

# Pearson Higher Nationals in Early Childhood Education and Care

## Qualification Guide

First Teaching from January 2019

First Certification from 2020

Issue 1



Level  
BTEC  
Higher  
National  
Certificate 

Level  
BTEC  
Higher  
National  
Diploma 

# Introducing your new Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Early Childhood Education and Care

BTEC is the world's most successful and best-loved applied learning brand, engaging students in practical, interpersonal and thinking skills for more than thirty years.

Pearson BTECs are work-related qualifications for students taking their first steps into employment or those already in employment and seeking career development opportunities. Pearson BTECs provide progression into the workplace either directly or via study at university and are also designed to meet employer's needs. Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications are therefore widely recognized by industry and higher education as the principal technical professional qualification at Levels 4 and 5.

The Pearson BTEC Higher National Certificate (HNC) is at level 4 (the same as the first year of a UK honours degree).

The Pearson BTEC Higher National Diploma (HND) is at level 4 and level 5 (the same as the first two years of a UK honours degree).

## A word from the Subject expert

It's with great pleasure that I introduce the new Higher National in Early Childhood Education and Care programme. Having taught and worked in education for many years, I've been privileged to see first hand the life changing opportunities education and training can provide, and the difference well-educated and trained practitioners can make to the lives of children.

With this in mind, the new Higher National qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care take a rigorous and innovative approach, designed to produce confident, compassionate, competent and highly knowledgeable advanced practitioners.

The integrated academic and professional practice elements in these qualifications provide a thorough spring-board for students to progress into sector-related degree programmes and senior leadership or management roles in early education and care.

The programme is more aligned to UKHE and new up-to-date content will make it both a stimulating and exciting experience for students and teachers. You can deliver with confidence a work-integrated programme that will prepare and equip students for the world of work, and develop them as ethical champions for children.

I am here to provide guidance, advice and support on every aspect of the programme and its implementation and will welcome your views and feedback. I will be posting news and updates on the HN Global forum so please get registered and join the online discussions.

I look forward to working with you!

Ade



## Professional courses developed collaboratively with subject experts

Developed in consultation with higher education institutions, employers, professional bodies, colleges and students, the Higher Nationals are designed with a child-centred practice focus that meet sector-specific requirements and professional standards, as well as offering clear and occupationally-relevant progression routes. The result is dynamic technical qualifications that are recognised by employers and universities, that develop students' academic skills and abilities as well as their work-readiness and practice skills.

The objectives of the redevelopment of the BTEC Higher Nationals have been to ensure:

- employer engagement;
- work relatedness;
- opportunities for progression to further higher education;
- alignment with UK higher education expectations; and
- qualifications which are up to date with current professional practice and include professional accreditation and opportunities to gain vendor certification where possible.

## What's new?

For your new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care, we are building on what you've told us you value most:

- **Essential subject knowledge** needed by students to progress successfully into further study or to the world of work or continued employment;
- **A simplified structure** students undertake a substantial core of learning, required by all practitioners in early education and care at Level 4, building on this at Level 5, with specialist and optional units linked to students' specialist area of study;
- **Three specialist pathways** and one general pathway at Level 5 so there is something to suit each student's preference for study and future progression plans;
- **Refreshed content** that is closely aligned with professional bodies', employers' and higher education needs for a skilled future workforce;
- **Assessments that consider cognitive skills** (what students know) along with affective and psychomotor skills (what they can do and how they behave);
- **An assessment strategy** that supports progression to Level 6 studies and also allows centres to offer assessment relevant to the local employers, thereby accommodating and enhancing different learning styles;
- **Learning outcomes** mapped against professional body and apprenticeship standards, and that are work-integrated where appropriate;
- **Mandatory work placement or experience** to support students' learning in and from practice
- **A thematic approach to learning and assessment** reflecting the values and principles of an effective early childhood practitioner
- **Unit-specific grading and Pearson-set assignments**
- **Robust quality assurance measures** that serve to ensure that all stakeholders (e.g. professional bodies, universities, employers, centres and students) can feel confident in the integrity and value of the qualification.



