Pearson

Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) Guide

February 2026

Contents

This guide supports providers in understanding how Higher Nationals, delivered via HN Flex, can be used to build a compliant and employer-responsive modular offer under the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE).

It outlines the key policy changes, operational requirements, curriculum design considerations, and the end-to-end approval and quality assurance process.

Introduction

The Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) is set to transform student finance and modular learning in England from academic year 2026/27, with courses starting on or after January 2027. It provides individuals with a loan entitlement equivalent to four years of post-18 education (currently £38,140), which can be used flexibly for modules or full courses at levels 4 to 6 across colleges, universities, and independent training providers.

Core features

- **Entitlement:** New learners up to age 60 can access full tuition for four years; returning learners may have reduced entitlement based on previous funding.

- **Flexibility:** Funding can be used for individual modules (maximum of 30 credits) or full courses at levels 4–6, including priority subjects and longer courses (e.g. medicine).

- **Qualification Rules:** ELQ restrictions are removed, enabling flexible retraining and upskilling. Maintenance loans and targeted grants are available for eligible courses.

Pearson has 49 Higher National qualifications approved as HTQs across a broad range of occupational sectors, providing a wealth of cutting-edge, occupationally relevant content for you to choose from when building a modular offer.

The smallest fundable entity in the LLE is a 30-credit module. This is made up of two 15-credit Higher National units of your choice. We have provided ideas and guidance for how you might combine units: **read more**.

You can offer HN unit-level content via the HN Flex service, enabling your students to access their LLE funded offer.

Key dates for providers

Spring/Summer

2026
Submit course data to Student Loans Company CMS.

September 2026
Student applications for LLE funding open.

January 2027
First LLE modular courses begin.

The first qualifications to be made available for modular funding under the LLE will be level 4 and 5 qualifications **approved by Skills England as Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)**.

Why build a modular LLE offer using HN Flex?

Benefits to students

- **Offers flexibility** to gain knowledge skills and behaviours in a bite-sized way without enrolling onto a full qualification.

- **Stack units** for a future Higher National qualification.

- **Progress** towards a Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND) qualification.

- **Upskill and reskill** through individual units of CPD as needed.

- **Study up to four units** across different subjects for professional accreditation.

Benefits to providers

- **Deliver Higher Nationals flexibly** to address various training needs, including employers and local authorities.

- **Develop employer partnerships** by meeting staff development requirements.

- **Offer CPD options** beyond standard qualifications.

- **Encourage diverse groups**, such as adult learners, to return to education.

- **Provide HE-level 'taster' courses** to **support progression** from level 3 or entry into higher education.

- **Supply bridging units** for smooth transition from level 4 to 5 studies.

- **Enable flexible delivery methods**, such as short targeted units that can be blended into full HN programmes.

Preparing to offer

To offer LLE-funded courses, providers must:

- Register with the Office for Students.
- Pass the Department for Education (DfE) Gateway approval process.
- Be approved to offer the qualification that they wish to delivery units from via HN Flex.
- Once HN units for offer have been chosen, apply for HN Flex delivery.

HN Flex approvals process

HN Flex will follow existing approvals process for Vocational Qualifications.

Centres will submit an online application form via Edexcel Online

Edexcel Online > Log in > Navigate to Qualifications > BTEC > Request for Qualification Approval > Qualification Approval > Offering additional vocational qualifications.

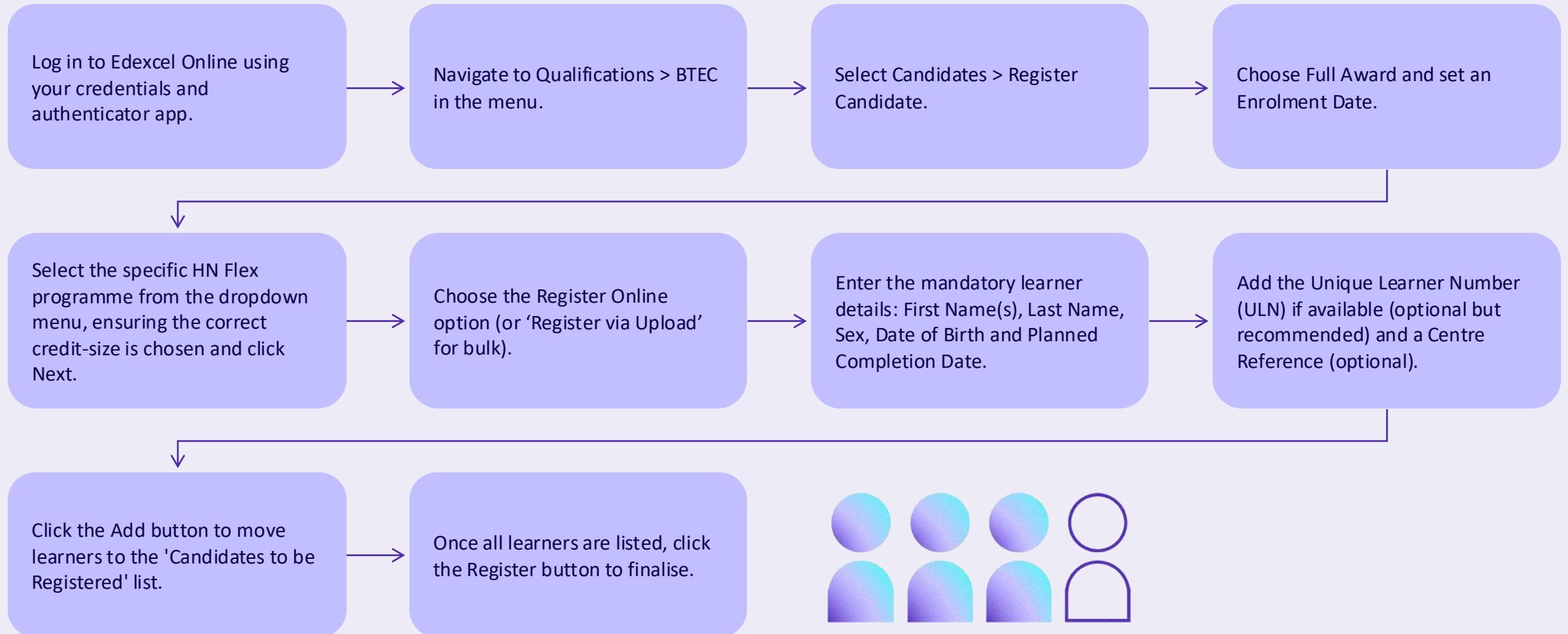**Or apply via an offline form provided by Customer Services.**

