

A young man with short brown hair, wearing a blue tank top, stands in a gym. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing gym equipment like a mirror and a bench.

 **BTEC**

A GUIDE
FOR STUDENTS
& PARENTS

**OLYMPIANS
CHOOSE BTEC**

 Pearson

Whether you're an aspiring Olympian, the next big entrepreneur or looking to go to a top university, BTEC has a route for you. BTEC courses are high quality, hands-on qualifications grounded in the real world of work. You will learn by doing, and develop valuable employability skills that you will use throughout your future career or progression into university.

1 in 4

In 2016, nearly 1 in 4 students who got into university did so with a BTEC.*

90%

of BTEC students are employed full-time after graduating.**

62%

of large companies have recruited BTEC-qualified employees.***

* Source: UCAS and HESA data on entry to HE (2017)

** London Economics 2013

*** YouGov

Why choose BTEC?

Discover everything a BTEC course can offer and hear from some past BTEC graduates.



Why choose BTEC? 8

Where can a BTEC take you?

Wherever you're starting from – and whatever you want to achieve in life – there's a BTEC to support your journey at every step.



Where can a BTEC take you? 10

Which BTEC is right for you?

Wherever your next step, there's a BTEC to give you the skills you need to succeed – and the confidence to progress.



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Start your BTEC journey now.

Find out where you can get more information and what the next steps are towards starting your BTEC.



