



CHOOSE BTEC

A guide for students



Chosen by over 1 million students each year, BTEC offers a range of technical and applied qualifications for anyone taking their first steps into the world of work, progressing through their careers or planning to enter university.

After 30 years of proven success, more employers and higher education institutions across the globe are choosing BTEC-qualified candidates because of their knowledge, practical experience and technical skills.

In developing our qualifications, we work closely with teachers, employers and higher education institutions so that we can be confident our qualifications meet the needs of today's industries.



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BTEC students have the skills that today's employers are looking for

”

Peter Jones CBE



Decisions decisions!

“Where do you see yourself in 5 years time?” That's the million dollar question!

You may have a very clear idea of where and what you want to be. You might want to keep your options open and study a few different subjects.

With so much choice available, making decisions about your future can be tough. But if you do choose to progress with a BTEC, you can be confident that you'll gain valuable experience and transferable skills that will help you succeed in the real-world: whatever it is you go on to do.

Pictured: The talented winners of our 2016 BTEC Awards



Image courtesy of Bishop Burton College

Did you know... ?

Students that hold BTEC qualifications have high rates of progression between learning levels compared to other types of vocational qualification.



The Contribution of Further Education and Skills to Social Mobility, Department for Business Innovation and Skills, October 2015

BTEC in schools and colleges

In schools and colleges nationwide, thousands of students choose BTEC to start building invaluable work-related knowledge, skills and experience whilst continuing their academic studies.

Available across a wide range of subjects, our **BTEC Firsts** and new **BTEC Tech Awards** provide students aged 14-16 with a hands-on introduction to the sectors they are interested in working in.

BTEC Nationals, BTEC Level 2 Technicals, BTEC Apprenticeships and other post 16 courses offer students the chance to gain broad specialist knowledge and the transferable skills they will need to progress to the next level: be that further study or employment.



My BTEC course helped me fill the gaps in my confidence and I have learned a variety of skills preparing me for the challenges that may come along in my future career in the exciting video game industry.



Jerome Walton
Games Tester for SONY Playstation and former BTEC student at The City of Liverpool College



Turn to page 16 to explore your BTEC options at school and college



Photo © Sue Barr

Did you know... ?

In 2015, over 25% of the students entering university in England did so with a BTEC.

From BTEC to university

Alongside A levels, **BTEC Nationals** are the most widely-recognised qualification for admission to higher education. In 2015, 95% of UK universities and colleges accepted students with BTEC qualifications, including competitive universities from the Russell Group. (Which? University 2015)

With BTEC, you'll develop a portfolio of work that will help you to impress and showcase your skills at interviews. You'll also gain confidence in studying independently, as well as build essential life skills that will help you to succeed at university - and beyond.



Over the last few years we have increasingly offered more places to BTEC students, we very much value the skills they bring to the university. Skills such as teamwork, creative thinking and presentation skills, all of which are essential to succeeding at University.



Professor David Mba
Dean of Engineering



Aiming for university? Find out more about BTEC Nationals on page 23



“

"BTEC gives you a route into employability much faster because it gives you the tools and techniques to be very valuable to an employer. That's one of the reasons I chose BTEC, it gave me a fast route into employment."

”

Albert Hitchcock

Chief Information Officer at Pearson Plc, whose BTEC in Engineering has helped him to succeed in leadership positions at Vodafone, BAE Systems and Nortel Networks



From BTEC to a thriving career

BTEC has earned its worldwide reputation as the premier applied learning qualification because it provides students with a clear route to employment. Today's employers are looking for confident, work-ready candidates who have the practical knowledge and technical skills that BTEC provides.

With BTEC, you'll tackle real workplace tasks that will help you to identify your strengths and decide on the type of career you want to pursue. And whichever BTEC you choose, you'll have the opportunity to develop the employability skills and confidence you'll need to thrive throughout your career.

Did you know... ?

90% of BTEC students are employed full time after graduating.