A CRM case is created with a unique reference number and referred to the Approvals team for processing.
An outcome will be provided within 23 days of the completed application being submitted, with updates being provided by the Approvals team throughout.
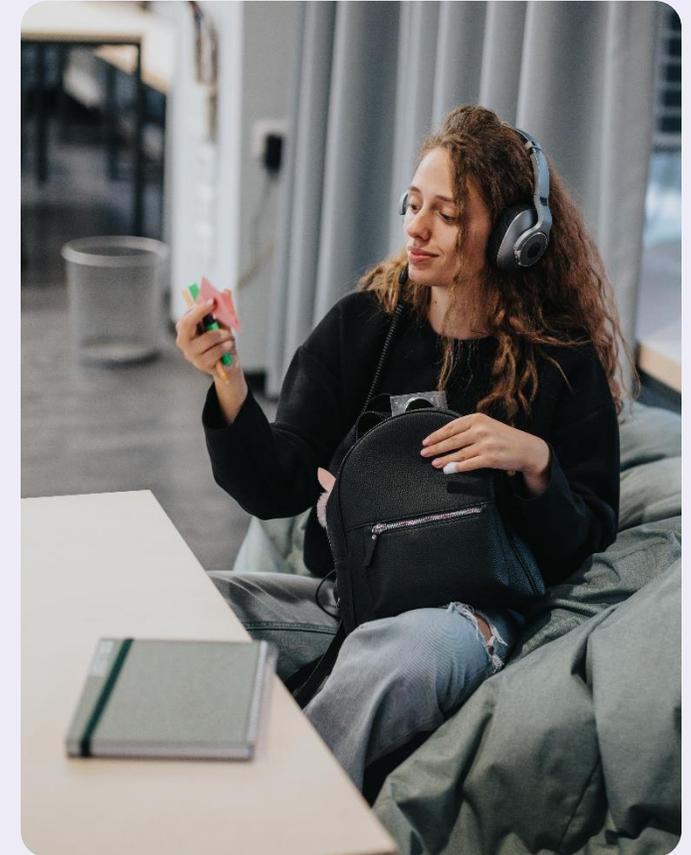
Registering students/EoL process

To register learners for HN Flex, centres must use Edexcel Online following these steps

Log in to Edexcel Online using your credentials and authenticator app.

Navigate to Qualifications > BTEC in the menu.

Select Candidates > Register Candidate.

Choose Full Award and set an Enrolment Date.

Select the specific HN Flex programme from the dropdown menu, ensuring the correct credit-size is chosen and click Next.

Choose the Register Online option (or 'Register via Upload' for bulk).

Enter the mandatory learner details: First Name(s), Last Name, Sex, Date of Birth and Planned Completion Date.

Add the Unique Learner Number (ULN) if available (optional but recommended) and a Centre Reference (optional).

Click the Add button to move learners to the 'Candidates to be Registered' list.

Once all learners are listed, click the Register button to finalise.

Curriculum Design & Modular Delivery

Using Higher Nationals and HN Flex with the Lifelong Learning Entitlement

- 49 Higher Nationals are approved as Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs), the first qualifications eligible for modular funding.

- HN Flex enables delivery of individual units from HTQs to meet local learner and employer needs. The smallest fundable module is 30 credits, made up of two 15-credit HN units from the same parent qualification.

- 30-credit HN units are not available via HN Flex as part of this offer as these units are more synoptic in nature.

- Providers bundle units into modules tailored to local, employer and learner needs.

Curriculum Design & Modular Delivery
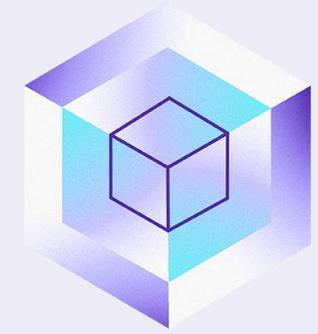
Building HN modules

When combining HN 15-credit units to form 30-credit LLE modules, providers should bear in mind:

- The nature of the target learner audience – are they in work? Progressing from level 3 programmes within the college? Adults returning to learning?

- Whether local/regional labour-market needs suggest specific unit combinations

- Does the module provide industry-relevant knowledge

- Whether transferable skills emerge across both units in the module and how can they be linked

- Which unit combinations will feel most relevant and motivating to learners

- Do the units together build a coherent skillset rather than feeling disjointed

- Avoiding pairing two very demanding units unless appropriate support exists

- What onward progression opportunities will the module afford

- If Level 4 units are chosen, does the 30-credit module serve as a bridge to Level 5 units?

- How to make module names and descriptions feel coherent and purposeful

- How to approach assessment e.g. balancing formative and summative assessment points, considering introducing integrated assessments that reduce duplication and emphasise synthesis

- Staff and equipment requirements to successfully delivery modules

- Whether employers could contribute guest sessions, case studies, or equipment access

- Whether the 30 credits be delivered together or sequentially, and how that interacts with the delivery of the same units for full qualifications e.g. timetabling of the course for staff and room/resource efficiency

Curriculum Design & Modular Delivery

Sector approaches

To get you started thinking about the types of modules you could create from Higher Nationals units we've provided some exemplar modules across a range of key higher technical sectors.

Business

Computing

Construction

Engineering

Health

Medical Technology

Sport

Business

Business

Higher Nationals in Leadership and Management for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Creative Marketing

Units:
- 2 Marketing Processes and Planning
- 8 Digital Business

Potential use: To upskill marketers to create compelling marketing strategies that integrate digital media planning to maximise the impact of marketing campaigns.

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Strategies for Business Success

Units:
- 1 The Contemporary Business Environment
- 2 Marketing Processes and Planning

Potential use: To develop professional skills in data and information analysis and interpretation to drive business success and achieve organisational objectives.

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Performance Management

Units:
- 3 Managing Human Resources
- 4 Leadership and Management

Potential use: To upskill leaders and managers in effective communication, motivation and workforce planning, inspiring the adoption of high-performance working practices to drive business excellence.

Business
Higher Nationals in Leadership and Management for England

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Mastering Team Development

Units:
- 9 Organisational Behaviour Management
- 14 Developing Individuals, Teams and Organisations

Potential use: To empower HR leaders and managers with versatile professional skills, enabling them to excel in team leadership and drive outstanding performance management.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Strategic Thinking

Units:
- 12 Business Strategy
- 16 Business Data and Analytics

Potential use: To provide cross-cutting professional skills in data analysis processes, data mining and data transformation to influence strategic choice and direction.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Operational Solutions

Units:
- 11 Principles of Operations Management
- 13 Business Information Technology Systems

Potential use: To equip professionals with elevated expertise in using IT solutions and advanced technologies to enhance operational efficiencies.