Start your BTEC journey now. 24

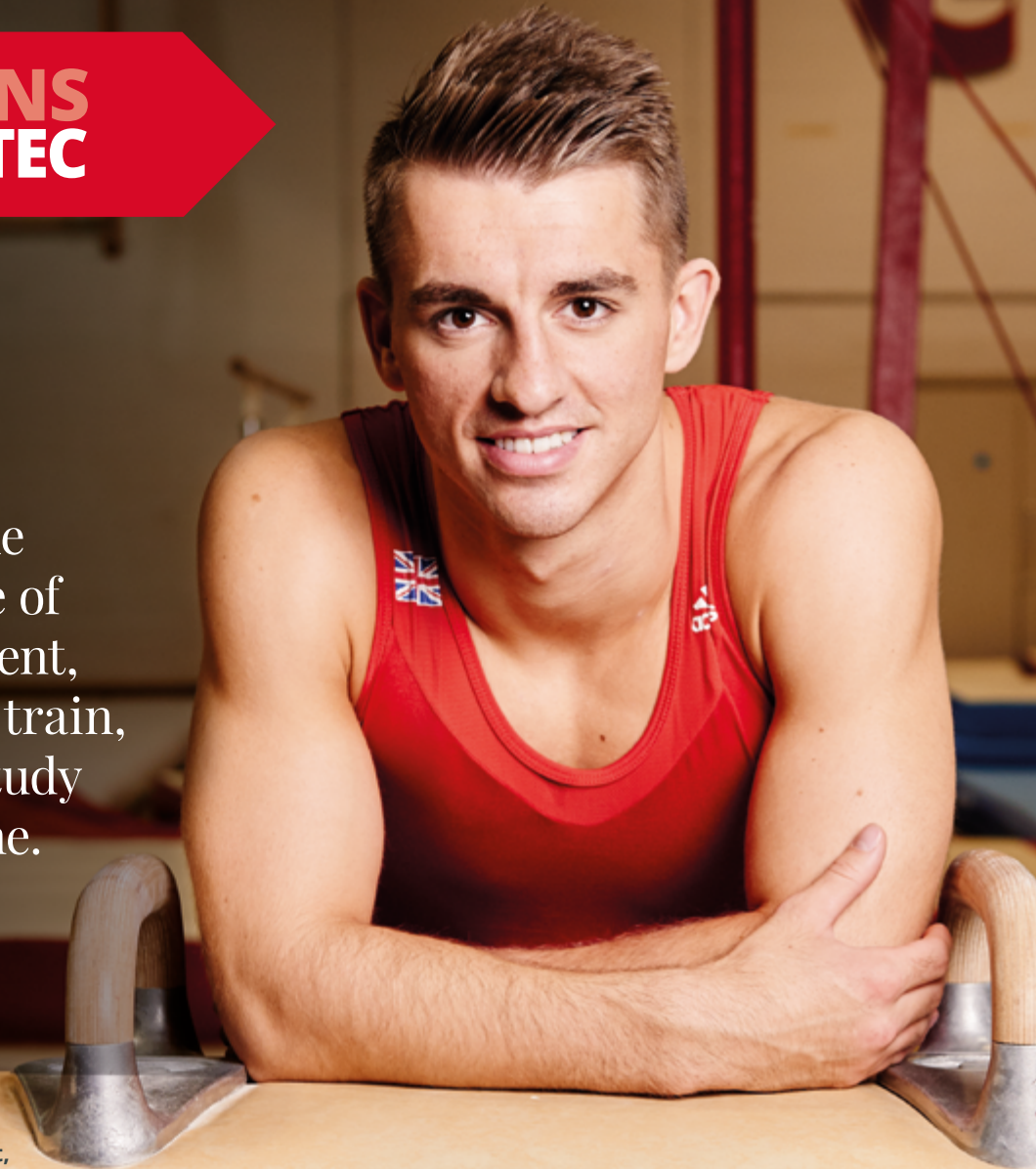
OLYMPIANS CHOOSE BTEC

“

BTEC taught me the importance of time management, allowing me to train, compete and study at the same time.

Max Whitlock MBE
Double Olympic Gold Medallist,
BTEC Sport

Max Whitlock MBE is a British gymnast and former BTEC Sport student. He is a five-time Olympic medallist, winning two golds and three bronzes, and a five-time world medallist on the pommel horse with one gold and four silvers.



DIRECTORS CHOOSE BTEC

“

When we see a job applicant with a BTEC, we know they're going to be work-ready.

Fleur Robinson
Commercial Director of
Burton Albion Football Club,
BTEC Business and Finance

Fleur is one of only eight women on the 122-member FA Council. She has over 20 years' experience in football from the Northern Premier League to the Championship. Following her BTEC qualification she went on to study at Staffordshire University.



ACADEMICS CHOOSE BTEC

A man with short grey hair and blue-rimmed glasses, wearing a dark grey suit, white shirt, and patterned tie, stands with his arms crossed in a modern, brightly lit building with wooden paneling and large windows.

“

Being able to apply knowledge in practice gives BTEC students an extra dimension.

Professor Stephen Tee
Executive Dean of Faculty
of Health and Social Sciences,
Bournemouth University

Stephen joined Bournemouth University as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences in September 2015. He has worked in the NHS and in higher education for thirty years and is a former Chair of the London Higher Health Group.



**MEDIA MOGULS
CHOOSE BTEC**

“

My BTEC opened doors for me. It gave me extra credibility in front of employers.

Jamal Edwards MBE
Entrepreneur and Founder of SBTV,
BTEC Media & Moving Image

Jamal Edwards is a self-made media mogul who developed the online platform SBTV to showcase “street-shot” music videos. He honed his camera skills while studying a BTEC in Media and the Moving Image and, following the success of SBTV, has dedicated his time to inspiring self-belief and entrepreneurial spirit among all young people.



“

BTEC students
come to university
with the skills they
need to succeed.

**UNIVERSITIES
CHOOSE BTEC**

Ian Blenkharn
**Director of Education and Student
Experience, University of Exeter**

At the University of Exeter, Ian is responsible for the students from admission to graduation. He has worked in student recruitment for over 10 years.



**VISIONARIES
CHOOSE BTEC**

“

During my BTEC,
I truly had the space
to think about ideas
– it was incredible.

Sharmadean Reid MBE
Entrepreneur and Founder of WAH Nails,
BTEC Art and Design

Sharmadean founded WAH Nails in 2008. In June 2009, The Independent recognised Reid as one of the “15 people who will define the future of arts in Britain”. In November 2016, Sharmadean launched her first clothing line inspired by Princess Diana in collaboration with ASOS.

Why choose BTEC?

BTECs give you the flexibility to personally tailor your own education. It means you can pursue the subject areas you're really interested in and at each level gain more practical skills that you'll use throughout your life.

