



**THE CHOICE OF BTEC COURSES FOR STUDENTS:**

Aeronautical Engineering / Agriculture / Aircraft Maintenance /  
Animal Care / Animal Management / Applied Law /  
Applied Science / Art and Design / Aviation Operations /  
Beauty Therapy / Blacksmithing and Metalworking / Business /  
Children's Play, Learning and Development / Construction  
and the Built Environment / Countryside Management /  
Creative Digital Media Production / Creative Media Production /  
Dental Technology / Electrical/Electronic Engineering /  
Engineering / Enterprise and Entrepreneurship /  
Environmental Sustainability / Equine Studies /  
Fish Management / Floristry / Forestry and Arboriculture /  
Health and Social Care / Horse Management / Horticulture /  
Hospitality / Information and Creative Technology / IT /  
Land-based Technology / Manufacturing Engineering /  
Mechanical Engineering / Music / Music and Music Technology /  
Operations and Maintenance Engineering / Performing Arts /  
Personal and Business Finance / Pharmaceutical Science /  
Production Arts / Public Services / Sport / Sport and Exercise  
Sciences / Travel and Tourism / Vehicle Technology



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**TODAY'S BTEC.**  
For today's world.



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The leader in applied learning



**Tom Lee**

Director of BTEC Qualifications at Pearson, shares his experience of the world's most prestigious applied learning courses.

With a track record built over 30 years of learner success, BTEC offers an applied learning pathway students can follow through their school years into further or higher education – and into a career.

That's why we work closely with teachers, universities and employers to develop BTEC courses which give students the knowledge, skills and understanding they need through practical, work-related activities in a real-life context that will help them achieve their ambitions in life.

BTEC courses offer an alternative – or a complement – to academic courses (such as GCSEs and A levels), with their emphasis on the necessary practical, interpersonal and thinking skills that help students progress through school, moving on to higher education and university, or entering the jobs market to embark on their chosen career.

Today's BTEC has earned a worldwide reputation as the most respected applied learning qualification because it's helped hundreds of thousands of young people to realise their potential every year. And you don't have to take my word for it. We've collected together some facts and figures – and more importantly, personal stories from teachers, tutors and students for whom BTEC has proved a vital stepping stone in achieving their goals.

*Thomas Lee*

## 2 Staying relevant in a changing world

With many changes in education and the job market over the last 30 years, it is one of BTEC's great strengths that courses have continued to evolve to meet those changing needs. In this way, BTECs have remained valuable qualifications in their own right and enable students to progress to the next stage of education, or into a good job with a worthwhile employer.

The latest evolution of BTECs will reflect the need employers are expressing to increase the "job readiness" of candidates looking for employment. Voices in schools and in higher education echo the view that BTECs should better equip students for their next step. Many universities already find BTEC students well equipped with many of the

skills needed to succeed in their chosen area of study: independent learning; practical and presentation skills; and a strong understanding of their chosen career.

Today's BTECs are developed with the help of the people who really matter – teachers in schools and colleges, employers and universities, and international experts in employment and education.

Today's BTEC continues to provide a flexible and immensely practical approach to applied learning delivered through three core characteristics common to all BTEC courses. This structure is a proven strength of BTECs and has generated an increasing number of successful students.

### 1 Core knowledge and skills

Mandatory units that establish a foundation of broad understanding and a good grounding in the subject.

### 2 Creating a course to meet learner needs

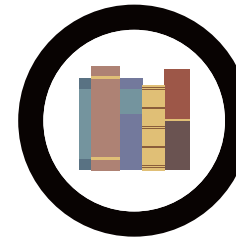
Selecting units that best suit individual student's needs and interests and build a tailored course to match the student's aspirations.

### 3 Learning by doing

Learning based around real-world, work-related scenarios created by teachers to stimulate individual study or teamwork in a real-life context, generating meaningful, practical experience.

## 3 More successful than ever

More than one million students start new BTEC courses every year, including those who are:



studying in schools or colleges



taking Apprenticeships



working for direct entry into employment



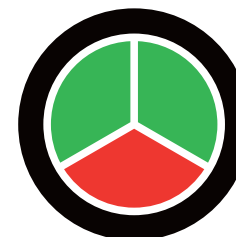
working for entry into higher education (incl. university)

The scope and scale of what BTEC can offer today is tremendous. Take a look in section 10 for the full portfolio of BTEC qualifications from Entry level, through GCSE and A level equivalents, to degree-level study with BTEC Higher National Certificates and Diplomas.

