

# Real-life learning



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An institution's guide to BTEC Higher  
National qualifications for further and  
higher education



# We believe in learning

At the core of everything we do is the desire to make a measurable impact on improving people's lives through learning. Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. From primary to secondary school, through to professional certification; our qualifications, curriculum materials, multimedia learning tools and testing programmes help to educate millions of people worldwide.

# Real skills for the real world

In an increasingly competitive international jobs market, more students are seeking to maximise the value of their qualifications. Studying BTEC Higher Nationals can offer students direct access to advanced levels of higher education or employment, providing your students with more options and flexibility.

## About BTEC Higher Nationals

With a wide range of subjects and learning outcomes that cover both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, BTEC Higher National qualifications are the ideal platform for your higher level education provision. Our Higher Nationals have four key features, designed to support effective delivery.



# A new path to success

## BTEC HNC Diploma (Level 4)

HNCs can be studied full-time over one year or part-time over two years, and are suitable for students aged 19+.

Students who achieve their HNC can progress to higher education, often directly into the 2nd year of a university degree programme. They can also move into a HND Level 5 course, which offers a greater level of specialisation in their chosen sector.

Additionally, HNCs provide opportunities for career progression and professional development for those already in employment.

## BTEC HND Diploma (Level 5)

HNDs are usually taught on a full-time basis over two years, or over one year as a top-up from a HNC. They offer the opportunity to build formal work placements or part-time employment experience into the programmes. These programmes are designed for students aged 19+.

HNDs provide access to higher education, often directly into the 3rd year of a university degree programme. They are also a robust platform for progression to, or within employment, or as a starting point for study toward professional body recognition.

**“Students who gain BTEC Higher National Diplomas are favourably reviewed by employers. BTEC is an excellent example of vocational education.”**

Maqun Wu, Principal of Beijing Information Technology College, China

# Recognised the world over

With their strong emphasis on developing practical skills alongside specialist knowledge and understanding for the sector, BTEC HNs are recognised internationally by universities and employers.

They provide an excellent choice for further education providers looking to broaden their vocational offering to meet the demands of students seeking a cost-effective, vocational pathway to higher education.

They are also the natural next step for students who have gained high-school level qualifications (including BTEC Level 3), or have developed knowledge in their workplace environment and want a formal recognised qualification to demonstrate the understanding and skills they have gained.



95% of UK Higher Education Institutes



over **200 universities worldwide** - including many of *The Times* top 100 ranked universities internationally



over **70 professional bodies** - including the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), Management, Accounting and Engineering Institutions



**international employers** such as Shell, BAE Systems, PWC and Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group

**...all actively recruit BTEC graduates.**

# Giving students options

BTEC HNs give you the flexibility to develop engaging, relevant programmes to support your students' aspirations. As BTEC HNs are created in partnership with employers, we have a wide range of sectors available for students to study, including:



# For a flexible future

The structure of Higher National qualifications is designed to adapt to the needs of students and to meet the requirements of employers.

Each qualification is made up of **core units**, which provide a broad introduction to the sector, and help students gain the essential knowledge of the subject area, and **specialist units**, which build expertise in specific areas relevant to students' needs.

When designing a programme to suit your students, you have three options for specialisation:



# Teaching in ways your students will love

These qualifications are designed to not only equip students with in-depth knowledge of their chosen sector area, but also to have real world skills which they can transfer to the workplace or higher education. Therefore teaching methods vary by topic. While theoretical sections of a course might follow a traditional classroom model, learning outcomes which might require students to have mastered practical skills would demand a teaching style focused on developing and applying those skills.

## Recognising student success

Higher Nationals are graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction, allowing your best and brightest students to gain the recognition their hard work and talent deserves.

Students are assessed throughout the Higher Nationals qualification meaning that they pick up new skills and certificates at every stage, which can be very motivational.

## A modular approach to learning

Higher Nationals have a modular structure, with ongoing assessment in the form of centre-devised assignments. Assessments need to cover the learning outcomes listed in the qualification specification, but can take any form appropriate to the topic.

## The right resources for delivery

Higher Nationals are designed to prepare students for employment. Staff delivering these programmes and conducting assessments should be familiar with current practice, legislation and standards used in the sector concerned, and the physical resources used to support the delivery of the programme should be of industry standard.

Centres will need to meet any specialist resource requirements when they seek qualification approval. Guidance can be found in each programme specification.

**"I find that the average BTEC student is an independent learner, they find it easy to adapt to university life and have a more mature outlook. Because BTEC courses are aimed directly at industry they also have a clearer understanding of how their study relates to jobs."**

Mark Wallman, Course Leader and Senior Lecturer for Visual Effects, University of Hertfordshire, UK

# Support for everyone

We understand that delivering BTEC Higher National qualifications takes time and careful planning and our fully supported training and resources make teaching these qualifications as rewarding as studying them.

## DELIVERY GUIDES

Helping you achieve best practice in delivery and assessment. Contains unit-by-unit guidance on how to meet and exceed specification requirements.

## STUDY SKILLS GUIDE

Indispensable guides for your students. Covers fundamental skills like study planning, research, assignment writing and avoiding plagiarism, preparing them to study at Higher National level and beyond.

## SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT BRIEFS

We've created these handy templates to help you create assignments which are effective, easy to understand and meet specification requirements. We also provide examples of assignment briefs.

## ASSIGNMENT CHECKING SERVICE

Get an expert review on two proposed assignments, per level, per subject, at the start of the teaching period.

## 'ASK THE EXPERT'

Access our interactive, online portal to find answers to common questions, or to ask your own specific question.

## SUBJECT ADVISORS

Always just a phone call away, our Subject Advisors are available to you, whatever your needs.

### Available for major sectors:

Art and Design / Business and Services / Engineering / Construction and the Built Environment / Hospitality / Health and Social Care / Information Technology / Media / Performing Arts

### Available for all sectors.

### Free download.

Access the Assignment Checking Service at: [qualifications.pearson.com/acs](https://qualifications.pearson.com/acs)

## Marketing toolkit

The Marketing toolkit provides you with a wide range of free, authorised and downloadable BTEC marketing materials to help you recruit new candidates and promote Pearson's BTEC qualifications in your centre.

[qualifications.pearson.com/marketingtoolkit](https://qualifications.pearson.com/marketingtoolkit)

## Progression support

### Progression Plus

Students can learn about the global study opportunities open to them once they have gained their BTEC Higher National qualification by using our online Degree Course Finder tool: [degreecoursefinder.pearson.com](https://degreecoursefinder.pearson.com)

## Training solutions

Choose from a range of practical, hands-on events designed to help those actually delivering the qualifications.

For centres with very specific needs, we can also design bespoke programmes.