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Take control of your career with BTEC Higher Nationals

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. With so many students wanting to make their mark in the world, it is becoming more important to gain the right skills to be confident in the work force.

What are Higher Nationals?
BTEC Higher Nationals have a long history of delivering higher level technical and professional skills to help students progress with their lifelong learning journey. They provide career-focussed experience as well as academic knowledge; ensuring you’ll gain the required expertise, as identified by industry, and the flexibility to take the next step into employment or continue to a degree.

How can they help you to stand out?
Whichever path you choose, BTEC Higher Nationals will provide you with the qualification and opportunities to continue to prosper. In designing the BTEC Higher Nationals we’ve worked closely with relevant employers and professional bodies, to help bridge the skills gaps across different sectors, ensure alignment with recognised professional standards, and with universities to provide alignment with degree programmes.

The qualifications are designed to reflect the increasing need for high quality professional and technical qualifications at levels 4 and 5, equivalent to the first 2 years of an undergraduate degree, providing you with a clear line of sight to the workforce, or progression to a degree at level 6.

“Because of the HNC, I developed a thirst for lifelong learning. It made me appreciate that with the right support and course, anyone can achieve their goals.”

Brendan Coulson | HNC Computing Alumni
What subject areas can you study?

There are a wide range of different courses to choose from, along with specialist pathways available for each course. The following subject areas are available to study at both HNC and HND level:

Aeronautical Engineering  Healthcare Practice
Agriculture  Horticulture
Animal Management  Hospitality Management
Applied Sciences  International Travel and Tourism Management
Art and Design  Manufacturing Operations
Business  Music
Cloud Computing  Nuclear Engineering
Computing  Performing Arts
Construction  Policing
Construction and the Built Environment  Public Services
Creative Media Production  Quantity Surveying
Digital Technologies  Rail Engineering
Early Childhood Education and Care  Social and Community Work
Engineering  Sport
Future Homes Design and Construction  Sport and Exercise Science
Why choose BTEC Higher Nationals?

When thinking about your career and your future, it is becoming increasingly important to make sure you feel confident that what you choose to study will enhance your career path and meet industry standards. BTEC Higher Nationals are professional/technical higher education qualifications, not only recognised as equivalent to the first two years of an honours degree, but co-designed with industry, employers and professional bodies, so they are widely recognised by industry and higher education as the principal vocational qualification at levels 4 and 5. With clear routes to or within employment, or progression to an honours degree at level 6, BTEC Higher Nationals are designed to help you secure the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to succeed in the workforce.

- When developing the BTEC Higher National qualifications, we collaborated with a wide range of students, employers, higher education providers, colleges and subject experts, to ensure that the qualifications meet their needs and expectations.

- We place emphasis on employer engagement and work readiness so that you can enter the workforce with fresh skills and knowledge to meet modern day challenges or take a recognised progression route to gain the further learning required at level 6.

- They are designed to reflect this increasing need for high-quality professional and technical education pathways at levels 4 and 5.

“Since HNs are assignment-based, the experience was more flexible; allowing me to study and complete the assignments in my own time. Furthermore, the HND coursework enabled me to understand the practical world in a better way.”

Arham Ali Sultan | HNC in Business (Marketing) Alumni
What is the difference between an HNC and an HND?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Higher National Certificate (HNC)</th>
<th>Higher National Diploma (HND)</th>
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<td>Usually takes one year to complete if studying full time, and two years if studying part time.</td>
<td>Usually takes two years to complete if studying full time, and four years if studying part time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equivalent to the first year of a University degree (level 4).</td>
<td>Equivalent to the first and second year of a University degree (level 5).</td>
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<td>Usually a more introductory programme with a ‘core’ of learning essential to the subject (some sectors may have more specialist content depending on level of entry to the job market).</td>
<td>A more specialised programme of learning with pathways linked to occupational outcomes.</td>
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<td>Opportunities to develop project management skills.</td>
<td>An increased focus on research skills.</td>
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<td>Assessment for both years will be through a varied programme of assignments.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Core modules credit values may vary by subject but will not be less than 30% of the whole qualification.</td>
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Student successes

**Preeya Lakhani | HND in Engineering**
After completing her BTEC level 3 Diploma, Preeya progressed onto an Apprenticeship with Proctor and Gamble, then to Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) where she studied her HNC and HND in Engineering part time. Preeya has since gone on to complete a master’s degree in Engineering, and now currently works as a Business Operations Lead.