Here are some of the benefits of choosing BTEC:

Hands-on experience of real-world scenarios, developing your life skills.





Insight and knowledge of your chosen career, increasing your **employability**.

The opportunity to follow your **passion** and ambition, not just follow the crowd.



Confidence and leadership skills to apply what you know in practice.



Meet and study alongside ambitious, passionate and **inspirational people** – just like you.

Where can a BTEC take you?

Wherever you're starting from – and whatever you want to achieve in life – there's a BTEC to support your journey at every step.

CHOOSING BTEC AND GCSES

At this point in your education, the world is your oyster. You can study BTEC Tech Awards or Firsts alongside your GCSEs to explore different subject areas that really interest you. You will also learn by doing, equipping yourself with practical skills that you will use throughout your future education and career. Completing your Level 2 BTEC will open options to study at Level 3 with BTEC Nationals, A levels and Apprenticeships.

Find out more on page 15 ▶



37%

of employers prefer a mix of vocational and academic skills in their employees.*



LOOKING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP

Apprenticeships are a great way to get experience in the workplace whilst still learning. You can start an apprenticeship at age 14, 16 or 18 and the different levels (2, 3, 4 and 5) available give you the opportunity to progress to a high level of expertise. Apprenticeships can lead you into an exciting career, or prepare you for further study such as university.

Find out more on page 22 ▶▶

PREPARING FOR SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

This stage of your education is Level 3, such as BTEC Nationals and A levels. At this point you'll start to refine the subjects you progress in, so it's important to think about where you want to go next. The BTEC options at Level 3 will prepare you for an apprenticeship, studying a BTEC Higher National Certificate, progressing into university or getting you straight into work.