London Economics 2013

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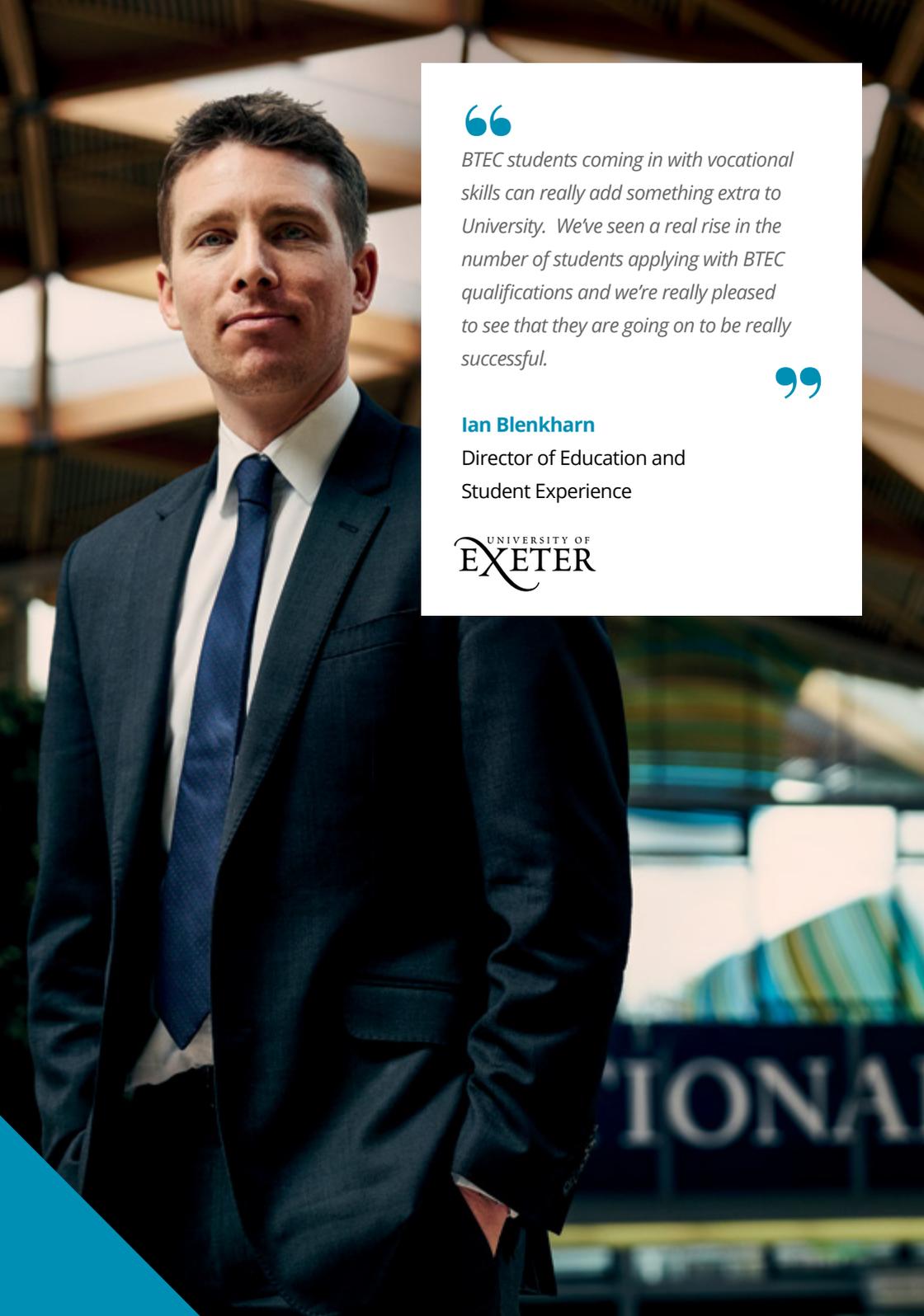
"My BTEC really changed my whole perception of studying as a young student and now I work for Chelsea FC's Chelsea Foundation as a Football Coach. Success does come with results, but for me it's all about doing something with the ambition to just run away with it and just become the best person you can be."

”

Mohamed Mohamed

Football Coach for Chelsea FC's Chelsea Foundation





“

BTEC students coming in with vocational skills can really add something extra to University. We've seen a real rise in the number of students applying with BTEC qualifications and we're really pleased to see that they are going on to be really successful.

”

Ian Blenkarn

Director of Education and Student Experience

UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER



“

BTEC students have a particular set of skills that prepares them really well for University, in particular the ability to work independently and to see an integration between the subjects that they're studying. We love BTEC students and we look forward to welcoming more onto campus in the next few years.