**Jonathan Morris | HNC in Creative Media Production**
Jonathan won BTEC Creative Media Learner of the year (2020), receiving recognition for his strong portfolio of work and films he had created on behalf of organisations such as the NHS. He has also created and grown his own YouTube channel, Ability Street, covering topics such as disability and mental health awareness. Studying his HNC has helped boost his confidence and lead to new opportunities within media production.

**Anneth Vanessa Albino | HND in Business (Management)**
Deciding to study an HND in Business because of its ability to be applicable across a wide range of different sectors, Anneth took the course part time, enabling her to start a cafe in her local town in the Philippines in partnership with local farmers. She now manages the cafe whilst also working towards topping up her qualification to gain an Undergraduate degree in Business.

“I am confident with what my programme has taught me, especially my favourite lessons - learning about value chains and business strategies. With the help of the knowledge and skills I have gained in my Higher National, I was able to turn my simple hobbies into my career. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to study and work at the same time.”
Designed for clear progression

Entry points: A level 3 qualification, for example, a BTEC level 3, A-level or T-level. Access to HE Diploma.

- Level 4 Higher National Certificate (120 Credits)
- Level 5 Higher National Diploma (120 Credits)

Designed to work in a digital world

To ensure that you’ll have the best possible experience during your course, your BTEC Higher National qualification will be supported by a specifically designed range of digital resources. These are available on our free platform for Higher National students – HN Global. With HN Global you’ll have access to the following:

- Online learning courses to develop your study skills to support your higher education studies.
- A wide range of career development resources to support you with preparing for the workforce.
- A community of other BTEC Higher National students and Alumni from around the world, who you can interact with via online forums to discuss anything relevant to your course.
Topping up to gain a degree
After completing your BTEC Higher National qualification, you will find a range of different pathways to continue your development. One route you may choose to take is further education. BTEC Higher National qualifications are recognised among universities from around the globe, meaning you can top up your qualification to gain an undergraduate degree. You can find out more about this by using the Degree Finder search tool on our website (please note that you should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific higher education providers).

Joining the workforce
We work with employers to produce our qualifications, making sure the BTEC Higher Nationals are up-to-date and meet the modern-day requirements of industry. This means that you will be learning the practical skills and knowledge wanted by employers to prepare you for the workforce.

Professional recognition
By working closely with professional bodies to create clear routes of progression for BTEC Higher National holders, you can also use your qualification to fully, or partially, claim a professional certification and gain accelerated progression towards, for example, Chartered status.

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<th>BTEC Higher National qualification</th>
<th>Some examples of current exemptions/vendor accreditations for BTEC Higher Nationals</th>
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<td>Business</td>
<td>Association of Chartered Certified Accountants ACCA, CIMA, CIPD, CIPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>CompTIA, CISCO, Microsoft, Oracle, AXELOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction and the Built Environment</td>
<td>Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), Chartered Institution of Highways &amp; Transportation (CIHT), Institute of Highways Engineers (IHE).</td>
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“Enrolling on a BTEC course has changed my life because it’s given me a prospect and a qualification that I need. And I can use this knowledge at work, as well as work knowledge at college so it works both ways.”
Christopher Meredith | HNC Engineering Alumni
Designed to meet your budget

Costs
Please note that the annual tuition fees to study a BTEC Higher National qualification are at the discretion of the college and can be found within their prospectus. However, it is usually considerably less than studying at university.

Funding
BTEC Higher Nationals are subject to student loan funding within Further Education Colleges, but you will generally only receive student finance for your first higher education qualification. A full breakdown of available funding can be found on the opposite page. If you are considering a BTEC Higher National at a private college in the UK, you will need to consult with the college regarding the tuition fees.

More information
If you want to read more about loans and grants, visit [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

Your next steps

1. Research
If you are interested in studying a BTEC Higher National qualification, spend time researching courses and careers that interest you.

2. Explore institutions
Visit college website(s), read their prospectus, and attend open days to find out more about what they have to offer.

3. Make your application
Check that you meet all application requirements. Speak to your careers advisor for further support and submitting your application.
To find out more about our BTEC Higher National qualifications, please email us at highernationals@pearson.com

Contact us