Find out more on page 17 ▶▶

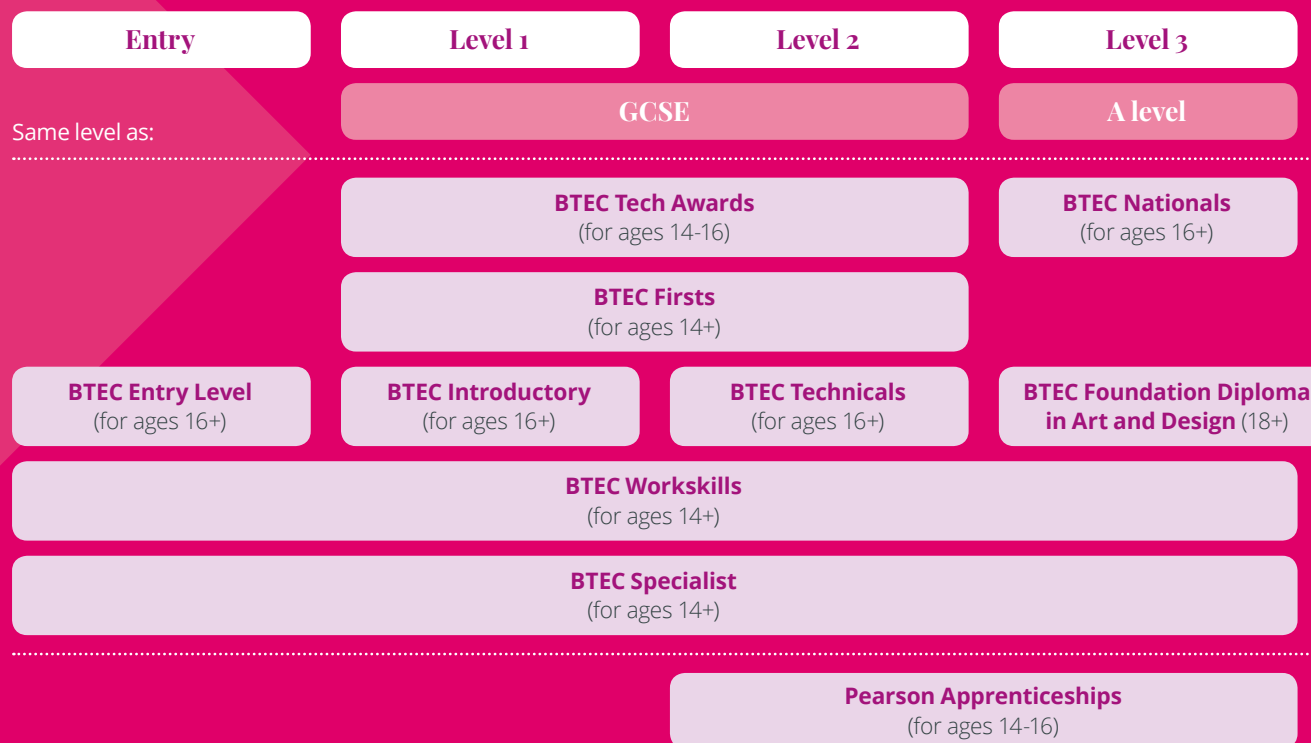
WORKING TOWARDS UNIVERSITY

If you're aiming to continue into higher education, it's all about gaining enough UCAS points to qualify for entry into your preferred university. You will secure these through your BTEC Nationals, but might also choose to progress to a BTEC Higher National Diploma (equivalent to 1st year of uni) or Higher National Certificate (equivalent to 2nd year of uni) before progressing to a full degree.

Find out more on page 18 ▶▶

Which BTEC is right for you?

Here is the range of BTEC qualifications you can choose from, and where they can lead you.



DID YOU KNOW?

The fastest growing route to higher education is the combination of BTEC and A levels, according to the latest analysis from UCAS.

Level 4

University year 1

Level 5

University year 2

Level 6

University year 3

Level 7

BTEC Higher National Certificate (18+)

BTEC Higher National Diploma
(for ages 18+)

BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (18+)

BTEC Professional
(for ages 18+)

Pearson Higher Apprenticeships
(for ages 18+)

▶ Watch Maryam's story:
ichoosebtec.com

“

BTEC contains
the perfect
combination
of practical and
academic work.

Maryam Taher

BTEC Applied Science
Extended Diploma



Which BTEC is right for you ...when you're choosing your GCSEs?

When choosing your subjects for years 10 and 11, it's good to keep your options open. Studying BTECs alongside your GCSEs opens up new subject areas, and starts building the skills you need after you leave school.

BTEC Tech Awards

A great introduction to a professional sector.

BTEC Firsts

A perfect balance of practical and theoretical learning, equivalent to a GCSE.

The hands-on learning style will develop your skills through real-life workplace scenarios – experience you'll keep drawing on throughout your career.

You'll work through themed units/components exploring an industry sector to get a flavour of the skills and roles involved.

You'll also apply what you've learned in practice through scenario-based tasks and tests.

Subjects we offer include:

- Art and Design
- Business
- Child's Play, Learning and Development
- Creative Media
- Digital/IT
- Engineering
- Health & Social Care
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Sport

“

I love this course because it is what I like to do – look after animals.

Jamie Knight
BTEC Animal Care

In Year 11, Jamie started studying a BTEC in Animal Care. He has a weekly placement in racing stables and volunteers at the yard whenever he can. When he leaves school, he'll join the team full time as an apprentice.

What his teachers say about Jamie:

“He can work independently and takes a real pride in his work. The opportunity to study a course that uses all of his natural talents has allowed him to blossom.”



Learn more.
ichoosebtec.com

▶ Watch Owen's story:
ichoosebtec.com

“

BTEC suited my learning style and the practical element really prepared me for university.

Owen Woods
BTEC Applied Science

+300%

The number of students getting into university with a BTEC and A levels rose by over 300% in the last decade.*

Which BTEC is right for you ...when you're going to sixth form or college?

If you're leaving school and going into sixth form or to your local college, choosing a BTEC course can open doors to higher education, an apprenticeship or the first step in your chosen career.

BTEC Level 2 Technicals

Practical, hands-on learning in a specific career-focused subject area.

BTEC Level 2 Firsts

A balanced combination of practical and theoretical learning in a wide range of subject areas.

BTEC Level 3 Nationals

A compliment or alternative to A levels to prepare you for university or your career.