Sector selection

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Business

Higher Nationals in Leadership and Management for England

LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Stakeholder Management

Units:
- 1 The Contemporary Business Environment
- 15 Business Communications and Relationship Management

Potential use: To provide cross-cutting professional skills to enable business professionals to effectively engage, manage, and satisfy a diverse range of stakeholders.

LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Building Business Resilience

Units:
- 7 Operational Planning and Management
- 11 Principles of Operations Management

Potential use: To provide upskilling for those in operation roles to implement business continuity plans and risk assessment that optimise organisational efficiency and build resilience.

Business

Higher Nationals in Sustainable Business Management for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Principles of Sustainability

Units:
- 1 Principles of Sustainability
- 3 Sustainable Business in Practice

Potential use: To develop understanding and implementation of the pillars of sustainability and sustainable business practices to drive lasting positive business impact.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Leading Sustainable Transformation

Units:
- 10 Organisational Behaviour Management
- 13 Principles of Change Management

Potential use: To empower leaders and managers with the skills needed to drive transformative change in sustainability and champion the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) agenda.

LEVEL 4/5 MODULES

Module title: ESG Principles

Units:
- 5 Corporate Governance and Ethics
- 11 Environmental, Social, Governance Planning

Potential use: To upskill those in business roles that are concerned with management culture and promoting the case for good governance and corporate social responsibility, inspiring organisations to lead by example and drive positive change.

Business
Higher National Certificate in Marketing Management for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Dynamic Campaign Planning

Units:
- 7 Marketing Strategy and Planning
- 8 Managing Marketing and Digital Communications

Potential use: For marketers who wish to enhance their skills in creating dynamic and highly audience focused marketing campaigns.
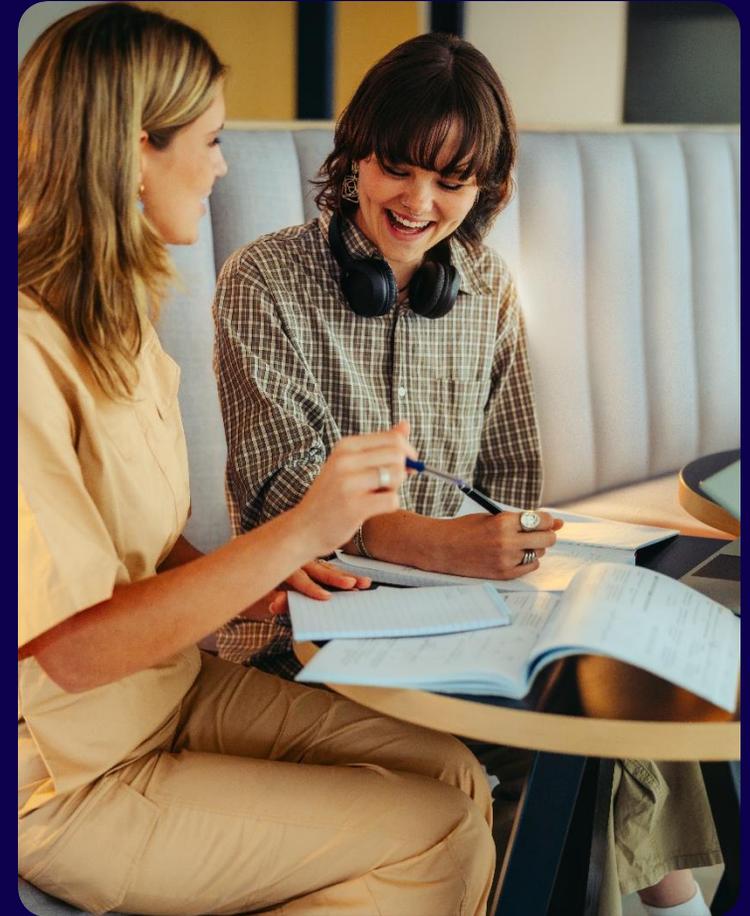
LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Multimedia Communication

Units:
- 6 Product Content and Multi Channels
- 8 Managing Marketing and Digital Communications

Potential use: For those learners seeking HE study in digital marketing and multimedia.

Sector selection

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Computing

Computing
Higher National Diploma in Computing for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Building Interactive Digital Solutions

Units:
- 1 Programming
- 13 Website Design & Development

Potential use: For those who wish to upskill while in work, in delivering user-centred apps and sites through hands-on programming and web builds.
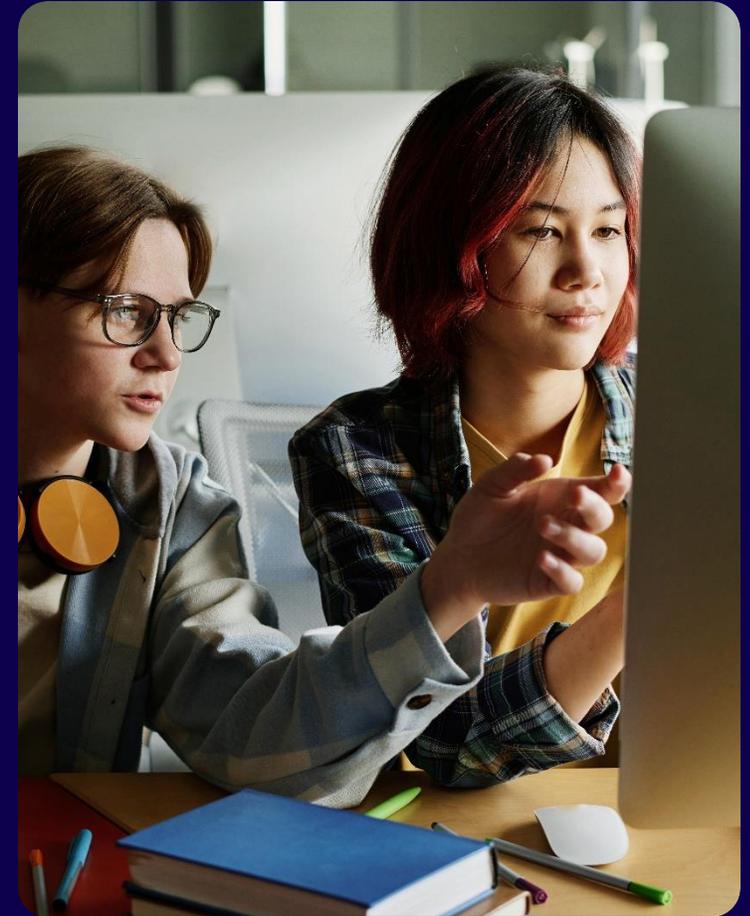
LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Securing Connected Systems

Units:
- 2 Networking
- 5 Security

Potential use: For upskilling in work, for students who want to set up, secure, and troubleshoot modern networks in operational environments.

