

Lewis Gittins

BTEC Higher National Diploma in Public Services

WILTSHIRE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CENTRE



What made you choose a BTEC Higher National?

Taking a BTEC Higher National wasn't part of my original plan. I discovered it through my lecturer while studying a Level 3 course in Criminology and Law. Once I started exploring the BTEC Higher National options, particularly the delivery at Wiltshire College and University Centre, I realised it offered opportunities that a traditional university route simply couldn't match.

The BTEC Higher National allowed me to take a more hands-on, vocational approach to my studies, combining academic learning with real-world, sector-specific assignments. The flexibility and strong industry engagement it provided made it an exciting and practical pathway that perfectly suited my goals.

How has the BTEC Higher National helped you move toward your career goals?

The course gave me exactly the learning environment I needed: smaller classes, one-to-one interaction with lecturers, and practical experiences that built valuable, transferable skills. These skills have shaped my everyday life and prepared me for the workplace, from professional writing to public speaking and delivering presentations. Following the completion of my BTEC Higher National, I'm moving on to study a BSc (Hons) Open at the Open University, focusing on Crime, Harm and the State, and International Relations. This progression shows how the course opened doors for further study and gave me the confidence to take the next step.

Progression pathway

-  BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Law
-  BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Public Services (Crime and Criminal Justice) at Wiltshire College and University Centre
-  BSc (Hons) Open specialising in Crime, Harm and the State and International Relations.

Have you used what you've learned in real-life or work situations?

The skills I developed during my BTEC Higher National have shaped my everyday life. They enhanced my lifelong skill set and prepared me with the professional abilities needed to thrive in the workplace, from professional writing to public speaking and delivering presentations both in person and virtually. The course equipped me with a modern, adaptable skill set ready for today's evolving professional world.

What would you say to someone who's unsure what to do next?

A BTEC Higher National is unlike any other qualification. It builds on your existing skills and takes them to the next level, helping you grow both personally and professionally.

Rather than narrowing your focus, it broadens your horizons, equipping you with practical knowledge, confidence, and real-world experience that prepare you to pursue the career path of your choice. A Higher National doesn't limit your options; it opens doors to new opportunities and empowers you to take control of your future.

What new opportunities has the BTEC Higher National opened up for you?

The BTEC Higher National qualification has opened a range of new opportunities for me. It has given me the confidence and professional skills to thrive both in further study and in the workplace. Through the course, I've developed and enhanced key skills such as research, professional writing, and public speaking, all of which have prepared me to take on new challenges and progress toward my future career goals.

“ A BTEC Higher National is unlike any other qualification. It's enhanced my skills through real-world learning, giving me the confidence and ability to succeed in further study and my future career.”

What's been the best part of your BTEC Higher National experience?

The best part of my BTEC Higher National experience has definitely been the opportunity to apply my learning to real-life case studies during a visit to Poland. This experience allowed me to take the theories and skills I had developed in the classroom and put them into practice in a real-world setting.

Working on live examples and seeing the direct impact of my studies not only deepened my understanding but also gave me a new appreciation for how the course prepares you for professional environments. It was an unforgettable experience that truly brought my learning to life. ■

