Whether you’re an aspiring Olympian, the next big entrepreneur or looking to go to a top university, BTEC has a route for you. BTEC courses are high quality, hands-on qualifications grounded in the real world of work. You will learn by doing, and develop valuable employability skills that you will use throughout your future career or progression into university.

1 in 4
In 2016, nearly 1 in 4 students who got into university did so with a BTEC.*

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

62%
of large companies have recruited BTEC-qualified employees.***

* Source: UCAS and HESA data on entry to HE (2017)
** London Economics 2013
*** YouGov
**Why choose BTEC?**
Discover everything a BTEC course can offer and hear from some past BTEC graduates.

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**Where can a BTEC take you?**
Wherever you’re starting from – and whatever you want to achieve in life – there’s a BTEC to support your journey at every step.

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**Which BTEC is right for you?**
Wherever your next step, there’s a BTEC to give you the skills you need to succeed – and the confidence to progress.

---

**Start your BTEC journey now.**
Find out where you can get more information and what the next steps are towards starting your BTEC.
Max Whitlock MBE is a British gymnast and former BTEC Sport student. He is a five-time Olympic medallist, winning two golds and three bronzes, and a five-time world medallist on the pommel horse with one gold and four silvers.

BTEC taught me the importance of time management, allowing me to train, compete and study at the same time.

Max Whitlock MBE
Double Olympic Gold Medallist,
BTEC Sport

Max Whitlock MBE is a British gymnast and former BTEC Sport student. He is a five-time Olympic medallist, winning two golds and three bronzes, and a five-time world medallist on the pommel horse with one gold and four silvers.
Fleur Robinson
Commercial Director of Burton Albion Football Club, BTEC Business and Finance

Fleur is one of only eight women on the 122-member FA Council. She has over 20 years’ experience in football from the Northern Premier League to the Championship. Following her BTEC qualification she went on to study at Staffordshire University.

When we see a job applicant with a BTEC, we know they’re going to be work-ready.
Professor Stephen Tee
Executive Dean of Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Bournemouth University
Stephen joined Bournemouth University as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences in September 2015. He has worked in the NHS and in higher education for thirty years and is a former Chair of the London Higher Health Group.

"Being able to apply knowledge in practice gives BTEC students an extra dimension."
Jamal Edwards MBE
Entrepreneur and Founder of SBTV, BTEC Media & Moving Image
Jamal Edwards is a self-made media mogul who developed the online platform SBTV to showcase “street-shot” music videos. He honed his camera skills while studying a BTEC in Media and the Moving Image and, following the success of SBTV, has dedicated his time to inspiring self-belief and entrepreneurial spirit among all young people.

"My BTEC opened doors for me. It gave me extra credibility in front of employers."

MEDIA MOGULS CHOOSE BTEC
At the University of Exeter, Ian is responsible for the students from admission to graduation. He has worked in student recruitment for over 10 years.

“BTEC students come to university with the skills they need to succeed.”

**Ian Blenkharn**
Director of Education and Student Experience, University of Exeter
At the University of Exeter, Ian is responsible for the students from admission to graduation. He has worked in student recruitment for over 10 years.
Sharmadean Reid MBE
Entrepreneur and Founder of WAH Nails, BTEC Art and Design
Sharmadean founded WAH Nails in 2008. In June 2009, The Independent recognised Reid as one of the “15 people who will define the future of arts in Britain”. In November 2016, Sharmadean launched her first clothing line inspired by Princess Diana in collaboration with ASOS.

“During my BTEC, I truly had the space to think about ideas – it was incredible.”

VISIONARIES
CHOOSE BTEC
Why choose BTEC?

BTECs give you the flexibility to personally tailor your own education. It means you can pursue the subject areas you’re really interested in and at each level gain more practical skills that you’ll use throughout your life.

Here are some of the benefits of choosing BTEC:

Hands-on experience of real-world scenarios, developing your life skills.
Insight and knowledge of your chosen career, increasing your employability.

