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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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
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.

Did you know...?

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

"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
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

UCAS Progression Pathways report, January 2016
Did you know...?

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

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.

“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

“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

London Economics 2013
“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 Blenkhamn
Director of Education and Student Experience

“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

“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
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."

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."

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."

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 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.
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

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.
Choose your BTEC

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

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 C | 1-2 |
- BTEC Firsts | GCSE Grades A to E | 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 |

For more information about the BTEC subjects and qualifications available at your level visit ichoosebtec.com
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 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, fulfills entry requirements for both academic and vocational study post-16

How you’ll learn:

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

Ages 14 - 16
BTEC Level 2 Technicals


Overview

- Practical level 2 qualifications designed to prepare post-16 students for the world of work
- 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
- Assessed via practical assignments, on screen tests and tasks
- Graded Pass, Merit or Distinction

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


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.

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<th>No. of A levels equivalent to:</th>
<th>GLH (Guided Learning Hours)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Extended Diploma</td>
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<td>1080</td>
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</table>

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

### Applying for university

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BTEC National Certificate (180 GLH)</th>
<th>BTEC National Extended Certificate (360 GLH)</th>
<th>BTEC National Foundation Diploma (510-540 GLH)</th>
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### BTEC National Diploma (720 GLH)

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### BTEC National Extended Diploma (1080 GLH)

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Academic qualifications will qualify for the following UCAS Tariff points:

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You can find out more about UCAS points and applying for university through UCAS at [www.ucas.com](http://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 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