

Some general opening thoughts

- Music education needs a highly qualified workforce
- Qualifying yourself to the highest possible level is always a good investment
- Although I'll be focusing on how various courses benefit you as an individual teacher, remember the wider political context that is at play here
- Every child in the UK deserves the very best music education as a core part of their schooling. A highly qualified workforce is the best way to achieve this.
- We must make the case for Music being taught to children in a similar way to every other National Curriculum subject.

Level 4 Certificate for Music Educators

- Level 4 (i.e. first year of undergraduate level)
- Accredited/validated through Trinity College or ABRSM
- A portfolio qualification, i.e. you have to be working as a music educator in some setting
- Distance learning with individual mentor support
- Run by various companies, including Music Education Solutions
- Cost: £725
- Course has to be completed within two years

Key content in six units ...

- Understanding children and young people's musical learning
- Planning, facilitating and evaluating children and young people's musical learning
- Reflective practice and professional development in music education
- Promoting children and young people's positive behaviour
- Equality, diversity and inclusion in music education
- Safeguarding children and young people in music education

Hear from some previous students in the UK and abroad...

- <https://musiceducationsolutions.co.uk/why-take-the-level-4-cme/>
- <https://musiceducationsolutions.co.uk/an-international-perspective-on-the-trinity-cme/>

PGCE in Music & PGCE in Music with Specialist Instrumental Teaching

- Level 7 (i.e. first year of a Masters degree)
- Postgraduate qualification – a ‘Postgraduate Certificate’
- Also prepare you for the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) awarded by the DfE
- International recognition (unlike many other school-led routes into teaching)
- Full time study for one year
- Most course contain 60 ‘M level’ credits that can be applied to future Masters level study, i.e. a ‘Postgraduate Diploma’ or full Masters degree
- This blend of theoretical and practical study is derided by some, but not by me. I think it is essential in becoming the best music educator you can be.
- Full fees apply, loans available
- In previous years bursaries have been available but not for 2021/22. This changes year by year depending on Government priorities.

PGCE in Music with QTS

- Normally covering 11-16 or 11-18 age range
- Fairly standard format of taught sessions and teaching placements in different schools (at least 2) across the year
- University and school mentor support
- Gradual introduction to full class teaching leading to a 60% timetable
- Reflective practice at the core of the experience
- Academic component assessed through 2 or 3 assignments that build on practical experience, together with theoretical concepts and educational research

PGCE in Music with Specialist Instrumental Teaching with QTS

- A unique course run by Manchester Metropolitan University
- Delivered in partnership with the Royal Northern College of Music
- Twin focus on classroom music teaching and instrumental teaching and how these two activities interrelate
- Same structure as a PGCE in Music except from a second teaching placement within which students work at a music education hub/music service and a school
- Application process includes an audition at the RNCM as well as the standard PGCE interview

BA (hons) in Education or PGCE Primary (both with QTS)

- BA (hons) is Level 4 – 6, PGCE is Level 7 (postgraduate)
- BA (hons) is 3 years; PGCE is one year full time study
- Structure is similar, i.e. a blend of taught sessions and school placements
- Music can be a specialism within this structure, but the overall educational package is designed to teach you to be a generalist primary teacher
- Students studying for PGCE Primary courses like this have increased in number whilst BA (undergraduate degrees with QTS) have decreased

Masters in Education

- Run by numerous universities
- Flexibility – full time (1 year) or part time study
- Remember that 60 credits from PGCE can exempt you from 1/3 of the study required
- Exit point at ‘Postgraduate Diploma’ (120 credits) or full Masters degree (180 credits)
- Taught programme for first 120 credits of study (e.g. research methods)
- Final 60 credits is normally associated with a dissertation unit (you choose a focus here)

- ‘Themed’ Masters level study in numerous areas, including educational leadership, SEND, educational research, technology, etc.
- Opportunity to personalize content and focus on music education within these general structures.
- Fees range but are typically around £8,500/year. Loans available.

Higher level study

EdD

- 4 years part-time professional programme
- 2 years taught, 2 years individual research leading to production of a thesis
- Subject focus can be built into the thesis

PhD

- 3 years full time, part time options available
- Research focus throughout leading to thesis

Teaching in Higher Education

- PGCert Higher Education (Degree Apprenticeship)
- Blended learning
- 18 – 24 months
- You must be teaching in a HEI to enrol
- Government funding available to your employer to cover the costs of your involvement
- <https://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/degree-apprenticeships/academic-professional-practice-degree-apprenticeship-pgcert>