Computing
Higher National Diploma in Computing for England

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Smart Applications and Connected Devices

Units:
- 22 Application Development
- 45 Internet of Things

Potential use: For students wishing to progress from a level 3 programme, gaining advanced app and IoT capabilities that will prepare them for higher-level study.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Optimised Coding and Design Principles

Units:
- 19 Data Structures & Algorithms
- 20 Applied Programming and Design Principles

Potential use: Supporting access to higher-level study by developing strong algorithm and design practice.

Computing
Higher National Diploma in Computing for England

LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Intelligent Systems and Predictive Technologies

Units:
- 15 Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Intelligent Systems
- 25 Machine Learning

Potential use: Gaining core AI and ML knowledge to progress into advanced academic study.
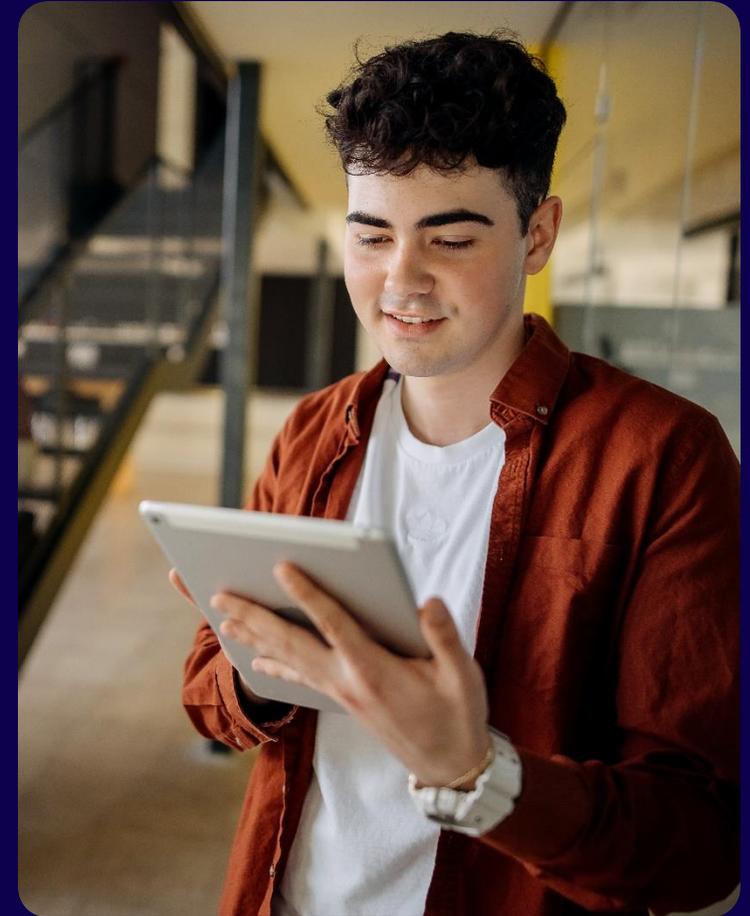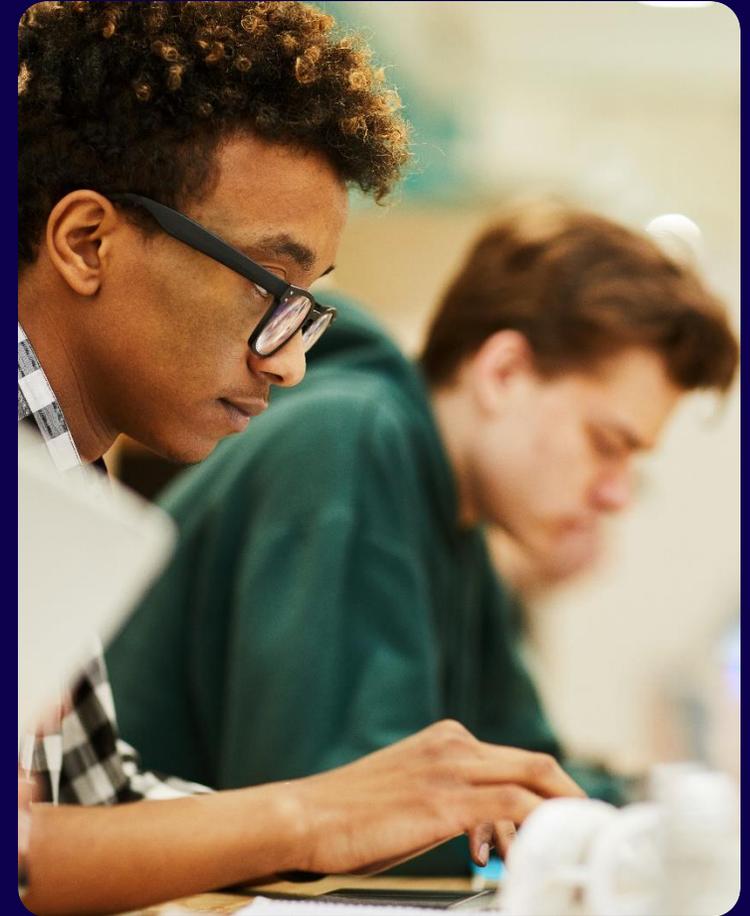
LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Optimised Coding and Design Principles

Units:
- 19 Data Structures & Algorithms
- 20 Applied Programming and Design Principles

Potential use: Supporting access to higher-level study by developing strong algorithm and design practice.

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Computing
Higher National Diploma in Digital Technologies for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Foundations of Cloud Infrastructure

Units:
- 6 Networking in the Cloud
- 7 Cloud Fundamentals

Potential use: For employees who want to upskill in operating cloud platforms and networks confidently with practical, job-ready skills.

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Leadership in the Digital Economy

Units:
- 1 Professional Practice in the Digital Economy
- 17 Management in the Digital Economy

Potential use: Develop professionally in applying professional practice and management tools to lead and support digital teams.

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Computing
Higher National Diploma in Digital Technologies for England

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Data-Driven Innovation

Units:
- 19 Business Intelligence
- 21 Emerging Technologies

Potential use: For employees looking to upskill in using BI and emerging tech to drive data-led decisions at work.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Strategic Digital Engagement

Units:
- 38 Planning Social Media Campaigns
- 39 Digital Marketing

Potential use: To sharpen professional skills in planning campaigns and executing digital marketing that delivers measurable outcomes.

LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Advanced Cybersecurity Strategies

Units:
- 3 Cyber Security
- 23 Applied Security in the Cloud

Potential use: For employees who want to upskill in protecting systems and cloud workloads with applied cybersecurity practices.