## Flexible choice of subject areas and progression opportunities

The new HNC and HND qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care offer a general pathway at Levels 4 and 5, and the choice of three specialist pathways at Level 5 HND, with a range of specialist and optional units. Specialist pathways at HND are:

- Education
- Leadership and Management
- Social and Community Care Practice

Each Higher National unit has a clear purpose: to cater for the increasing need for high quality professional and technical education pathways at levels 4 and 5, providing students with a clear line of sight to employment or progression to a degree at level 6.

The Higher National Certificate (HNC) is a Level 4 qualification made up of 120 credits. It is usually studied full-time over one year, or part-time over two years.

The Higher National Diploma (HND) is a Level 4 and Level 5 qualification made up of 240 credits. It is usually studied full-time over two years, or part-time over four years.

BTEC Higher Nationals consist of core units, specialist units and optional units:

- Core units are mandatory
- Specialist units are designed to provide a specific occupational focus to the qualification and are aligned to Professional Body standards
- Required combinations of optional units are clearly set out in the tables.



## Pearson BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care

Early Childhood Education and Care
<b>Mandatory units</b>
<b>1 Personal and Professional Development through Reflective Practice</b>
<b>2 Protecting Children in Early Childhood Education and Care Environments</b>
<b>3 Play and Learning in Early Childhood</b>
<b>4 Supporting and Promoting Children's Development (Babies and Toddlers)</b>
<b>5 Supporting and Promoting Children's Development (Young Children)</b>
<b>6 Promoting Healthy Living</b>
<b>7 Preparing for Research (PEARSON-SET UNIT)</b>
<b>8 Promoting Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care Environments</b>

<b>Core Units</b>
<b>Specialist Units</b>
<b>Optional Units</b>

### Work placement requirements:

The Total Qualification Time for the Pearson BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care includes a requirement of 375 hours' work placement or experience in children's early care and/or education settings over the one-year period of the qualification. Further details of the requirements are in the specification on the Pearson qualifications website.

# Flexible choice of subject areas and progression opportunities

## Pearson BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care

Early Childhood Education and Care
All Level 4 mandatory units from Level 4
9 Investigating Childhood: Action Research for Early Childhood Practitioners (Pearson-set Project)
10 Improving Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care Environments
29 Innovative Approaches to Children's Play and Learning in Practice
<b>Optional Level 5 Units</b>
Plus an additional 45 Credits which can be selected from the specialist and optional units given below.

Early Childhood Education and Care (Education)
All Level 4 mandatory units from Level 4
9 Investigating Childhood: Action Research for Early Childhood Practitioners (Pearson-set Project)
10 Improving Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care Environments
14 Impact of Curriculum on Early Childhood Education and Care
29 Innovative Approaches to Children's Play and Learning in Practice
<b>Optional Level 5 Units</b>
Plus an additional 30 Credits which can be selected from the specialist and optional units given below.

Early Childhood Education and Care (Leadership and Management)
All Level 4 mandatory units from Level 4
9 Investigating Childhood: Action Research for Early Childhood Practitioners (Pearson-set Project)
10 Improving Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care Environments
23 Managing and Leading People in Children's Early Education and Care Environments
24 Managing Children's Early Education and Care Environments
25 Mentoring and Supervision in Early Education and Care Practice
<b>Optional Level 5 Units</b>
Plus an additional 30 Credits which can be selected from the specialist and optional units given below.

Early Childhood Education and Care (Social and Community Care Practice)
All Level 4 mandatory units from Level 4
9 Investigating Childhood: Action Research for Early Childhood Practitioners (Pearson-set Project)
10 Improving Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care Environments
12 Child-centred Practice with Children, Families and Communities
13 Supporting Social Work with Children and Families
18 Social Policy: Influences on Practice and Provision
<b>Optional Level 5 Units</b>
Plus an additional 30 Credits which can be selected from the specialist and optional units given below.