Confidence and leadership skills to apply what you know in practice.

The opportunity to follow your passion and ambition, not just follow the crowd.

Meet and study alongside ambitious, passionate and inspirational people – just like you.
Where can a BTEC take you?

Wherever you’re starting from – and whatever you want to achieve in life – there’s a BTEC to support your journey at every step.

CHOOSING BTEC AND GCSES

At this point in your education, the world is your oyster. You can study BTEC Tech Awards or Firsts alongside your GCSEs to explore different subject areas that really interest you. You will also learn by doing, equipping yourself with practical skills that you will use throughout your future education and career. Completing your Level 2 BTEC will open options to study at Level 3 with BTEC Nationals, A levels and Apprenticeships.

Find out more on page 15 »
PREPARING FOR SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE
This stage of your education is Level 3, such as BTEC Nationals and A levels. At this point you’ll start to refine the subjects you progress in, so it’s important to think about where you want to go next. The BTEC options at Level 3 will prepare you for an apprenticeship, studying a BTEC Higher National Certificate, progressing into university or getting you straight into work.

Find out more on page 17

WORKING TOWARDS UNIVERSITY
If you’re aiming to continue into higher education, it’s all about gaining enough UCAS points to qualify for entry into your preferred university. You will secure these through your BTEC Nationals, but might also choose to progress to a BTEC Higher National Diploma (equivalent to 1st year of uni) or Higher National Certificate (equivalent to 2nd year of uni) before progressing to a full degree.

Find out more on page 18

37% of employers prefer a mix of vocational and academic skills in their employees.*

LOOKING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP
Apprenticeships are a great way to get experience in the workplace whilst still learning. You can start an apprenticeship at age 14, 16 or 18 and the different levels (2, 3, 4 and 5) available give you the opportunity to progress to a high level of expertise. Apprenticeships can lead you into an exciting career, or prepare you for further study such as university.

Find out more on page 22

Which BTEC is right for you?

Here is the range of BTEC qualifications you can choose from, and where they can lead you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BTEC Tech Awards (for ages 14-16)</td>
<td>BTEC Nationals (for ages 16+)</td>
<td>BTEC Firsts (for ages 14+)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTEC Entry Level (for ages 16+)</td>
<td>BTEC Introductory (for ages 16+)</td>
<td>BTEC Technicals (for ages 16+)</td>
<td>BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (18+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTEC Workskills (for ages 14+)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTEC Specialist (for ages 14+)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Apprenticeships (for ages 14-16)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DID YOU KNOW?

The fastest growing route to higher education is the combination of BTEC and A levels, according to the latest analysis from UCAS.

Level 4  
University year 1

Level 5  
University year 2

Level 6  
University year 3

Level 7

BTEC Higher National Certificate (18+)

BTEC Higher National Diploma  
(for ages 18+)

BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (18+)

BTEC Professional  
(for ages 18+)

Pearson Higher Apprenticeships  
(for ages 18+)
BTEC contains the perfect combination of practical and academic work.

Maryam Taher
BTEC Applied Science Extended Diploma
Which BTEC is right for you ... when you’re choosing your GCSEs?

When choosing your subjects for years 10 and 11, it’s good to keep your options open. Studying BTECs alongside your GCSEs opens up new subject areas, and starts building the skills you need after you leave school.

BTEC Tech Awards
A great introduction to a professional sector.

BTEC Firsts
A perfect balance of practical and theoretical learning, equivalent to a GCSE.

The hands-on learning style will develop your skills through real-life workplace scenarios – experience you’ll keep drawing on throughout your career.

You’ll work through themed units/components exploring an industry sector to get a flavour of the skills and roles involved.

You’ll also apply what you’ve learned in practice through scenario-based tasks and tests.

