

(1 Year). We recommend you have at least 4 GCSEs in the C - E range, preferably to include two at grade C or above. A GCSE in Music would be an advantage.

Music Technology – BTEC National Diploma

(2 Years). We recommend you have at least 5 GCSEs in the A - C range, preferably to include Maths and English Language and a successful course guidance interview.

Performing Arts (Performance) – BTEC First Diploma

(1 Year). Entry is through an audition/interview so we recommend you have at least 4 GCSEs in the C - E range, preferably to include two at grade C or above. A GCSE in Drama or English Language would be an advantage.

Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) – BTEC National Diploma

(2 Years). We recommend you have at least 5 GCSEs in the A - C range, preferably to include Drama, Maths and English Language, and you will also need a successful course guidance interview.

Section 2**Year 12 (Sixth Form)**

- Choose from a wide range of courses including AS/A2 Levels, GCSEs, Diplomas, National Diplomas, NVQs and other work related courses.
- Contact sixth forms for information and an application form. They all have websites.
- Go to open evenings and information events. See page seven – Easy ways to get useful information.
- Ask sixth forms how well previous students have done on their courses.
- Use your school's Connexions Information Centre for information about local sixth forms.
- Additional further education, higher education, Apprenticeships, a job with training, self-employment or time out to travel or do voluntary work are all options after the sixth form.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance is a weekly payment to help you continue to learn or train. EMA is worth up to £30 a week. Other financial support exists to help with travel, specialist courses, books and equipment and childcare. Terms and conditions apply to all. For more information – <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>

Section 3

Apprenticeships and Jobs

Both of these options allow you to learn new skills with an employer and get some real work experience – but only an Apprenticeship will **guarantee** you training and the chance to gain qualifications. You will receive a wage, or, if you are eligible, an Education Maintenance Allowance of up to £30 a week. See page seven – Easy ways to get useful information.

Local Advanced Apprenticeships

Creative and Cultural

- **Filton College**, Filton Avenue, Bristol BS34 7AT. 0117 909 2223. Claire Thorogood. claire.thorogood@filton.ac.uk

Other sources of advice

Further information and advice on media training:

- **South West Screen**, St Bartholomew's Court, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 5BT. Tel: 0117 952 9977. www.swscreen.co.uk Contains lots of information about film making in the South West.

Further information and advice on performing arts training:

- **Arts Council England**, South West Arts, Southernhay Gardens, Exeter EX1 1UG. Tel: 0845 300 6200. For any Arts Council South West's funded organisations visit www.artscouncil.org.uk and click on 'My Region' then South West. Email: enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk

For more on Apprenticeships

- www.apprenticeships.org.uk – visit the National Apprenticeship website for information including the National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service (scroll down and click on the 'Apprenticeship Vacancies' link). This service lets you search for Apprenticeship vacancies in a variety of ways, such as by occupational area, provider or by postcode.
- **08000 150 600** – Call the National Apprenticeship Hotline for help and advice.
- If you are still not sure and need help, please contact careers staff in your school/college or your local Connexions West of England Centre (addresses at end of this leaflet).

Time Off for study or training

- The right to Time Off for Study or training is designed to help you if you are aged 16-17, got few if any qualifications at school, and are now employed in a job which offers little or no training.
- For more information – www.connexions-direct.com – look under work schemes>time off for study and training.

Easy ways to get useful information

- www.connexionswest.org.uk – information for 13-19 year olds; vacancies; local support agencies; education & training database; publication downloads.
- <http://options.connexionswest.org.uk> – Your Way Forward - Options @ 16 and 17. Post-16 learning, training and work options; qualifications; sources of finance; useful websites.
- <http://workmatters.connexionswest.org.uk> – Information about working in the local area; how much people earn; number of people employed; types of jobs; useful websites.
- **Futures4Me** – explore all post-16 learning and training opportunities available in the West of England.

Connexions West of England Centres are open Monday – Friday. Contact direct for opening hours.

Bristol
4 Colston Avenue
Bristol BS1 4ST
Tel: 0117 987 3700
Fax: 0117 987 3701

Bath & North East Somerset
28 Southgate
Bath BA1 1TP
Tel: 01225 461 501
Fax: 01225 465 619

South Gloucestershire
21-23 High Street
Kingswood
Bristol BS15 4AA
Tel: 0117 961 2760
Fax: 0117 960 7838

South Gloucestershire
28 Gloucester Rd North
Filton
Bristol BS7 0SJ
Tel: 0117 969 8101
Fax: 0117 931 2978

North Somerset
45 Boulevard
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1PG
Tel: 01934 644443
Fax: 01934 644409

www.connexionswest.org.uk
enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk

Text: 07776 465 160. Minicom: 0800 019 5450.

Connexions Direct (confidential information, advice and support for young people)
Tel: 080 800 13 2 19. Text: 07766 4 13 2 19. www.connexions-direct.com

The information in this leaflet was correct at the time of writing. Please check details - information dates quickly.

Produced by Red Bridge Solutions Ltd - enquiries@redbridgesolutions.co.uk