”

Lisa Du-Lieu

Senior Lecturer in Marketing

University of
HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

“

BTEC empowers young people and inspires them through an amazing hands-on learning experience. It helps develop their skills, nurture their potential and gives them the confidence to pursue their chosen career path or further education.

”

Zoe Jackson MBE

Entrepreneur and founder of Living The Dream Performing Arts Company

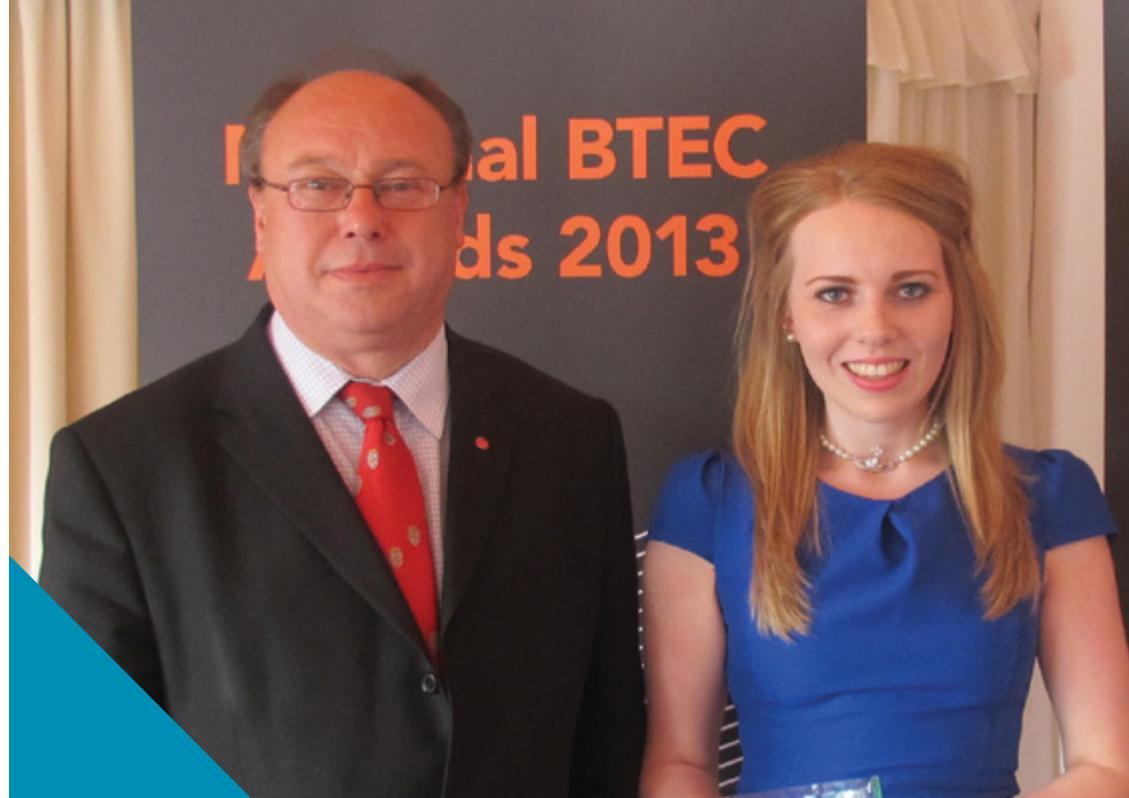




Connor Thomas
BTEC Student of the Year 2014

Equipped with a triple Distinction for his BTEC in Interactive Media, Connor is now working as a professional 3D Artist whilst he completes is BA Honours in Motion Graphics and Visual Effects at The University of South Wales.

“
BTEC helped me to develop my practical skills, build confidence and prepared me for interviews and university.



Kirsty Fishwick
BTEC Business & Enterprise Student of the Year 2013

After winning her award and completing her BTEC Level 3 National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Kirsty went on to secure a prestigious work placement with GFK and a place at Durham University. She has recently graduated with a 1st Class BA Honours degree in Business and Management.

“
My BTEC course was very exciting. I got to set up a micro-business which gave me the skills I needed to become a real business owner.

My favourite part of the course was visiting social enterprises. This was an eye-opening experience and I met some fantastic people who devoted their working life to helping others.

I hadn't completed any business-related course before my BTEC, so to be accepted into Durham University after receiving my qualification shows just how well recognised BTEC qualifications are.



