

# George Burns

## BTEC in Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL PHD



### Can you describe your BTEC experience? What was it like?

My BTEC experience was very positive. I had never been a fan of school before I joined college. College was a different pace from sixth form and something that I found fit my personality better. The fact that the learning was more practical-based was extremely beneficial to me. I had never been very academic, and having been recently diagnosed with Dyslexia I can see why now.

### What did you like most about studying a BTEC?

I enjoyed the fact that BTECs are practical and typically don't require as many exams. In my case, the assessments felt very relevant to my studies; in a way, they were very similar to my engineering exams at University. Problems were based on realistic engineering situations rather than pure maths. This gave me more motivation to learn specific techniques, such as calculus. I also loved my personal project as this gave me invaluable insight into engineering and really inspired me to be where I am today.



**Without my BTEC's I wouldn't be doing a PhD. The skills that they gave me still help me to this day."**

Level 2 Engineering > Level 3 Extended Diploma Engineering > BE Electrical and Electronics Engineering > PhD Space Robotics

### What top 5 skills did you gain throughout your course?

-  Confidence
-  Independent study skills
-  Practical skills
-  Critical reasoning
-  Motivation

### How do you think BTEC helped get you where you are now?

In my opinion, BTECs have been a pivotal part of my academic and professional journey. I believe that my BTEC qualifications gave me a practical edge over other students doing my course. I found that I excelled at practical projects, and the motivation and confidence gave me the initiative to self-study in areas I found more difficult.

### What are your ambitions for the future?

I am currently a PhD Student at the University of Bristol, studying Space Robotics, and wish to pursue a career in academia or research. I would love to stick in my field of space robotics! I also hope to help other students who have been through a similar pathway to me achieve what I have. I want to show young people that it is possible to climb the academic ladder and succeed with BTEC qualifications. BTECs brought back my love for learning and showed me that studying can be fun and is not a chore.