



BE FUTURE READY

It starts with a BTEC

A guide for parents and learners



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What is a BTEC?

BTEC (which stands for the Business & Technology Education Council) offers high-quality, career-focused qualifications grounded in the real world of work.

BTEC courses focus on skills-based learning and are designed around themed units. Rather than testing everything at the end, BTECs are tested throughout the course using assessments based on real-life scenarios.

This practical approach allows learners to develop and apply the knowledge, skills and behaviours that employers and universities are looking for.

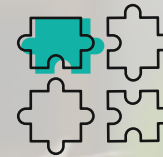
With a BTEC qualification, you will learn and develop key skills such as:



Organisation and working to deadlines



Ability to learn and adapt



Sector-specific skills and knowledge



Initiative and problem solving

91%

of employers prefer their employees to have a mix of academic and technical qualifications.¹

1 in 4

learners in the UK enter higher education with a BTEC qualification - that's over 100,000 learners a year.²

1 in 5

of the UK adult working population have a BTEC, so they are qualifications that all employers recognise.³

What BTEC courses are available?

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

Entry	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
Equivalent to:	GCSE		A level / T Level	University year 1	University year 2	University year 3	
	BTEC Tech Awards (ages 14-16)		BTEC Nationals (ages 16+)	BTEC Higher Nationals (Certificate and Diploma) (ages 18+)			
	BTEC Firsts (ages 14+)		BTEC Technicals* (ages 16+)	BTEC Higher Technical Qualifications (ages 18+)			
BTEC Entry Level (ages 14+)	BTEC Introductory (ages 14+)	BTEC Industry Skills (ages 16+)					
	BTEC International (ages 14+)			BTEC Higher National International (ages 14+)			
BTEC Workskills (ages 14+)							
BTEC Personal Growth and Wellbeing (ages 14+)							
BTEC Specialist (ages 14+)				BTEC Professional (ages 18+)			
* Coming soon - first teach September 2025.			Pearson Apprenticeships (ages 16+)	Pearson Higher Apprenticeships (ages 18+)	Pearson Degree Apprenticeships (ages 18+)		

BTEC and University

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

BTEC National Grade	Certificate	Extended Certificate & Subsidiary Diploma	Foundation Diploma
D* - Distinction*	28	56	84
D - Distinction	24	48	72
M - Merit	16	32	48
P - Pass	8	16	24

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

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

BTEC National Grade	90-credit Diploma	Diploma	Extended Diploma
D*D*D*	-	-	168
D*D*D	-	-	160
D*DD	-	-	152
DDD	-	-	144
DDM	-	-	128
DMM	-	-	112
D*D*	84	112	-
D*D	78	104	-
DD	72	96	-
DM	60	80	-
MMM	-	-	96
MMP	-	-	80
MM	48	64	-
MPP	-	-	64
MP	36	48	-
PPP	-	-	48
PP	24	32	-



BTEC and Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships provide an excellent way of developing skills and achieving qualifications while employed in a job. You can start an apprenticeship at the age of 16 and over. The different levels (2 - 7) give you the opportunity to progress to a high level of expertise.

As an employee, you can earn as you learn, and gain practical skills from the workplace. What's more, career progression for apprentices is excellent, with many advancing to highly skilled jobs or higher education in a college or university.



BTEC Higher Nationals

You may also choose to go into Higher Education via a BTEC Higher National Certificate (equivalent to first year of a degree) or Higher National Diploma (equivalent to first two years of a degree) before progressing to a full degree.

BTEC Higher Nationals are internationally recognised, career-focused higher education qualifications that allow you to either 'top-up' to a degree at **300+ universities worldwide** or enter the world of work.

With over 40 subject areas to choose from, BTEC Higher Nationals are co-designed with industry to provide both real-world experience and academic knowledge. This ensures you'll leave with the expertise demanded by businesses and industries, with the flexibility to go straight into employment or continue to a degree.

Join the BTEC community

Follow our social media channels to connect with like-minded learners and discover the latest BTEC news and updates.

Message or tag us in your posts to let us know what exciting things have been happening on your BTEC course - we love sharing your news.



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