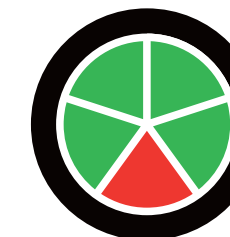
The number of students with a BTEC progressing into higher education continued to increase in 2013, reaching record levels. The number of students with a combination of BTECs and A levels also reached record levels.

In 2013 over 102,000 candidates registered on BTEC Apprenticeships in sectors such as engineering, construction, business, transport and logistics. BTECs are achieved as part of Apprenticeships at level 2 and 3, and as Higher Apprenticeships at levels 4 and 5.

As the economy recovers, levels of employment are rising, particularly among young people. Research indicates that the demand for BTEC students in the jobs market is increasing and will do so for years to come.



YouGov® research showed that **nearly 2 out of 3** of large companies have **recruited employees with BTEC qualifications**<sup>1</sup>



**4 out of 5** BTEC students now in employment consider their BTEC as an important step towards their desired job<sup>2</sup>

### Case in point...

"The BTEC course prepared me not only to build on current skills but to work independently and in groups. By studying an applied learning course I had the advantage of experiencing how to balance my workload [and] manage my time."

Navdeep Dhillon BA (Hons) Marketing, Advertising and PR, Birmingham City University  
After studying BTEC Certificate in Business at Aldridge School Sixth Form

1 Source: Large Businesses, Feb 2011. 2 Source: Further independent research from London Economics, 2010

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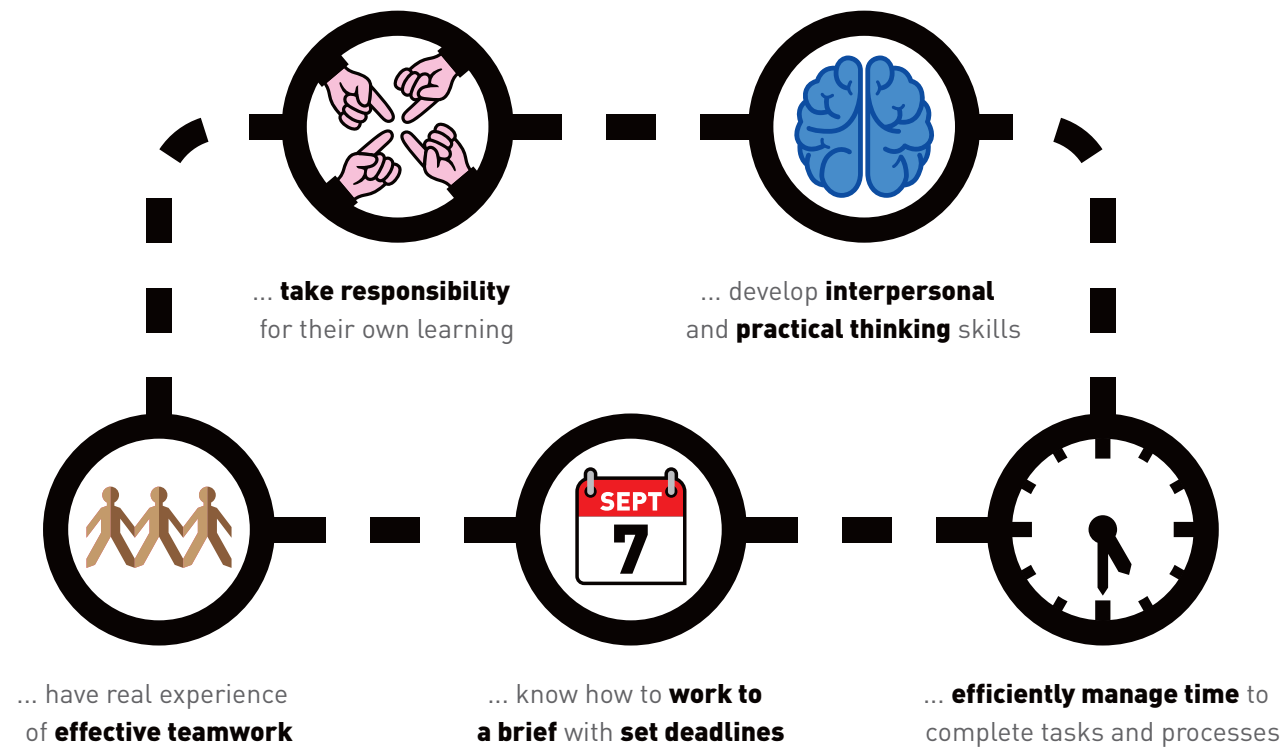
## Preparing students for employment

BTEC has earned its worldwide reputation as the premier applied learning qualification first and foremost because it has always provided students with a clear line of sight into the job market, either directly or through further study.