Subjects we offer include:
- Art and Design
- Business
- Child’s Play, Learning and Development
- Creative Media
- Digital/IT
- Engineering
- Health & Social Care
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Sport

I love this course because it is what I like to do – look after animals.

Jamie Knight
BTEC Animal Care

In Year 11, Jamie started studying a BTEC in Animal Care. He has a weekly placement in racing stables and volunteers at the yard whenever he can. When he leaves school, he’ll join the team full time as an apprentice.

What his teachers say about Jamie:
“He can work independently and takes a real pride in his work. The opportunity to study a course that uses all of his natural talents has allowed him to blossom.”

Learn more. ichoosebtec.com
BTEC suited my learning style and the practical element really prepared me for university.

Owen Woods
BTEC Applied Science

Watch Owen’s story: ichoosete.com

+300%

The number of students getting into university with a BTEC and A levels rose by over 300% in the last decade.*

* UCAS End of Cycle Report 2016
Which BTEC is right for you ...when you’re going to sixth form or college?

If you’re leaving school and going into sixth form or to your local college, choosing a BTEC course can open doors to higher education, an apprenticeship or the first step in your chosen career.

BTEC Level 2 Technicals
Practical, hands-on learning in a specific career-focused subject area.

BTEC Level 2 Firsts
A balanced combination of practical and theoretical learning in a wide range of subject areas.

BTEC Level 3 Nationals
A compliment or alternative to A levels to prepare you for university or your career.

You might want to start with a level 2 course – that’s the same level as your GCSEs – but change the focus to a hands-on, practical study which can be the springboard to your next step, whether that’s more work-based study, an apprenticeship, or a job.

More and more students are taking a BTEC Level 3 National course alongside their A levels to help them stand out from other applicants.

In fact, nearly one in four students entering university in the UK now has a BTEC.*

If you’re going to college to study a career-focused qualification as your main course, a BTEC Level 3 National offers the combination of skills, knowledge and practical experience you’ll need. This route keeps your options open to progress straight into work, or go on to higher education.

Subjects we offer include:

**BTEC Level 2 Technicals:**
- Adult Care
- Business
- Childcare
- Construction
- Design Production
- Digital Media
- Hospitality
- IT
- Laboratory Science
- Sport

**BTEC Level 3 Nationals:**
- Applied Science
- Art and Design
- Business
- Creative Media
- Digital/IT
- Engineering
- Health & Social Care
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Sport

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* Source: UCAS and HESA data on entry to HE (2017)
Which BTEC is right for you
...if you want to go to university?

BTEC Level 3 Nationals qualify for UCAS points towards your university application in the same way that A levels and AS levels do. This chart shows how many points each National is worth, based on the grade you achieve.

If you're also studying for A levels and want to compare UCAS points, here's a quick guide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A level</th>
<th>AS level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A*</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BTEC National Grade</th>
<th>Certificate</th>
<th>Extended Certificate &amp; Subsidiary Diploma</th>
<th>Foundation Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D* – Distinction*</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D – Distinction</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M – Merit</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P – Pass</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BTEC National Grade</th>
<th>90-credit Diploma</th>
<th>Diploma</th>
<th>Extended Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D<em>D</em>D*</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D<em>D</em>D</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D*DD</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDD</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDM</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMM</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D<em>D</em></td>
<td>84</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D*D</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMM</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMP</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BTEC students excel when it comes to relating theory to the professional settings they’re likely to go on to experience.

Joanna Thurston
Academic Lecturer in Sports Therapy at Bournemouth University
If you’re looking to move up the career ladder, or develop a higher level of knowledge in a particular area of expertise, BTEC Higher Nationals are a great option.

BTEC Higher Nationals are internationally-recognised higher education qualifications that are equivalent to the first and second years of a university degree.