Construction

Construction

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Construction Digital Information Management

Units:
- 13 Building Information Modelling
- 26 Digital Applications for Building Information Modelling

Potential use: To deliver essential digital modelling skills and foundational knowledge, preparing students for advanced study in Architectural Technology and related construction disciplines.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Certificate in Architectural Technology for England*

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: The Construction Environment and Operations

Units:
- 4 The Construction Environment
- 20 Site Supervision & Operations

Potential use: To equip students who wish to progress from level 3 study with essential knowledge and skills, enabling progression to advanced studies and qualifications in Construction Management at Level 4 and above.

HTQ approved Qualification: Construction Management for England (Construction Site Supervisor)*

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Principles of Modern Methods of Construction

Units:
- 15 Principles of Alternative Energy
- 24 Principles of Off-site Construction

Potential use: To enable students to understand innovative and exciting technologies used in modern construction - specifically, the use of alternative energy and off-site construction methods.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Certificate in Modern Methods of Construction for England

Construction

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Advanced Building Systems

Units:
- 49 Advanced Electrical Design & Installation
- 50 Building Management Systems

Potential use: To provide individuals with a background in building services engineering with the opportunity to enhance their skills and gain in-depth knowledge of advanced building control and energy management systems.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Building Services Engineering for England (Electrical)*

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Construction Contracts and Management

Units:
- 29 Contracts & Management
- 30 Project Management

Potential use: To equip professionals in the construction sector with the necessary skills and knowledge to advance into contracts management or project management positions.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Quantity Surveying for England*

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Sustainable Construction and Renovation

Units:
- 35 Sustainable Methods of Construction
- 40 Surveying for Conservation, Renovation & Refurbishment

Potential use: To provide individuals with the opportunity to acquire advanced skills and comprehensive knowledge of sustainable construction methods, focusing on the conservation, renovation, and refurbishment of existing buildings.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Construction Management for England*

*Also available in a range of other HTQ approved Construction HNs

Construction

LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Advanced Building Information Modelling

Units:
- 26 Digital Applications for Building Information Modelling
- 47 Advanced Building Information Modelling

Potential use: To equip individuals working in the construction sector with advanced knowledge and practical skills essential for proficiency in Building Information Modelling (BIM).

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Architectural Technology for England*

LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Geotechnical Surveying

Units:
- 7 Surveying, Measuring & Setting-out
- 43 Advanced Surveying & Measurement

Potential use: To equip students and professionals in the construction industry with advanced knowledge and practical skills required for conducting geotechnical surveys effectively, utilising modern instruments and technologies.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Civil Engineering for England or Construction Management for England (Construction Site Supervisor)

LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Construction Procurement and Cost Control

Units:
- 12 Tender & Procurement
- 36 Value Engineering & Cost Control

Potential use: To equip students and professionals with essential knowledge and practical skills necessary to understand and apply effective methods and processes in tendering, procurement, and cost control within the construction industry.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Quantity Surveying for England*

Also available in a range of other HTQ approved Construction HNs

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Engineering

Engineering

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Automation in Engineering

Units:
- 4061 Programming for Engineers
- 4015 Automation, Robotics and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs)

Potential use: To equip students with fundamental knowledge and practical skills essential for progression into level 4 and above study within the field of Automation and Control Engineering.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Certificate in Automation and Control Engineering for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Electrical Principles in Engineering

Units:
- 4015 Automation, Robotics and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs)
- 4019 Electrical and Electronic Principles

Potential use: To deliver the essential principles and knowledge necessary for students aiming to progress to level 4 and above in Electrical and Electronic Engineering studies.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Certificate in Electrical and Electronic Engineering for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: General Engineering Intro

Units:
- 4001 Engineering Design
- 4004 Managing a Professional Engineering Project

Potential use: To furnish students with foundational knowledge and skills essential for progression to further studies and diverse pathways within the field of Engineering, particularly accommodating those who have yet to decide upon a specific specialisation.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Certificate in Engineering for England*

Also available in a range of other HTQ approved Engineering HNs.

Engineering

Module title: Engineering Systems and Digital Communication

Units:
- 5042 Signals and Systems
- 5046 Analogue and Digital Communications

Potential use: To enhance the expertise of professionals already employed within the engineering sector by deepening their knowledge of engineering systems and digital communications, with a particular focus on the application of signals, as well as analogue and digital techniques.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Electronic and Electrical Systems Engineering for England

Module title: Lean Manufacturing and Systems Engineering

Units:
- 5015 Manufacturing Systems Engineering
- 5016 Lean Manufacturing

Potential use: To equip students with comprehensive expertise in advanced manufacturing systems, enabling them to achieve further career progression and deepen their specialist knowledge.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering for England*
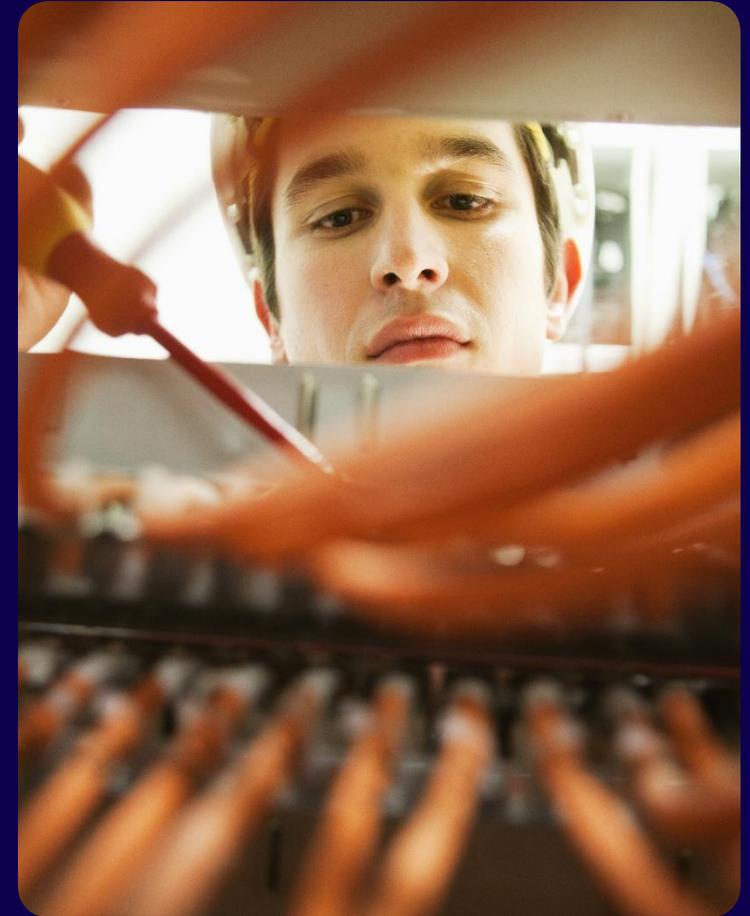
Also available in a range of other HTQ approved Engineering HNs.