Employers value BTEC's approach to learning because it provides a unique combination of technical skills which help prepare students for employment, together with a breadth of knowledge about the sector that empowers them to succeed in the real world. The flexibility to build a programme of study combined with practical application, all of which is tailored directly to a student's aspirations, is proven to produce a valued candidate in the eyes of employers.

In addition, the ethos of BTEC courses provides experiences that promote maturity in participants which directly enhances their employability.

## BTEC-QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES...



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## Valued qualifications in today's job market

BTECs are developed in consultation with employers, professional bodies and higher education experts, which means when an employer is looking to recruit they can trust that a BTEC-qualified candidate will demonstrate the right standards of knowledge, practical skills and understanding required for the role.

In many cases, BTECs are also mapped directly to industry-defined standards and in areas such as engineering, computing and construction will support entry to professional registration.

### FOR EXAMPLE:

All engineering BTECs have been mapped to the UK Standard for Professional by the Engineering Competence (UK SPEC) with the 36 engineering professional bodies, to meet industry standards and enable the learner to be eligible for entry to the EngTech technicians register.

### Case in point...



The BTEC National Diploma... allows us to embed so much entrepreneurial activity... it really brings the curriculum alive." *Stephen Williams BTEC Teacher*



It's the flexibility of the programmes that really is the advantage." *Mr I. Clayton Principal, Thorpe St Andrew School*



The best elements of the BTEC Apprenticeship are... seeing the students put into practice what they have learned... things that they never thought they could achieve, but they're actually excelling at." *Sarah McKean Tutor*



BTEC qualifications give them both the practical, vocational side in the way of terminology and the academic side... it gives the students those skills that they need to progress." *Barry Falconer Tutor, Leeds College of Building*

# SOME PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

## 6 Progression to employment



### Yaser Rauf

**BTEC course**  
BTEC Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3 in Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering

**Employment**  
Yaser is currently employed by manufacturing group MTL as part of his Apprenticeship. At the end of his course he hopes to progress to a BTEC Higher National in Engineering.



### Jasmine Welsh

**BTEC course**  
BTEC National Diploma in Fine Art & Photography

**Employment**  
After completing her BTEC course, Jasmine went on to study for a Level 3 Apprenticeship in Creative and Digital Media at the Sheffield College whilst working at Norton Creative, a design agency based in Sheffield. She is currently studying Graphic Design at Sheffield Hallam University.

### Sam Banks

**BTEC course**  
Level 2 certificate in Hospitality & Catering Principles

**Employment**  
After successfully completing her BTEC course, Sam has been able to secure a cabin crew position with easyJet in Bristol.

### Ashley Loftus

**BTEC course**  
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services (with A level law)

**Employment**  
Ashley has completed his BTEC course and is now training as an officer in the Royal Navy.

### Aaron Monson

**BTEC course**  
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science

**Employment**  
Aaron has completed his BTEC Diploma and is now studying Level 3 Apprenticeship in sport at Yarmouth College and working as a sports therapist and personal trainer.

### Fridah Nzaba

**BTEC course**  
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering

**Employment**  
Having achieved a Distinction in her BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Engineering, Fridah progressed to study a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma alongside her A levels. She went on to secure an Apprenticeship with Rolls Royce Aerospace.



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## Preparing students for university

There are two main pathways by which BTEC can provide progression to university degrees:

1

**BTEC Nationals at level 3**, which are the equivalent level to A levels and provide access on to a degree programme in the first year. Students can either progress from studying a BTEC First at level 2, or start their BTEC studies at level 3.

2

**BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificate** and **Level 5 Higher National Diploma** that often provide access to degree programmes in the second or final year of the course.

Nearly all universities accept BTECs in relevant subject areas as they do with A level qualifications, and BTEC Nationals qualify for UCAS points on the tariff table (learn more at [ucas.com](http://ucas.com)). BTEC students achieving good grades are just as sought after as students with good A level results. And, as with A levels, there are many transferable opportunities from your BTEC course to a subject you want to read at university. It is important for students to research, as early as possible, what the BTEC entry requirements are for university courses they are interested in. It is a good idea to get in touch with universities directly to confirm their BTEC entry criteria.