You might want to start with a level 2 course – that's the same level as your GCSEs – but change the focus to a hands-on, practical study which can be the springboard to your next step, whether that's more work-based study, an apprenticeship, or a job.

More and more students are taking a BTEC Level 3 National course alongside their A levels to help them stand out from other applicants.

In fact, nearly one in four students entering university in the UK now has a BTEC.*

If you're going to college to study a career-focused qualification as your main course, a BTEC Level 3 National offers the combination of skills, knowledge and practical experience you'll need. This route keeps your options open to progress straight into work, or go on to higher education.

Subjects we offer include:

BTEC Level 2 Technicals:

- Adult Care
- Business
- Childcare
- Construction
- Design Production
- Digital Media
- Hospitality
- IT
- Laboratory Science
- Sport

BTEC Level 3 Nationals:

- Applied Science
- Art and Design
- Business
- Creative Media
- Digital/IT
- Engineering
- Health & Social Care
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Sport



Learn more.
ichoosebtec.com

* Source: UCAS and HESA data on entry to HE (2017)

Which BTEC is right for you

...if you want to go to university?

BTEC Level 3 Nationals qualify for UCAS points towards your university application in the same way that A levels and AS levels do.

This chart shows how many points each National is worth, based on the grade you achieve.

BTEC National Grade	Certificate	Extended Certificate & Subsidiary Diploma	Foundation Diploma
D* – Distinction*	28	56	84
D – Distinction	24	48	72
M – Merit	16	32	48
P – Pass	8	16	24

BTEC National Grade	90-credit Diploma	Diploma	Extended Diploma
D*D*D*	–	–	168
D*D*D	–	–	160
D*DD	–	–	152
DDD	–	–	144
DDM	–	–	128
DMM	–	–	112
D*D*	84	112	–
D*D	78	104	–
DD	72	96	–
DM	60	80	–
MMM	–	–	96
MMP	–	–	80
MM	48	64	–
MPP	–	–	64
MP	36	48	–
PPP	–	–	48
PP	24	32	–

If you're also studying for A levels and want to compare UCAS points, here's a quick guide:

Grade	A level	AS level
A*	56	–
A	48	20
B	40	16
C	32	12
D	24	10
E	16	6

▶ Watch Joanna's story:
ichoosebtec.com

“

BTEC students excel when it comes to relating theory to the professional settings they're likely to go on to experience.

Joanna Thurston
Academic Lecturer in Sports Therapy
at Bournemouth University



Learn more.
ichoosebtec.com

WHY
CHOOSE BTEC?

WHERE CAN A
BTEC TAKE YOU?

WHICH BTEC
IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

START YOUR BTEC
JOURNEY NOW.

Which BTEC is right for you

...if you want to advance your career?

If you're looking to move up the career ladder, or develop a higher level of knowledge in a particular area of expertise, BTEC Higher Nationals are a great option.

BTEC Higher Nationals are internationally-recognised higher education qualifications that are equivalent to the first and second years of a university degree.

There are over 40 subject areas to choose from, as well as the options to study a Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND). Both represent the latest in professional standards and are designed to help you secure the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to succeed in the workplace.

What is the difference between an HNC and an HND?

Higher National Certificate

Usually takes one year to complete if studying full time, and two years if studying part time.

Equivalent to the first year of a university degree.

Usually a more introductory programme with a 'core' of learning essential to the subject.

Opportunities to develop project management skills.

Higher National Diploma

Usually takes two years to complete if studying full time, and four years if studying part time.

Equivalent to the first and second year of a university degree.

A more specialised programme of learning with pathways linked to occupational outcomes.

An increased focus on research skills.