There are over 40 subject areas to choose from, as well as the options to study a Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND). Both represent the latest in professional standards and are designed to help you secure the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to succeed in the workplace.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher National Certificate</th>
<th>Higher National Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Usually takes one year to complete if studying full time, and two years if studying part time.</td>
<td>Usually takes two years to complete if studying full time, and four years if studying part time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equivalent to the first year of a university degree.</td>
<td>Equivalent to the first and second year of a university degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually a more introductory programme with a ‘core’ of learning essential to the subject.</td>
<td>A more specialised programme of learning with pathways linked to occupational outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to develop project management skills.</td>
<td>An increased focus on research skills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

90% of BTEC students are likely to be employed after graduating.*

* London Economics 2013
The course is very intensive and clearly prepares you for the future, whether you want to further your studies and go to university, look for employment, or start your own business.

BTEC HND Business Student 2017

BTEC Higher Nationals are designed for a clear transition to the next stage on your journey:

**Entry points:** BTEC Level 3 or A level

- **Level 4 Higher National Certificate** (120 Credits)
- **Level 5 Higher National Diploma** (120 Credits)
- **Level 6 Honours Degree Programme**
- **Professional body qualifications**

**What to do next if you’re interested:**

- Visit [highernationals.com](http://highernationals.com) to find out more.
- Visit college websites and attend open days to find out what they have to offer.
- Make sure you meet all application requirements.
- Speak to your careers advisor if you need more support.
Which BTEC is right for you
...if you want to do an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships provide an excellent way of developing skills and achieving qualifications while employed in a job.

Apprenticeship levels explained
There are three levels of apprenticeships available for those aged 16 and over:

Level 2
BTEC Intermediate Apprenticeships
These provide the skills you need for your chosen career and allow entry to an Advanced Apprenticeship.

Level 3
BTEC Advanced Apprenticeships
To start this apprenticeship, you should ideally have five GCSEs (grade C or above) or have completed a Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship.

Level 4/5
BTEC Higher Apprenticeships
These apprenticeships work towards qualifications such as NVQ Level 4 and, in some cases, a knowledge-based qualification such as a Higher National Certificate or Diploma.
Work and learn
As an employee, you can earn as you learn, and gain practical skills from the workplace. Furthermore, career progression for apprentices is excellent, with many advancing to highly skilled jobs or higher education in a college or university.

The benefits you can expect include:
- Complete qualifications and training while being paid and receiving the same benefits as your colleagues.
- Learning both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that prepare you for your career.
- Work with people who understand the industry you have chosen and have experience they can pass on to you.
- Spend time working with people of all ages and abilities and develop your confidence, communication skills and ability to work in a team.
- Enjoy the support of the staff at your FE college, training provider or employer on and off site throughout your apprenticeship.
- Make full use of the facilities of the college or training provider and get taught on industry standard equipment by subject specialists who have extensive industrial, technical and vocational experience.
- Gain qualifications that set you up for your career of choice and/or progression onto higher education.

---

I love being an apprentice. As part of the engineering team at Atkins, I really feel that I’m playing an important role in changing the world around me and now plan to study at university after completing my apprenticeship.

Sanna Shabir
Higher National Certificate in Civil Engineering

In September 2016, Sanna began a BTEC Higher Apprenticeship, gaining work experience with engineering company Atkins, while completing a Higher National Certificate in Civil Engineering. Sanna won BTEC Apprentice of the Year (19+) 2017.
Start your BTEC journey now.

Once you’ve decided BTEC is the right choice for you, the next step is to explore the subjects and courses available and find your perfect match.

Speak to your teacher, careers adviser or college tutor about what BTEC courses are available and your options.

Learn more. ichoosebtec.com
WHY CHOOSE BTEC?

WHERE CAN A BTEC TAKE YOU?

WHICH BTEC IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

START YOUR BTEC JOURNEY NOW.
BTEC students, like those at my Enterprise Academy, have the skills they need to kickstart their career.

Peter Jones CBE
Founder, Peter Jones Enterprise Academy

ichoosebtec.com