

# DIPLOMA IN ACOUSTICS AND NOISE CONTROL 2026-2027

Your introductory guide to explore  
the essential features and benefits  
of the Diploma



# Purpose of this Brochure

Extending your knowledge and skillset has never been so important.

Whether you are new to Acoustics, Sound, Noise and Vibration, or already a member of the practitioner community, the IOA Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control can support your future career ambitions and personal growth.

This brochure will outline the history, benefits, structure and outcomes of the Diploma and help you to explore whether this exciting opportunity is right for you.

Let's get started!





# Why complete the IOA Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control?

The IOA Diploma has been offered since 1975. Since then, thousands of students have successfully completed the qualification and joined the community of experts working in diverse, emerging and important fields around the globe. Wherever you are in the world you can join them.

Successfully completing the Diploma facilitates application for Associate Membership of the Institute (AMIOA) and leads to corporate Membership (MIOA) after 3 year's professional experience in acoustics post Diploma qualification. Membership of the IOA offers a ready-made worldwide network of professional colleagues, regular and one-off events, publications, IOA Proceedings Papers and the ability to use your Membership post-nominals on your business correspondence amongst many other things!

Diploma graduates who obtain at least three Merits (including GPA, from the five Diploma modules) may be considered to have met the M-level educational requirements for achieving Chartered Engineer (CEng) status through the IOA. Find out more by visiting the Engineering area of the IOA website.

# Opportunities in Acoustics

Below are some of the sectors and roles available to a Diploma alumnus, which are varied and growing in breadth, depth and international scope every year:



Environmental  
sound



Electroacoustics



Measurement  
and  
instrumentation



Musical  
acoustics



Underwater  
acoustics



Regulatory  
and Standards



Noise and  
vibration  
engineering



Physical  
acoustics



Building  
acoustics



Speech and  
hearing



Sound, noise  
and health

# Diploma Testimonials

## **Yong Lee Low**

Direct Centre Milton Keynes,  
International Candidate

I am grateful to IOA for offering this course for working adults like me who has no engineering background. It offers a one-year intensely filled, taught and self-study term with all the essential modules necessary for one to quickly grasp the fundamentals of acoustics and noise control.

The tutors as well as administrators are really friendly, helpful and supportive whenever you needed it especially in this remote study environment. Hence, I highly recommend the Diploma to anyone who wishes to upgrade themselves or gain insights in acoustics.

## **Issy Morgan**

Partner Centre Candidate,  
KP Acoustics Research Labs  
(Southampton)

The IOA Diploma is an excellent stepping-stone into the real world of acoustics within industry. It provides a solid and comprehensive foundation that genuinely deepens your understanding of acoustics and enables you to become an asset in the workplace.

The course material is pitched at a well-balanced difficulty level and ultimately very rewarding once understood. It delivers strong value for money through a thoughtful blend of exams, coursework, and laboratory sessions, all of which help develop a wide range of skills.

One of the standout features is the ability to tailor the diploma through optional modules. This flexibility is ideal for those working in specific sectors or aiming to build expertise aligned with their career ambitions.

## **Marius Giddey**

Partner Centre Candidate,  
KP Acoustics Research Labs  
(Manchester)

Completing the IOA Diploma was an awesome experience! It provided a strong technical foundation in acoustics and deepened my understanding of the theory behind practical skills I use daily as an Acoustic Consultant, further enhancing my ability to make informed decisions on the job.

The course structure was clear, the support from tutors was excellent, and the content was highly relevant to real-world applications whilst also providing interesting insight into other applications and fields of acoustics.

I would highly recommend the Diploma to anyone looking to enhance their expertise and advance in the field.





# Two ways to study

**There are two routes to study the IOA for the Diploma:**

## **Directly through the IOA (Direct Route)**

- Distance learning model with consolidation tutorials approximately once per month
- Access to the 'IOA Classroom', a personalised digital learning platform which hosts your learning notes, videos and where you can upload submissions and coursework
- Via a choice 4 Regional Centres in the UK and Rep. of Ireland
- Tutorials can be accessed online if remote/internationally based

## **Through IOA trusted organisational Partners in the UK (Partner Route)**

- 4 long-standing IOA Partner centres with good UK coverage
- Different patterns of attendance and unique timetables, depending on the partner chosen
- Accredited onsite laboratories with established and cutting-edge equipment



Both routes follow the same syllabus, the same assessment methods and, upon successful completion, the same qualification.

The differences are the bespoke arrangements for timetabling and fee structures set by the Partner centres or centrally by the IOA for Direct candidates.

# IOA Diploma Course Structure

The IOA Diploma requires students to successfully complete 5 Modules:

**There are 3 Core Mandatory Modules:**

- General Principles of Acoustics (GPA)
- Laboratory School (Labs)
- Project

**Plus, 2 Specialist Modules from a choice of 5:**

- Building Acoustics (BA)
- Electroacoustics (EA)
- Environmental Noise: Prediction, Measurement and Control (EN)
- Noise, Vibration and Control Engineering (NVCE)
- Regulation and Assessment of Noise (RAN)



# Continuous Assessment

Your work will be assessed throughout the programme through a series of coursework assignments, reports, exams and a Project. All modules can be marked as a Merit, Pass or Fail.

The submission dates are spread throughout the Diploma calendar and allow for ongoing progression as you complete your Modules in a sequential way which facilitates your increasing fluency in the topics.