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Engineering

LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Principles of Aerospace Engineering

Units:
• 4041 Aircraft Aerodynamics
• 5027 Aircraft Propulsion Principles and Technology

Potential use: To provide students with a strong foundation in aerospace engineering principles, supporting progression to higher-level qualifications and enabling a transition into a specialist route within the aerospace sector.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering for England

LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: PLCs in Engineering

Units:
• 4015 Automation, Robotics and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs)
• 5009 Further Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs)

Potential use: This module is designed to equip students with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in the use and application of Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) within engineering, supporting progression to advanced qualifications and facilitating entry into specialist roles across the engineering sector.

HTQ approved Qualification: Higher National Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering for England

*Also available in a range of other HTQ approved Engineering HNs.

Health

Health

Higher National Diploma in Healthcare Professions' Support for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Governance and Health Education Foundations

Units:
• 1 Law, Policy and Ethical Practice
• 5 Principles of Health Education

Potential use: For employees who want to upskill in applying law, policy and health education to deliver safe, ethical care.

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Applied Healthcare Science and Mathematics

Units:
• 6 Effective Healthcare Practice Using Maths
• 7 Applied Anatomy and Physiology

Potential use: For employees who want to upskill in using maths, anatomy and physiology to support everyday clinical practice.

Sector selection

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Health

Higher National Diploma in Healthcare Professions' Support for England

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Principles of Nursing and Medicine Management

Units:
- 22 Pharmacology and Medicine Management
- 23 Nursing – Principles and Fundamentals of Practice

Potential use: Provides a module of advanced clinical knowledge which can support progress into nursing or HE health pathways.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Supporting Long-Term and End-of-Life Care

Units:
- 11 Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Long-Term Health Conditions
- 13 End of Life Care Planning and Support

Potential use: For employees who want to upskill in providing compassionate, competent care for complex and end-of-life needs.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Global Health and Psychophysiological Wellbeing

Units:
- 25 Psychophysiological Disorders
- 26 Global Health and Wellbeing

Potential use: For those who want to access higher study via developing their analysis of health determinants.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Quality and Project Management in Care Settings

Units:
- 15 Managing Quality in Care Environments
- 27 Project Management for Healthcare

Potential use: To hone professional skills in improving quality and delivery through practical project and service management.

Health
Higher National Diploma in Healthcare Professions' Support for England
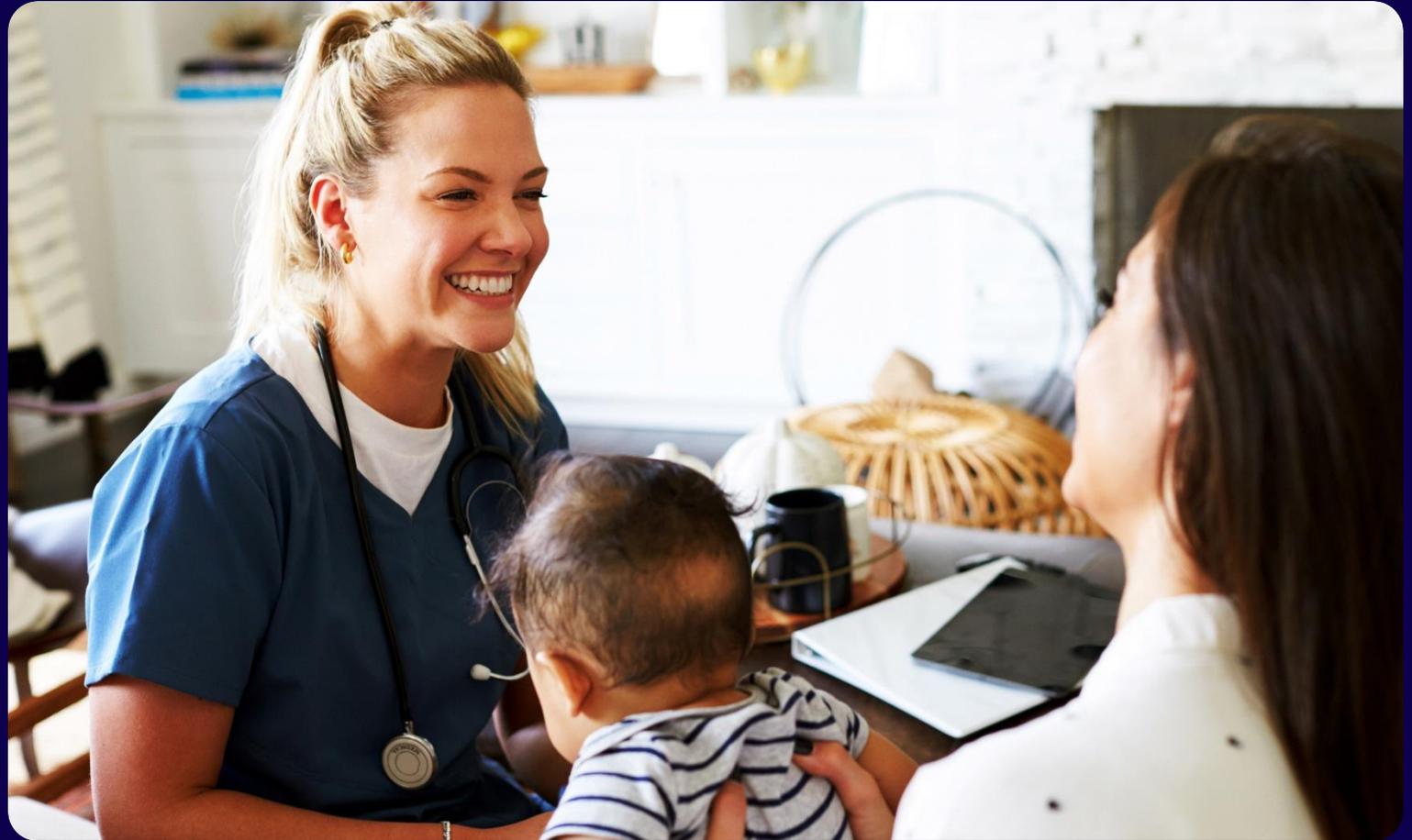
LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: Ethics and Workforce Management in Healthcare

Units:
- 1 Law, Policy and Ethical Practice
- 21 Human Resource Management in Healthcare

Potential use: Developing professional skills in making sound ethical decisions and coordinating teams effectively in care settings.