Hayley Simpson
BTEC Sport Student of the Year 2015

Hayley achieved a triple-starred distinction for her BTEC Level 3 National in Sport and is now studying Sports Coaching at Leeds Beckett University: after which she aims to become a Physical Education teacher.

“
My BTEC got me into university and it's given me many options for my future.





Image courtesy of Bishop Burton College

The BTEC learning experience

Each and every BTEC learning experience is unique. But whichever BTEC you choose, you will gain:

- ▶ Hands-on experience of tackling real-world scenarios
- ▶ Industry-related insight and knowledge
- ▶ Confidence in applying your knowledge
- ▶ Transferable employability and life skills

How you'll be assessed

Most BTECs are made up of a number of units or components, assessed through a combination of internal assessments (set and marked by your teacher) and external assessments (set and marked by Pearson).

Assessments can include real-world tasks, tests, research, essays, projects, investigations and experiments. The course **Specification**, which you'll find on the subject page for each BTEC qualification, will provide more information on how your course is assessed.

BTEC assessment:

- ▶ Provides you with regular feedback and insight into your progress, giving you the opportunity to analyse and improve your performance
- ▶ Helps you to develop independent study skills to support future learning
- ▶ Develops your self-assessment skills and prepares you for the workplace





Image courtesy of Bishop Burton Collège

BTEC can help you progress towards a career in a wide range of sectors, including:

- ▶ Engineering
- ▶ Health & Social Care
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Hospitality
- ▶ IT & Computing
- ▶ Land-based and Environment
- ▶ Performing Arts
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Sport
- ▶ Business

Choose your BTEC

BTEC offers a wide range of opportunities to develop your skills at every stage of your academic and professional career.

	Your options	Equivalent in standard to:	Level
Aged 14-16	BTEC Tech Awards	GCSE grades A to E	1-2
	BTEC Firsts	GCSE Grades A* to C	2
	MySkills		Entry to level 3
	BTEC Workskills		Entry to level 3
	BTEC IT Users (ITQ)		Entry to level 3
Aged 16+	BTEC Level 1 Introductory		1
	BTEC Level 2 Technicals		2
	BTEC Nationals	A levels	3
	BTEC Higher National Certificate	1st year of undergraduate degree	4
	BTEC Higher National Diploma	2nd year of undergraduate degree	5
	BTEC Apprenticeships		2-3
	BTEC Higher Apprenticeships		4-5
	BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art & Design		3-4
	BTEC Specialist (levels 1-3)		1-3
	BTEC Professional		4-7



Photo © Sue Barr

For more information about the BTEC subjects and qualifications available at your level visit [ichoosebtec.com](https://www.ichoosebtec.com)

BTEC Tech Awards

The skills to succeed – the confidence to progress

Overview

- ▶ A new skills-based qualification for students aged 14-16
- ▶ Equivalent in standard to and designed for study alongside GCSEs
- ▶ Teaches current industry best practices and helps you to start building the skills, confidence and knowledge you'll need to progress in the sector
- ▶ Assessed via task-based assignments and one practical task
- ▶ Taken alongside GCSEs, fulfils entry requirements for both academic and vocational study post-16

How you'll learn:

BTEC Tech Awards are taught in three stages:

1) Explore

Learn more about working in the sector, the types of jobs available and the skills you'll need to do them.

2) Develop

Explore real-life workplace scenarios and build key knowledge, skills and understanding.

3) Apply

Demonstrate and apply everything you've learnt in a scenario-based task.

BTEC Firsts

- ▶ Designed for level 2 students and equivalent in standard to GCSEs
- ▶ Taken as part of a balanced curriculum, provide a progression route to further study, to an apprenticeship or into employment
- ▶ Provide a solid foundation of skills, knowledge and understanding for a future career in the sector
- ▶ **Over 30 subjects available - see website for a full list**

- ▶ **Aid progression to:
A Levels, BTEC Nationals, Apprenticeships or Employment**

What you can study

From Sep 2017:

Enterprise

Engineering

Health and Social Care

IT

Performing Arts

Sports Leadership

STEM

More coming soon, including Early Years, Hospitality and creative subjects.



BTEC Level 2 Technicals

Aspire. Do. Achieve. Succeed.