### The advantages of taking a BTEC course

BTEC students can often be better prepared in terms of the independent studying that's required at degree level, due to the portfolio-based nature of BTEC courses. The time management and self-organisation students learn on a BTEC course – both 14-16 year olds studying BTEC at school alongside GCSEs and when studying BTEC at level 3 – can also provide an added edge.

BTEC students have the experience of real-life practical tasks and work placements that they should highlight when writing their personal statement.

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## Universities welcome today's BTECs

Some simple facts to show the relevance of today's BTECs:



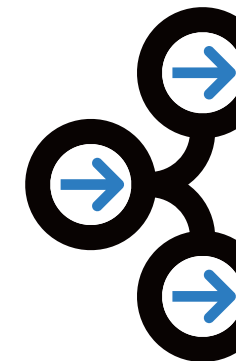
Each year, **more than 100,000 BTEC students** apply to universities in the UK and the number is growing



About **70% of BTEC Nationals students** now apply for higher education courses



**Over 150 universities** and higher education colleges offering degree courses **accept BTECs**



The proportion of the **18-year-old** population in England entering higher education with BTECs has **doubled since 2008** (UCAS 2013)



The acceptance rate for 18 year olds holding BTECs increased to **81% in 2013**, the **highest level ever recorded** (UCAS 2014)



The number of students entering higher education with a combination of BTEC and A levels **increased nearly 4-fold** between 2008 and 2013 (HESA)

### Case in point... Birmingham City University

Birmingham City University appreciates the qualities offered by BTEC and is just as happy to receive applications from BTEC students. They recognise the value of independent research and personal time management that students experience on BTEC courses. This view on the value of today's BTEC courses is shared by many universities these days.

Here's what two of Birmingham City University's students have to say about building on the skills and experiences they learned on their BTEC course to succeed at university:



After studying [BTEC] at college I was familiar with the techniques and methods used in the field, which made the coursework a lot easier. Make sure you use your knowledge gained throughout the BTEC course to its full potential."

Ula Bujauskaite BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture  
After studying BTEC 3D Design at Milton Keynes College



You will have gained skills from doing a BTEC that others won't have, so this makes you stand out from the crowd and prepares you for university. You will have organisation skills and the ability to meet deadlines."

Sian Taylor BA (Hons) Textile Design  
After studying BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art & Design at CTC Kingshurst Academy in Birmingham

# SOME PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

## 9 Progression to university



### Mehreen Rana

**University place**  
BSc in Computer Science at King's College, London

**BTEC course**  
Level 3 Extended Diploma in IT

**Why BTEC?**  
Mehreen knew for some time that she wanted to study computing and, after looking at the options, thought that studying a big, practical course like the BTEC one over 2 years was the best way. Mehreen's experience of the degree course is that they teach you around the subject, which is more like BTEC, so the practical side of BTEC provides good preparation.



### Connor Thomas

**University place**  
Visual Effects and Motion Graphics at the University of South Wales

**BTEC course**  
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art & Design

**Why BTEC?**  
The BTEC course impressed Connor who thinks it is great for any student looking for a future in design. It allows you to reach your potential by learning new skills to industry standard. You work independently, but you also communicate with other students and with clients. You work to strict deadlines, but you get the chance to build a great portfolio.

### Jake Gorton

**University place**  
Psychology at Chester University

**BTEC course**  
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science

**Why BTEC?**  
Jake always had an interest in studying the human mind, but thought his ambitions might not be achieved when his AS results were disappointing. By taking a BTEC he realised he would learn the same things as A level, but with an emphasis on personal assignments that better suited his learning needs. Moving to university has gone smoothly because doing a BTEC taught him to work independently and do his own research.

### Katie Piper

**University place**  
Veterinary Science at the Royal Veterinary College, London

**BTEC course**  
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Animal Management

**Why BTEC?**  
Taking the BTEC course allowed Kate to do work placement at the local RSPCA rescue centre. It gave her every chance of putting her course knowledge into practical use. She was able to use her initiative and take responsibility, which meant she got the most out of both her BTEC course and her placement.

### Kirsty Fishwick

**University place**  
Business & Management at Durham University

**BTEC course**  
BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Enterprise & Entrepreneurship

**Why BTEC?**  
Kirsty's aim was to get a job. She thought that a BTEC offered the best way to prepare for work. She enjoyed her BTEC in Entrepreneurship at level 3 so much that she wanted to learn more about business, so applied to – and was accepted at – Durham University where she is currently studying for a degree.