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Medical Technology

Medical Technology
Higher National Diploma in Digital Technologies for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Foundations of Medical Technology and Device Design

Units:
- 401 Introduction to MedTech
- 405 Medical Devices

Potential use: For those wishing to progress into higher-level study by understanding MedTech fundamentals and device design.

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Quality and Risk Management in Medical Device Development

Units:
- 402 Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485)
- 403 Risk Management (ISO 14971)

Potential use: For employees who wish to upskill in applying ISO 13485/14971 to manage quality and risk in regulated settings.

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Software Development and User-Centred Design

Units:
- 404 Applied Programming
- 407 Software and UI/UX Design

Potential use: For those who want to access higher education via improving their programming and UX capabilities aligned to MedTech-focused HE routes.

Medical Technology
Higher National Diploma in Digital Technologies for England

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Data-Driven Insights for User-Centric Solutions

Units:
- 504 Data Analytics
- 506 Understanding User Needs

Potential use: For employees who want to upskill in applying analytics and user insights to design better healthcare solutions.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Manufacturing Fundamentals and Advanced Techniques

Units:
- 505 Manufacturing Processes
- 515 Advanced Manufacturing

Potential use: For employees who want to upskill in working safely and efficiently across modern MedTech manufacturing processes.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Secure Data Management and Agile Software Delivery

Units:
- 501 Data Management and Cybersecurity
- 507 DevOps Engineering

Potential use: For employees who want to upskill in managing data securely and delivering software with DevOps in MedTech teams.

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Module title: Professional Growth and Future Technology Trends

Units:
- 508 Professional Development
- 514 Emerging Trends and Technologies

Potential use: To sharpen professional skills in career planning and awareness of emerging technologies.

Medical Technology

Higher National Diploma in Digital Technologies for England
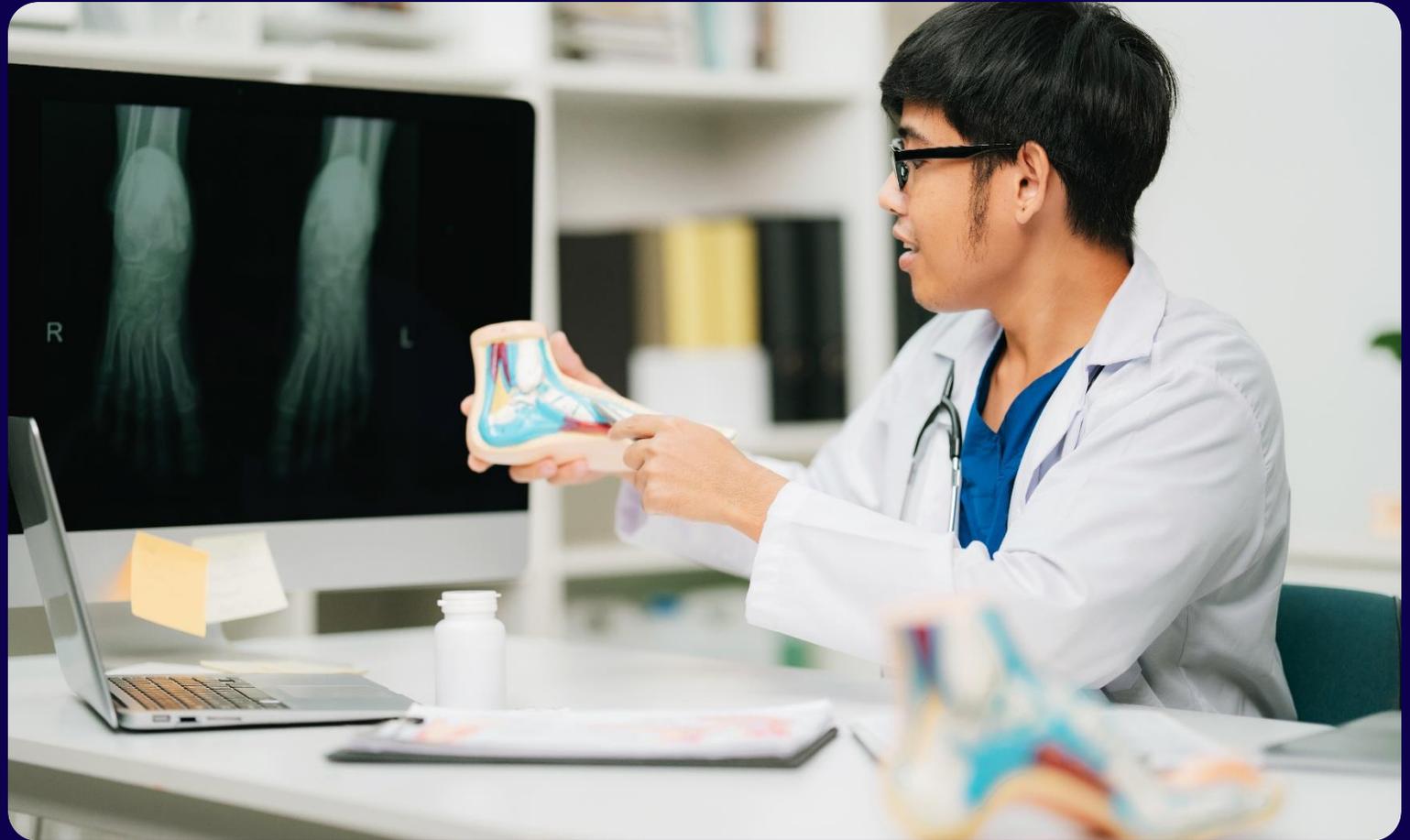
LEVEL 4/5 COMBINATION MODULES

Module title: User-Centred Medical Device Design

Units:
- 405 Medical Devices
- 506 Understanding User Needs

Potential use: To develop professional skills in designing safe, effective devices grounded in user needs and usability.

Sport

Sport
Higher National Certificate in Sports Coach – Community Coaching for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Coaching for Community Wellbeing

Units:
- 1 Nutrition Unit
- 7 Lifestyle Coaching

Potential use: To upskill personal trainers and fitness professionals in efforts to combat the current obesity epidemic.

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Practical Delivery in Community Coaching and School Sport

Units:
- 5 Coaching Practice and Skill Development
- 8 Community Coaching

Potential use: To upskill Teaching Assistants within sport and/or qualified teachers to upskill on their practical delivery to support PE lessons and extra-curricular sport.

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Access to HE Sports Science

Units:
- 2 Fundamentals of Sport and Exercise Psychology
- 3 Anatomy and Physiology

Potential use: To provide a first learning step for students who want to transfer from Level 3 qualification in Sport to a Sports Science Higher National route e.g. Sports Science/Sports Therapy (HEI).