Overview

- ▶ Practical level 2 qualifications designed to prepare post-16 students for the world of work
- ▶ Assessed via practical assignments, on screen tests and tasks
- ▶ Created in collaboration with leading UK employers and educators to ensure they meet current industry needs and provide all the specialist knowledge, technical and employability skills you'll need to succeed at work
- ▶ Graded Pass, Merit or Distinction



Image courtesy of Bishop Burton College

What you can study from Sept 2017:

Applied Science

Laboratory Science

Business

Business Administration

Business Enterprise

Customer Service

Retail Operations

Childcare

Children's Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Assistant)

Engineering

Engineering

Hospitality and Travel & Tourism

Food and Beverage Service

Patisserie and Confectionery

Professional Cookery

ICT and Computing

IT Support

Land-based Studies

Animal Care

Sport

Recreation Assistants

Sports and Activity Leaders

More subjects coming soon, including: Carpentry and Joinery, Digital Media, Music, Performing Arts, Health and Social Care, Agriculture, Floristry, Horticulture and Security and Safety for Protective Services.

- ▶ Aid progression to:
Employment, level 3 technical study, apprenticeships and traineeships

BTEC Nationals

Step into your future

Overview

- ▶ Level 3 qualifications designed to provide students with core knowledge and study skills to progress to higher education and/or employment
- ▶ The most widely-recognised skills-based qualification for admission to higher education
- ▶ Assessed through practical and written assignments, tasks and exams
- ▶ Equivalent in standard to A levels
- ▶ Valid for UCAS points-see overleaf for details

What you'll learn

BTEC Nationals include a solid foundation of mandatory content, as well as optional units to give you the opportunity to gain additional specialist knowledge. There's also a strong focus on developing Maths, English and research skills.

Qualification sizes

BTEC Nationals are available in five different course sizes. The smaller sizes are designed for study alongside other level 3 qualifications and A levels, whilst the largest size is designed for students wishing to make it the sole focus of their study programme.

BTEC National	No. of A levels equivalent to:	GLH (Guided Learning Hours)
Certificate	0.5	180
Extended Certificate	1	360
Foundation Diploma	1.5	510 - 540
Diploma	2	720
Extended Diploma	3	1080

- ▶ Aid progression to:
Employment, Higher Education, Apprenticeships or BTEC Higher Nationals



Applying for university

Your Level 3 BTEC National will qualify for the following UCAS Tariff points in applications submitted from 2017 admissions onwards:

BTEC National Certificate (180 GLH)

D*	28
D	24
M	16
P	8

BTEC National Extended Certificate (360 GLH)

D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

BTEC National Foundation Diploma (510-540 GLH)

D*	84
D	72
M	48
P	24

BTEC National Diploma (720 GLH)

D*D*	112
D*D	104
DD	96
DM	80
MM	64
MP	48
PP	32

BTEC National Extended Diploma (1080 GLH)

D*D*D*	168
D*D*D	160
D*DD	152
DDD	144
DDM	128
DMM	112
MMM	96
MMP	80
MPP	64
PPP	48

Academic qualifications will qualify for the following UCAS Tariff points:

	A level	AS
A*	56	
A	48	20
B	40	16
C	32	12
D	24	10
E	16	6

What you can study:

Agriculture
Animal Management
Applied Science
Applied Law
Art and Design
Business
Children's Play, Learning and Development
Computing
Construction
Countryside and Fish Management

Creative Digital Media Production
Engineering
Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
Equine Management
Forestry and Arboriculture
Forensic and Criminal Investigation
Health and Social Care
Horticulture

Information Technology
Marketing
Music
Music Technology
Performing Arts
Production Arts
Retail
Sport
Sport and Exercise Science
Travel and Tourism

▶ You can find out more about UCAS points and applying for university through UCAS at www.ucas.com



BTEC Awards

Each year we host a glittering awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of our students and teachers from across the UK.

The BTEC Awards are open to students at all levels, so if you do choose BTEC, you too could walk away with a prestigious national award to add to your CV!

Read more about our award-winners and see highlights of the 2016 ceremony hosted by BBC Radio 1 presenter Gemma Cairney at: ichooseBTEC.com

And if you're on Twitter, be sure to follow
 [@BTECAwards](https://twitter.com/BTECAwards) for all the latest!

Over 1 million students choose BTEC each year. Will you?

- ▶ Find out more about our qualifications and choose the right BTEC for you at:

[ichoosebtec.com](https://www.ichoosebtec.com)



@BTECstudents

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