### Sam Sebire

**University place**  
Electronic & Electrical Engineering at Brunel University

**BTEC course**  
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering

**Why BTEC?**  
Sam found BTEC appealing because of the strong practical aspect of the engineering course. It prepared him well for the future and he has applied the experience he gained with BTEC when working on assignments and projects at university. While on work experience, BTEC was recommended by his employers, so he felt confident in taking it.

# WHICH BTEC IS

# THE RIGHT ONE?

## Entry & Level 1

Equivalent in standard to  
**Which BTEC?**

GCSE D-G  
BTEC Level 1

### What do you learn?

Basic principles and employability skills, including teamwork, research skills and innovation.

### How am I assessed?

Usually studied as part of a bespoke programme of study for entry or level 1 learners.

### Progression – where next?

To level 2 or into employment.

## Level 2

GCSE A\*-C  
BTEC Firsts

### What do you learn?

Practical, hands-on experience combined with written assignments drawing on real-life scenarios. Core knowledge, behaviour and practical skills essential in the workplace.

### How am I assessed?

1-2 year course, combining mainly internal and up to 25% external assessment. Study core and mandatory units.

### Progression – where next?

To further study at level 3, into Apprenticeships or employment.

## Level 3

A level  
BTEC Nationals

### What do you learn?

Practical, hands-on experience combined with written assignments drawing on real-life scenarios. Core skills for the workplace.

### How am I assessed?

1-2 year course, 100% internal assessment. (Childcare contains some external assessment.)

### Progression – where next?

To further study in Higher Education or University (level 4), into Apprenticeships or directly into employment.

## Level 4

1st year of a Degree  
BTEC Higher National Certificate

### What do you learn?

Programme of specialist vocational learning which reflects the requirements of professional organisation and meets National Occupational Standards for each sector or industry.

### How am I assessed?

1-2 year course – some courses can be studied part-time. 100% internal assessment throughout the course. Study a combination of core and mandatory units.

### Progression – where next?

To further study at level 6 (Degree level), directly into employment or progression within employment.

## Level 5

2nd year of a Degree  
BTEC Higher National Diploma

## Learner profile

### 14-19 learners:

- Needing basic employability skills.

### 19-24 learners:

- With high-level special needs.
- Vocational 'testers' for all age groups.

### 14-19 learners:

- Studying vocational options alongside GCSE at 14-16 as part of a balanced curriculum.
- As part of a 16-19 Study Programme or level 3 programme of study.
- Laying down a solid foundation of skills.

### 16-19 and adult learners:

- Studying a BTEC National as part of their 16-19 Study Programme which could also include A levels or, another level 3 programme of study.

### Adult (19+) learners:

- Looking to progress into employment via a Higher Education route.
- Needing qualifications which confer professional body status to support continuous professional development.
- Wanting to upskill or re-skill to progress in their career or take a new direction.

## Further BTEC options at this level

### My Skills

Essential life skills – includes Cooking; Sustainability; Money & Finance; Learning for Life: Safe

### BTEC Workskills (including the Deloitte Employability Initiative)

Essential skills to be effective in employment – and life. [edexcel.com/workskills](http://edexcel.com/workskills)

### BTEC IT Users (ITQ)

Hands-on learning to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century IT skills. [btec.co.uk](http://btec.co.uk)

### BTEC Specialist (Levels 1-3)

Enhance employability and progression. [btec.co.uk/specialist](http://btec.co.uk/specialist)

### BTEC Apprenticeships

Combines a course to develop knowledge with practical workplace experience. [pearsonwbl.com/btecapprenticeships](http://pearsonwbl.com/btecapprenticeships)

Road Skills; Enterprise. [edexcel.com/myskills](http://edexcel.com/myskills)

### BTEC Professional (Levels 4-7)

Improve professional practice and workplace progression. [btec.co.uk/professional](http://btec.co.uk/professional)

### BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art & Design

Effective preparation for degree programmes. [btec.co.uk](http://btec.co.uk)

### BTEC Higher Apprenticeships

Combines BTEC Higher Nationals, BTEC Professional or Edexcel Diploma qualifications with on-the-job training. Clear path to employment, career progression and higher education. [pearsonwbl.com/btecapprenticeships](http://pearsonwbl.com/btecapprenticeships)

## BTEC Apprenticeships