

National Competitions

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Digital Media Production Technical Handbook 2026

Overview of skill

Digital Media Producers are responsible for facilitating a project from beginning to end. They are involved in every stage of the television programme, film or video or social media, overseeing the project from start to finish, both in the studio and on location. They work alongside the director and other creative departments including camera, sound, set design and post-production to ensure the project is completed successfully, on time and to budget. They usually work to a brief and should have excellent creative, technical, communication, problem solving and project management skills.

Overview of Competition

The competition has been designed to focus on all the essential skills needed for a successful career within the Digital Media industries. Competitors undertake varying creative roles associated with producing a media production and are required to work towards industry standards. The competition allows for teams to progress through the three main aspects of the production cycle, pre-production, production and post-production in order to successfully produce a finished artifact which meets all aspects of the original brief.

The competition is largely practical, although competitors will be required to have a good understanding of media codes and conventions, project management skills, problem solving and communication skills. It is also expected that competitors have a good working technical and creative knowledge of camera operation, audio recording, and post-production techniques and software.

Competition Cycle

Date	Stage
2 March – 27 March	Registration
27 April – 1 May	Entry Stage
W/C 22 nd June	National Qualifier
6 July	Announcement of finalists
W/C 16 November	National Finals

About the Competition

This competition assesses the skills and abilities of competitors entering the field of Catering.

This competition consists of:

- At Entry Stage a remote assessment in which you must complete work in your own time and submit this for judging.
- A national qualifier event, which will be held at North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College – Nuneaton Campus during w/c 22nd June 2026. You must attend and complete an allocated task at the qualifier
- A UK national final, taking place across South Wales in W/C 16 November as part of WorldSkills National Finals.

Core Competencies

Competitors taking part in this competition should be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

Pre-Production

Knowledge and understanding of the pre-production process

Understand what pre-production materials are needed to aid a successful video production

Understand which pre-production materials better demonstrate moving image concepts and ideas

Production

Knowledge and understanding of production processes

Understand what tools (such as but not limited to digital video cameras, lenses, audio recording equipment), are needed to successfully create digital video footage

Understand which production tools can better demonstrate moving image ideas and convey particular meanings

Post-Production

Knowledge and understanding of post-production processes

Understand how to technically and creatively operate post-production tools (editing software & editing stations, visual effects software, audio mixing desks etc.), to successfully enhance and piece together a digital video production that meets the original brief

Understand which post-production tools can help better demonstrate moving image ideas and convey particular meanings

Qualifications

- Competitors must be familiar with core competencies must have been studying for a Level 3 or equivalent in the during the academic year of registration.
- This is a team competition (**team to comprise exactly 4 members, teams cannot progress unless there are 4 in the team**)

Entry Criteria

- Competitors must be familiar with core competencies must have been studying for a Level 3 or equivalent in the during the academic year of registration.
- This is a team competition (team to comprise of exactly 4 members, **teams cannot progress unless there are 4 in the team**)
- Competitors must be 16 years of age or over.

Competition Specific Rules

Skill specific rules can be found here: [Skill-specific-DMP-competition-rules.docx](#)

General competitions rules include:

- Competitors who arrive late for the event will not receive additional time.
- Competitors will start, and finish work as instructed by the judges.
- If there is a power stoppage, breakdown of equipment or accident, the competitors must act accordingly to the instruction of the organiser.
- If during the competition a competitor feels they must leave their work (e.g. medical reasons, toilet break), they will have the time recorded on a 'time out' sheet by a member of staff.
- No mobile telephones are allowed in the competition room.
- Photographs will be taken during the event that may be used for marketing/publicity purposes – if the competitor / support staff cannot have their photo taken it is the responsibility of the college entering the competition to notify the organisers beforehand and at the event.

Pre-competition Activity

Before registering to enter students and apprentices to take part in a WorldSkills UK Competition, it can be helpful to enable them to practice, test and challenge their technical and mental skills by getting involved on link available on the bottom of the webpage

<https://www.worldskillsuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Pre-Competition-Activity-Pack-Digital-Media-Production.pdf>

As well, the following activities could be used to support prospective competitors to get a feel for what will be expected of them in a WorldSkills UK Competition, whilst still in an environment with which they are familiar:

- On and off the job training and work experience

- WorldSkills UK or other externally run competitions
- internal competitions e.g. internal to an employer, specially designed competitions - using WSUK competition briefs
- local competitions e.g. in colleges and training providers.

Entry Stage & National Qualifier

As well as being judged on vocational competence and work-readiness, competitors will be required to provide evidence of tasks carried out in preparation for the competition, and learning activities embedded in their normal curriculum delivery which are relevant to the competition.