90%

of BTEC students are likely to be employed after graduating.*

* London Economics 2013

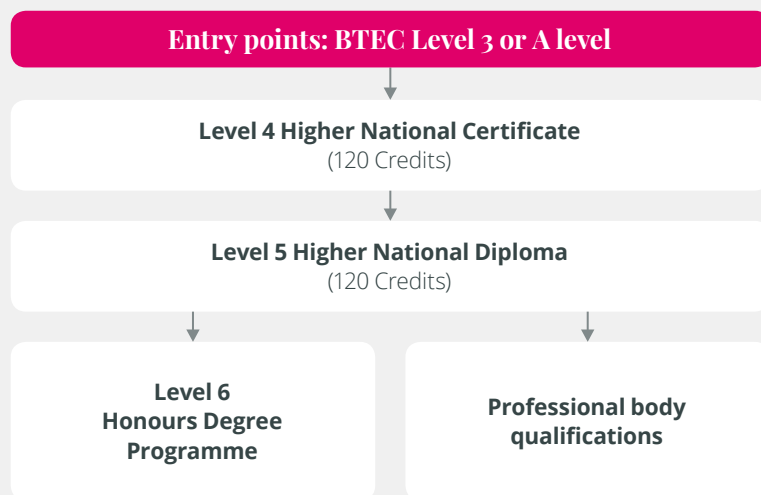
“

The course is very intensive and clearly prepares you for the future, whether you want to further your studies and go to university, look for employment, or start your own business.

BTEC HND Business Student 2017



BTEC Higher Nationals are designed for a clear transition to the next stage on your journey:



What to do next if you're interested:



Visit highernationals.com to find out more.

Visit college websites and attend open days to find out what they have to offer.

Make sure you meet all application requirements.

Speak to your careers advisor if you need more support.

Which BTEC is right for you

...if you want to do an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships provide an excellent way of developing skills and achieving qualifications while employed in a job.

Apprenticeship levels explained

There are three levels of apprenticeships available for those aged 16 and over:

Level 2

BTEC Intermediate Apprenticeships

These provide the skills you need for your chosen career and allow entry to an Advanced Apprenticeship.



Level 3

BTEC Advanced Apprenticeships

To start this apprenticeship, you should ideally have five GCSEs (grade C or above) or have completed a Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship.



Level 4/5

BTEC Higher Apprenticeships

These apprenticeships work towards qualifications such as NVQ Level 4 and, in some cases, a knowledge-based qualification such as a Higher National Certificate or Diploma.



Work and learn

As an employee, you can earn as you learn, and gain practical skills from the workplace. Furthermore, career progression for apprentices is excellent, with many advancing to highly skilled jobs or higher education in a college or university.

The benefits you can expect include:

- Complete qualifications and training while being paid and receiving the same benefits as your colleagues.
- Learning both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that prepare you for your career.
- Work with people who understand the industry you have chosen and have experience they can pass on to you.
- Spend time working with people of all ages and abilities and develop your confidence, communication skills and ability to work in a team.
- Enjoy the support of the staff at your FE college, training provider or employer on and off site throughout your apprenticeship.
- Make full use of the facilities of the college or training provider and get taught on industry standard equipment by subject specialists who have extensive industrial, technical and vocational experience.
- Gain qualifications that set you up for your career of choice and/or progression onto higher education.



Learn more.
ichoosebtec.com

“

I love being an apprentice. As part of the engineering team at Atkins, I really feel that I'm playing an important role in changing the world around me and now plan to study at university after completing my apprenticeship.

Sanna Shabir

Higher National Certificate
in Civil Engineering

.....
In September 2016, Sanna began a BTEC Higher Apprenticeship, gaining work experience with engineering company, Atkins, while completing a Higher National Certificate in Civil Engineering. Sanna won BTEC Apprentice of the Year (19+) 2017.

Start your BTEC journey now.

Once you've decided BTEC is the right choice for you, the next step is to explore the subjects and courses available and find your perfect match.



Speak to your teacher, careers adviser or college tutor about what BTEC courses are available and your options.

Learn more.
ichoosebtec.com





**WHY
CHOOSE BTEC?**

**WHERE CAN A
BTEC TAKE YOU?**

**WHICH BTEC
IS RIGHT FOR YOU?**

**START YOUR BTEC
JOURNEY NOW.**



Over a million students
choose BTEC every year.
Join them.

ichoosebtec.com

“

BTEC students, like
those at my Enterprise
Academy, have the skills
they need to kickstart
their career.

Peter Jones CBE

Founder, Peter Jones Enterprise Academy