Sport
Higher National Certificate in Sports Coach – Community Coaching for England

LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Optimising performance in Coaching

Units:
- 2 Fundamentals of Sport and Exercise Psychology
- 6 Training, Fitness and Testing

Potential use: To upskill coaches that are looking to transfer from community coaching into working with high performing participants via an introduction to high performance coaching.
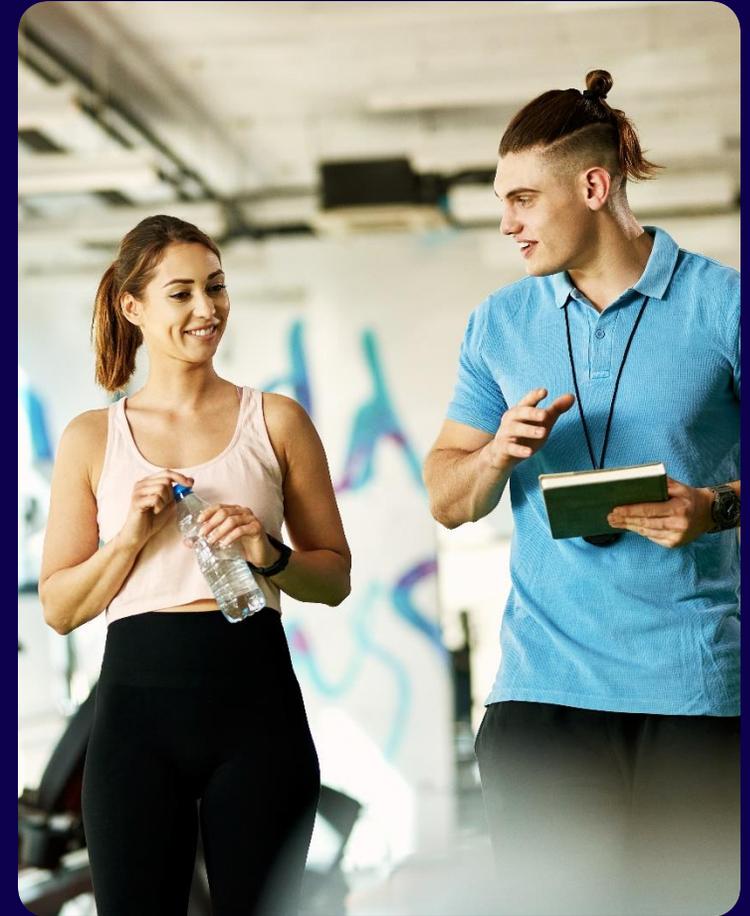
LEVEL 4 MODULES

Module title: Lifestyle Coaching and Psychology

Units:
- 2 Fundamentals of Sport and Exercise Psychology
- 7 Lifestyle Coaching

Potential use: To develop professional skills for those who are working in or want to work in wellbeing and lifestyle coaching and coaching for mental wellbeing.

Sector selection

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HN Flex quality assurance process

The quality assurance process for delivering Pearson qualifications is tailored according to whether your centre is new to Pearson or is already established in delivering these qualifications.

FOR NEW CENTRES

If your centre is new to delivering Pearson qualifications, you will be required to complete both the centre and programme approval processes.

Once your centre has been onboarded and your learners are ready to receive certification, an External Examiner will be allocated to your centre to conduct a sampling activity. This activity involves a thorough review of several key areas, including management systems, centre recognition, learner support, assessment and verification practices, as well as record keeping.

To ensure consistent compliance with Pearson's requirements, a minimum of two sampling interactions will be scheduled per academic year. These regular interactions help maintain the quality and integrity of the qualifications delivered.

FOR ESTABLISHED CENTRES

If your centre is already established in delivering Pearson qualifications, you must ensure that you are approved to deliver the specific units that comprise the HN Flex programme.

For centres that already hold programme approval and have received a sampling outcome of 'Release' within the past twelve months, your allocated External Examiner will work with you to agree a sampling plan. This plan includes observing the delivery of the short course, reviewing a sample of assessment and verification decisions, and examining records such as standardisation documentation and ongoing continuing professional development (CPD).

In cases where your centre does not hold a recent sampling outcome of 'Release,' the External Examiner will carry out a more comprehensive sampling. This will, at a minimum, review your management systems, centre recognition, learner support, assessment and verification practices, and record keeping.

Certification Process

To facilitate prompt certification, it is crucial to enter accurate expected completion dates for learners when registering them in Edexcel Online. Recording these dates ensures that External Examiners can be allocated efficiently, enabling timely support for the release of certification. It is typical for External Examiners to conduct their sampling activities within six weeks after learners have completed their programmes of study.

Certification claims should be made via Edexcel Online. Upon successful completion of their modules, students will be issued a Certificate of Unit Completion for all units completed within their courses.

Provider journey – key steps

Confirm Eligibility & Strategic Fit
- Review LLE policy requirements.
- Assess learner, employer and local skills needs.
- Ensure modular provision aligns with centre strategy.

1

Secure Required Regulatory Status
- Register with OfS.
- Complete DfE Gateway.

2

Select Qualifications & Units
- Choose relevant HN/HTQ qualifications.
- Identify appropriate 15-credit units.
- Form 30-credit modules from two units.

3

Apply for HN Flex Approval
- Submit approval application via Edexcel Online.
- Provide staffing, resource and IQA evidence.
- Receive approval confirmation.

4

Submit Course/Module Data to SLC
- Provide module details via CMS.
- Meet Spring/Summer 2026 deadlines.

5

Market & Recruit Learners
- Promote modular offer.
- Support LLE funding applications.
- Engage employers and local stakeholders.

6

Register Learners on Edexcel Online
- Choose correct HN Flex programme code.
- Register learners individually or via bulk upload.
- Confirm ULN and planned completion dates.

7

Deliver the Module
- Deliver in chosen delivery model.
- Provide academic and pastoral support.

8

Assess, Internally Verify & Prepare Evidence
- Conduct assessments per HN standards.
- Perform IQA checks and standardisation.
- Prepare evidence for sampling.

9

External QA Sampling
- SV conducts sampling.
- Respond to actions if required.

10

Claim Certification
- Submit certification claim.
- HNQA validates and releases CoUA.

11

Progression or Stacking
- Support learners to stack modules.
- Guide progression into HNC/HND or HE.

12

Useful Resources

→ Lifelong Learning Entitlement overview – GOV.UK

→ LLE Provider Preparation Guide

→ Expression of Interest LLE Modular Funding

→ Lifelong Learning Entitlement FAQ