## **You will work on and submit:**

- 2 Coursework assignments for GPA
- 1 Coursework assignment for each of your 2 Specialist Modules
- Laboratory School Logbook and 4 Lab Reports
- 3 in person exams (GPA and in each of your 2 Specialist Module subjects) over 2 days at an IOA agreed Centre early in June
- A unique Project to demonstrate the use of your skills and knowledge learnt through the other Diploma Modules.

The unique project investigates an acoustics or a vibration problem, and requires you to write a competent report within an agreed timescale.

The research element of the Project contributes to the postgraduate status of the Diploma.

# Exams

Exams are an assessed element which you will attend in-person. These usually take place in the first or second week of June.

If you are pursuing the Partner route or the Direct Route in the UK or Republic of Ireland, you will normally attend your regular learning centre for your 3 exams.

If you have chosen the Direct route and are based internationally, we will work with trusted organisations to identify a suitable exam hosting venue for you that is proximate to your home/work base.

You'll have to pay a hosting fee directly to the local jurisdiction centre to cover administrative, staff and accommodation costs. As a function of the variability in costs this will be reflected in the centre specific charges which is why they are not included in the overall Diploma fees.





# Learning **Outcomes** and Qualification Level

The **IOA Diploma Syllabus** provides a separate comprehensive guide to learning outcomes and objectives.

Essentially through the 3 Mandatory Modules, students will have the ability to understand:

- Definitions of Sound, Vibration, Propagation and human responses to these
- Preparation and systematic investigations using standard acoustical techniques & equipment
- Appreciation of, estimate of and making allowance for sources of experimental error
- Writing structured technical reports
- Writing a considered unique Project Proposal, refined and reviewed with Project Tutor, generate a Diploma Project which adds to the Acoustics community comprehension of topics, subjects or methods

The Diploma is postgraduate in the sense that the normal entry requirement is a degree in science or engineering.

The majority of the content (including the project and some of the higher-level understanding required in the specialist modules) is at RQF (Regulated Qualifications Framework) level 7 (SCQF – Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework level 11; CQFW – Credits and Qualifications Framework for Wales level 7, EQF – European Qualifications Framework level 7) i.e. at Master's Degree level in the UK and Europe.

# Laboratory Sessions

The practical learning element of the Diploma which all students, irrespective of whether they study via Direct or Partner Route, will undertake in person.



**Many former students report this as the most exciting and inspiring part of the course!**

This may be because:

- you get to work, and network, with your Diploma cohort colleagues
- there's a high degree of hands-on experience – you'll get a chance to work with some specialised equipment and try your hand at experiments in real time
- the tutors are there to support and monitor your progress and to ensure that you get best out of your experience in the laboratory
- at this stage you will have learned a lot of technical skills and now you can put the theory into practice.

# Preparing to Study

In the past we have often attracted Diploma students from a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) background. However, we know that there are many other areas, related or not to our sector, where talented people are to be found who have plenty to offer to our profession.

We are very keen to broaden our Acoustics community backgrounds and expertise! We are also aware that we must carry out some due diligence to ensure that we don't overstretch or stress anyone whose fluency in maths, algebra, and physics may be out of practice.

A degree of comfort of brackets, powers, indices, and manipulation of formulae is highly recommended as well as computer literacy.

You can access this free, online STEM course through the acclaimed [Open University](#) to refresh/check your levels of understanding of maths and physics at any time and from anywhere. Give it a go if you like!

# Diploma **Discovery** Sessions

The IOA runs regular Diploma Discovery Sessions, giving you the chance to meet tutors and recent students online. See what some of our former Diploma students said at the Diploma Discovery Sessions in 2025:



The IOA Diploma gave me the expertise and voice to consult with Government agencies and others to create real and lasting change.

**Dr Faten AlAttar**  
IOA Alumna



The IOA Diploma offered a stepping stone to a great career and allowed me to build past interests into an exciting future.

**Nicolas Assiotis**  
IOA Alumnus



Having completed the Diploma I have a broader network of global colleagues, working in diverse fields.

**Jacob Mathew**  
IOA Alumnus

Join us to learn more about the Institute's Diploma programme and ask any questions you may have in an informal, friendly setting.

Please visit the IOA website for upcoming session details or contact us directly:  
[education@ioa.org.uk](mailto:education@ioa.org.uk)



## Did You Know?

You can explore the four [IOA Diploma specialist modules](#) here. This should help you choose the two specialisms most of interest to you.

Your employer will be supportive of your continued professional development by undertaking additional studies and gaining this highly regarded qualification. They may even sponsor the course fees on your behalf.

We are positive about making reasonable adjustments to support your studies. So, if you have additional learning needs, speak to us as early as you are able.

The IOA awards prizes to the most outstanding Diploma students each year at the annual IOA Medals and Awards event.

As a Diploma student, you automatically qualify for free IOA Student Membership. Successfully completing the Diploma facilitates application for Associate Membership of the Institute (AMIOA).

For more information on any of the above, please contact us by email: [\*\*education@ioa.org.uk\*\*](mailto:education@ioa.org.uk)

# More Information

Contact your preferred Diploma centre as soon as you are ready.  
We look forward to hearing from you!

## IOA Partners:

KP Acoustics Research Labs, Southampton, UK

[kpacoustics.com](http://kpacoustics.com)

KP Acoustics at University of Salford, near  
Manchester, UK

[kpacoustics.com](http://kpacoustics.com)

University of Derby, Derby, UK

[derby.ac.uk](http://derby.ac.uk)

London South Bank University (LSBU)

[lsbu.ac.uk](http://lsbu.ac.uk)

## IOA Direct:

[education@ioa.org.uk](mailto:education@ioa.org.uk) / [ioa.org.uk](http://ioa.org.uk)

