

Sophie Hyatt

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science (Biomedical Science)



What was your BTEC experience like?

My BTEC showed me that I am capable, I just learn differently. During my A levels, exams were the only way to achieve a grade. Whereas with my BTEC I had a diverse range of examinations, lab-based, frequent essays throughout the term, a mixture of long and short form written exams as well as presentations.

My BTEC gave me the confidence to apply to Russell Group universities, and land a place!

Without my BTEC, I'm not sure I would have been able to reach PhD level. The support of my dedicated teachers along with the robust course structure allowed me to achieve D*D*D*, the equivalent of which I wouldn't have achieved via traditional routes.





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What did you like most about taking a BTEC?

Teaching was delivered in an engaging way, my teachers were all invested in helping students achieve the best. I felt like I could ask any question confidently and I wouldn't be shamed for not knowing or understanding. It was so refreshing having previously been in the A level environment prior to my BTEC.

What top 5 skills did you gain from your BTEC?

-  Communication
-  Confidence
-  Problem-solving
-  Resilience
-  Practical skills

Why would you recommend BTEC?

The skills I began growing in my BTEC are the same ones I'm using at PhD level. Other non-BTEC routes would never have given me the opportunity to explore cutting edge research, hone my practical skills, dive into niche and interesting topics within the curriculum and communicate these in formative and summative assessments. ►

Progression pathway



BTEC Level 3
Extended Diploma
in Applied Science
(Biomedical Science)



BSc Physiological
Science at University
of Bristol



MSc Biomedical
Sciences Research at
University of Bristol



PhD Clinical Medicine
at University of
Sheffield

How did studying a BTEC prepare you for your future?

I think if you compared the version of me who had just failed her AS levels, with the version of me who had just achieved D*D*D* to secure her place at a Russell Group university, you would be shocked we were the same person.

The confidence I gained and the support from the teachers and students around me drove me to shoot for the best universities I could in my UCAS applications, landing me a spot at the University of Bristol for my BSc in Physiological Science.

I believe my BTEC prepared me for the academic rigor of my bachelors degree, providing me a secure base of understanding in my subject.

I think other non-BTEC routes can set you up for sitting an exam with the opportunity to get into university, whereas a BTEC gives you these skills and so much more.

My BTEC grew my confidence in not only my academic pursuits but also my part time work. I was able to channel the confidence I gained into customer service and the tasks I was involved in. Even when I struggled during my part time jobs, I think I learnt resilience and problem solving which allowed me to be effective at the tasks I was doing! ■