The entry task will be sent out to competitors **on 27 April 2026 which needs to be completed and submitted by 1 May 2026.**

For competitors who have managed to pass through the Entry stage the next step is the national qualifiers. This is stage be held at North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College, Nuneaton Campus w/c 22nd June 2026 where competitors will have the chance to demonstrate their skillset.

This stage will be marked by expert WorldSkills UK judges. The top six scoring teams from the national qualifiers will then go through to the next round, the national finals.

A guide to assessment criteria

Throughout the competition, the test project (the tasks within the competition) have been designed to ensure the following:

- all projects are designed to test competitors' ability to successfully work as a production team through the full production cycle
- all projects simulate client led briefs and mirror industry practice and expectations
- projects are designed to be challenging and test team's ability to cope with challenges and change.
- each project brief will be designed to test the competitor's creative and technical ability to:
- understand and respond to a set brief
- plan effectively and conduct all required aspects of pre-production
- conduct & demonstrate all aspects of production
- reviews and conduct all aspects of post-production
- submit a finished product on time that meets all aspects of the original brief.

Project specification

Projects will be designed to test competitor's creative and technical ability to:

- understand and respond to a set brief
- plan effectively and conduct all required aspects of pre-production
- conduct & demonstrate all aspects of production
- reviews and conduct all aspects of post-production
- submit a finished product on time that meets all aspects of the original brief

Equipment

During training and delivery of the National finals, lots of tooling and equipment will be provided by WorldSkills UK and various competition sponsors.

All provided equipment to produce the test project will be provided. An example of kit list that maybe provided is below (this is subject to change but provides an overview):

Main Camera

No.	Description	Quantity
01	Canon EOS 7D	1
02	55-250mm Lens for Canon	1
03	50mm Lens for Canon	1
04	Flight Cases for Camera's and Smaller Equipment	1
05	Video Tripod Inc. Heads	1
06	Spare Battery Packs for Camera	1

Action Camera

No.	Description	Quantity
01	GoPro Hero 3	1
02	Light Reflector	1
03	GoPro Accessories	1
04	GoPro GoPole	1
05	Manfrotto Sympla Shoulder Support System	1

Sound Recorder

No.	Description	Quantity
01	Telescopic Boom Pole Microphone, Mounts, Pistol Grips, Etc...	1
02	Zoom H4n Handheld Mobile 4-track Recorder	1
03	Lapel Microphone	1
04	2.5mm Jack Connection Extension Lead 2m	1
05	AA Battery Charger	1
06	XLR Male to Female Cable 2m	1
07	USB mini Cables	3

Storage

No.	Description	Quantity
01	32GB SD Card	1
02	8GB SD card 6 or above or equivalent	1
03	64 Pro flash card or equivalent	2
04	External 1TB Hard Drive	1
05	Micro SC 32 GB	1
6	Ex Pro all in one USB memory reader	1

Post Production

No.	Description	Quantity
01	iMac i7 Computer	1
02	Adobe Creative Cloud	1
03	Apple Final Cut Professional	1
04	HA4 4-WAY Headphone Amplifier	1
05	Cabled Headphones	1
06	Screen around iMac to prevent glare from lighting	1
07	Plasma Screen 40"	1

Training

Self-directed training

All competitors will need to practice to make it to the National finals. Dedication is key to confident performance in a competition. Have a look **at the pre competition activity** on the WorldSkills webpage to practice a task.

National finals

What to expect

The National finals are huge: the largest skills event in the UK. In 2026 they will be held at various locations across South Wales in the week commencing 16 November (venues TBC). There are many skills in diverse sectors. Employers can enter the competition floor with the permission of the competition organising partner; they can take sponsorship photos or gain a better understanding of the competition itself. This will be held in South Wales venue tbc

An example timetable:

Familiarisation day/ Competition day 1

Tuesday – Judges & Competitors arrive (**no accompanying staff allowed on stand**), Health & safety, ground rules , they will be provided with demonstration on how access the equipment and have the opportunity to ask questions.

The competition brief will also be introduced, and the first task will be provided to the teams.

Competition day 2

Wednesday -8.30am Judges & Competitors arrive on stand. Competition starts through till 17.30

Competition day 3

Thursday 8.30am Judges & Competitors arrive on stand. Competition starts through till 1400.

Medal Ceremony

Judges & Competitors arrive to the medal ceremony venue; Gold, Silver, Bronze and Highly Commended competitors will be announced.

Beyond the National finals

Looking beyond the National finals, there are a host of opportunities for competitors. With Digital Media Production there is no current progression to Euro Skills or International competitions. However, all competitors may join the **Skills Champion programme**, which allows continued involvement, including the opportunity to work with WorldSkills UK and visit schools, colleges, and events to inspire the next generations.

Resources and links

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> <https://www.screenskills.com/>

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/media/315121-how-do-i-get-into-a-career-in-the-media>



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