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BTEC Level 3 Applied Science

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

When I first arrived in the UK from Bangladesh in 2023, everything seemed daunting - the language, the culture, and the education system. I was nervous about speaking in class and doubted my ability to succeed in science.

I chose BTEC Applied Science because I was interested in it and I wanted to challenge myself. Initially, I struggled with assignments and writing in the required format. I hesitated to ask for help, fearing judgment. However, I soon realised that BTEC focused more on practical learning through experiments and research rather than just exams.

The supportive teachers provided valuable feedback without making me feel inadequate. This helped me improve in writing reports and doing practical work, making learning enjoyable. Earning a Distinction in my first year boosted my confidence, proving that I belonged and could achieve success.

In Year 2, I worked harder and became more self-assured. BTEC transformed me from a scared, quiet student to someone ready for the next step. I am proud not only of my grades but also of my personal growth. BTEC taught me science and gave me the skills, confidence, and belief that I can succeed, despite my initial fears and uncertainties.

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BTEC is the bridge from who I am to who I'm meant to be. It taught me that learning is living, and living is learning.”

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

My BTEC experience was refreshingly different from my previous education. Before moving to the UK, my learning was mostly theory-based without practicals due to lack of resources. I had to imagine lab scenarios in my mind.

Starting BTEC Applied Science felt real for the first time. I used actual equipment and conducted experiments in a real lab, which was exciting. This hands-on experience deepened my understanding and helped me link theory to practice.

The BTEC environment was supportive and less stressful compared to my past experiences. Learning through assignments rather than one big exam allowed gradual improvement and thorough understanding. The course provided space to explore and grow.

Although adjusting to the new system and culture was challenging initially, BTEC boosted my confidence, independence, and curiosity about science. It made learning feel purposeful and engaging.

Overall, my BTEC journey marked a significant turning point, introducing me to a new way of learning, for which I am very grateful. ►

How is studying a BTEC preparing you for the career you would like to go in to?

I plan to pursue pharmacy, and the BTEC Applied Science course is preparing me well. This practical course allows me to do real science, such as mixing chemicals in chemistry, rather than just reading about it. This hands-on experience is crucial for handling medicines in pharmacy.

The detailed focus on organic and inorganic chemistry connects directly to how drugs are made and work in the body. Biology lessons about the human body and medicine effects are also very relevant.

I appreciate the coursework-based approach alongside exams, as it develops my research, writing, and organisational skills, which are essential for university. Learning lab health and safety rules is vital for my future career as a pharmacist.

BTEC has boosted my confidence. Initially, I was nervous, but practical work and coursework helped me succeed and believe in myself.

What did you like most about taking a BTEC?

What I appreciated most about taking a BTEC was the balance between practical work and theory. My memory isn't great, so hands-on activities alongside theoretical learning helped me retain important concepts.

The chemistry units, especially organic chemistry, were particularly enjoyable. Conducting experiments made understanding reactions and changes in chemicals much easier than reading a textbook.

Another advantage of BTEC was the opportunity to improve grades without redoing the entire year. This approach reduced stress and kept me motivated by allowing continuous improvement.

Overall, the mix of practical experience, engaging chemistry work, and the chance for growth made BTEC ideal for me.

Progression pathway



What are your career ambitions for the future?

I aspire to be a pharmacist because I'm passionate about helping people with medicines and understanding their effects on the body. Currently, I must wait two years to get my ILR to avoid high international student fees for university.

In the meantime, I plan to take two years off from university to study A levels, improving my UCAS points and chances of getting into a good pharmacy programme once I'm eligible. I'm also working part-time as a pharmacy technician, gaining practical experience and learning to communicate effectively with patients and staff.

The BTEC programme prepared me for this job by combining practical work with theory, familiarising me with lab equipment, health and safety procedures, and detailed coursework. It built my confidence in applying scientific knowledge and handling tasks carefully, essential for a pharmacy role. The coursework-based assessment honed my research and presentation skills, which will benefit me at university and in my career.

Overall, BTEC provided a strong foundation in science and practical skills, helping me secure my current role and supporting my goal of becoming a pharmacist. ■