Optional Level 5 Unit Bank
<b>Specialist Units * (Specialist units also available as an Optional units)</b>
12 Child-centred Practice with Children, Families and Communities
13 Supporting Social Work with Children and Families
14 Impact of Curriculum on Early Childhood Education and Care
18 Social Policy: Influences on Practice and Provision
23 Managing and Leading People in Children's Early Education and Care Environments
24 Managing Children's Early Education and Care Environments
25 Mentoring and Supervision in Early Education and Care Practice
29 Innovative Approaches to Children's Play and Learning in Practice

<b>Core Units</b>
<b>Specialist Units</b>
<b>Optional Units</b>

Optional Level 5 Unit Bank
<b>Optional Units</b>
11 Current & Emerging Pedagogies in Early Childhood Education and Care
15 Approaches to Entrepreneurship in Early Childhood Education and Care
16 The Impact of Contemporary Global Issues on Children's Health and Wellbeing
17 Advanced Practice in Safeguarding and Child Protection for the Early Childhood, Education and Care Practitioner
19 Supporting Children in Home-based Childcare Environments
20 Health Education and Promotion in Action: Developing the Healthy Child
21 Trauma in Childhood: Addressing the Impact of Adverse Experiences on Child Health and Wellbeing
22 Supporting Children's Medical Needs
26 Healthcare Play
27 Outdoor Play and Learning
28 Comparative Education Systems: International Perspectives
30 Working in Partnership across Health, Education and Care Services

\*Please note that only one specialist unit can be selected from each pathway group.

### Work placement requirements:

The Total Qualification Time for the Pearson BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care includes a requirement of 525 cumulative hours' work placement or experience in children's early care and/or education settings over the two-year period of the qualification. Further details of the requirements are in the specification on the Pearson qualifications website.





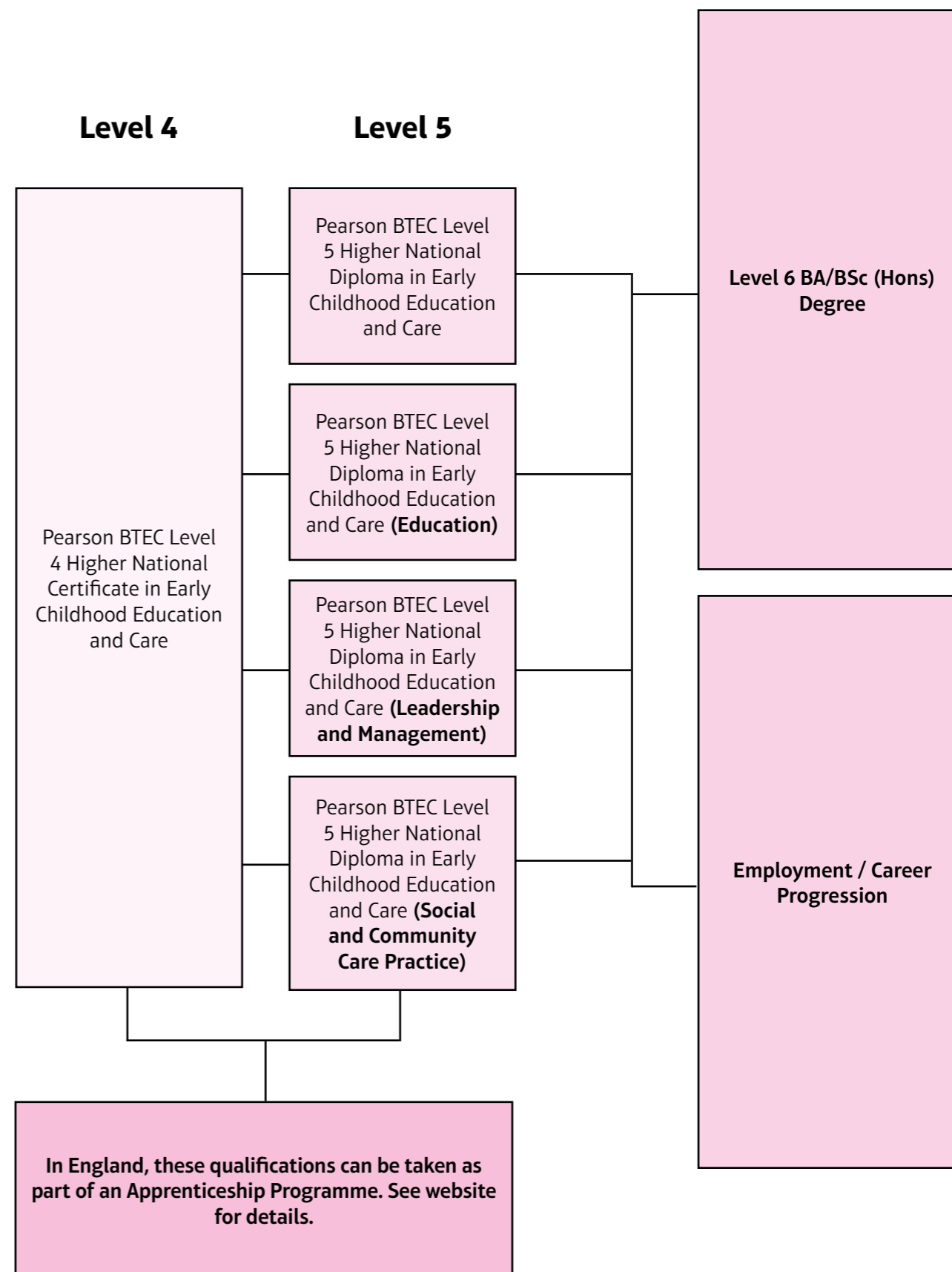
## Progression opportunities:

The purpose of Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Early Childhood Education and Care is to develop students as professional, self-reflecting individuals, able to meet the demands of employers in early education and care, and adapt to a constantly changing world. The qualifications aim to widen access to higher education and enhance the career prospects of those who undertake them, including through apprenticeship routes.

On successful completion of the Level 5 Higher National Diploma, students can develop their careers in early education and care through:

- Entering employment;
- Continuing existing employment;
- Committing to Continuing Professional Development (CPD);
- Completing a Higher Apprenticeship
- Progressing to university.

Qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care within the UK are referenced against National Occupational Standards in Early Years Education, Childminding and Daycare and Children's Care, Learning and Development (Management), as well as applicable apprenticeship Standards.





## Assessment Strategy

Pearson BTECs combine a student-centred approach with a flexible, unit-based structure. Students are required to apply their knowledge and skills to a variety of assignments and activities, with a focus on the holistic development of practical, interpersonal and higher level thinking skills. Assessment reflects not only what the student knows but also what he or she can do to succeed in employment and higher education in an ethical manner.

Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals have always allowed for a variety of forms of assessment evidence to be used, provided they are suited to the type of learning outcomes being assessed. For many units, the practical demonstration of skills is necessary and, for others, students will need to carry out their own research and analysis, working independently or as part of a team.

## Resources

We are providing a wealth of support to ensure that tutors and students have the best possible experience during their course. We have worked with students and tutors worldwide to create an effective and interactive community for our qualifications, called HN Global, an exciting new online platform created by Pearson to engage with Higher National students and tutors around the world.

Created in parallel with the development of the new BTEC Higher National qualifications, HN Global houses a great number of resources for students to get the most out of their BTEC Higher National experience.

Pearson also offer Study Skills units to all learners – an online toolkit accessed on HN Global that supports the delivery, assessment and quality assurance of BTECs in centres.

[www.highernationals.com](http://www.highernationals.com)



### Do you need centre approval?

Providers wishing to deliver the new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications (Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Early Childhood Education and Care - first teaching January 2019) will be subject to a new qualification approval process, more aligned with that used in UK Higher Education. Email [hnqa@pearson.com](mailto:hnqa@pearson.com) or visit [qualifications.pearson.com/higher-nationals](http://qualifications.pearson.com/higher-nationals) for more information about the process.



## FAQs

- 1. If a provider is already delivering the existing Higher National in Advanced Practice in Early Years Education qualifications do they still need to obtain approval for delivering the new qualification?**

Yes, existing providers would still be required to gain approval for delivering the new Higher National qualification but the process will be simplified for centres that meet the auto approval criteria. Approval will then be provisionally granted subject to the return of a signed declaration and payment of the approval fee. More details can be found in the support section of our website

(<http://qualifications.pearson.com/>).

- 2. How long will the approval process take?**

This will depend on whether the provider is eligible for auto approval. Once an existing provider has been notified of eligibility for auto approval, the approval will remain provisional until the provider returns the signed declaration and approval. If an existing provider is ineligible and requires a desk based review, the review cannot begin until the provider confirms its intention to proceed and the approval fee is paid. New providers will go through the standard provider approval process which currently takes about 20 days.

- 3. Is it possible for students to change their pathway at the end of their first year on the course programme?**

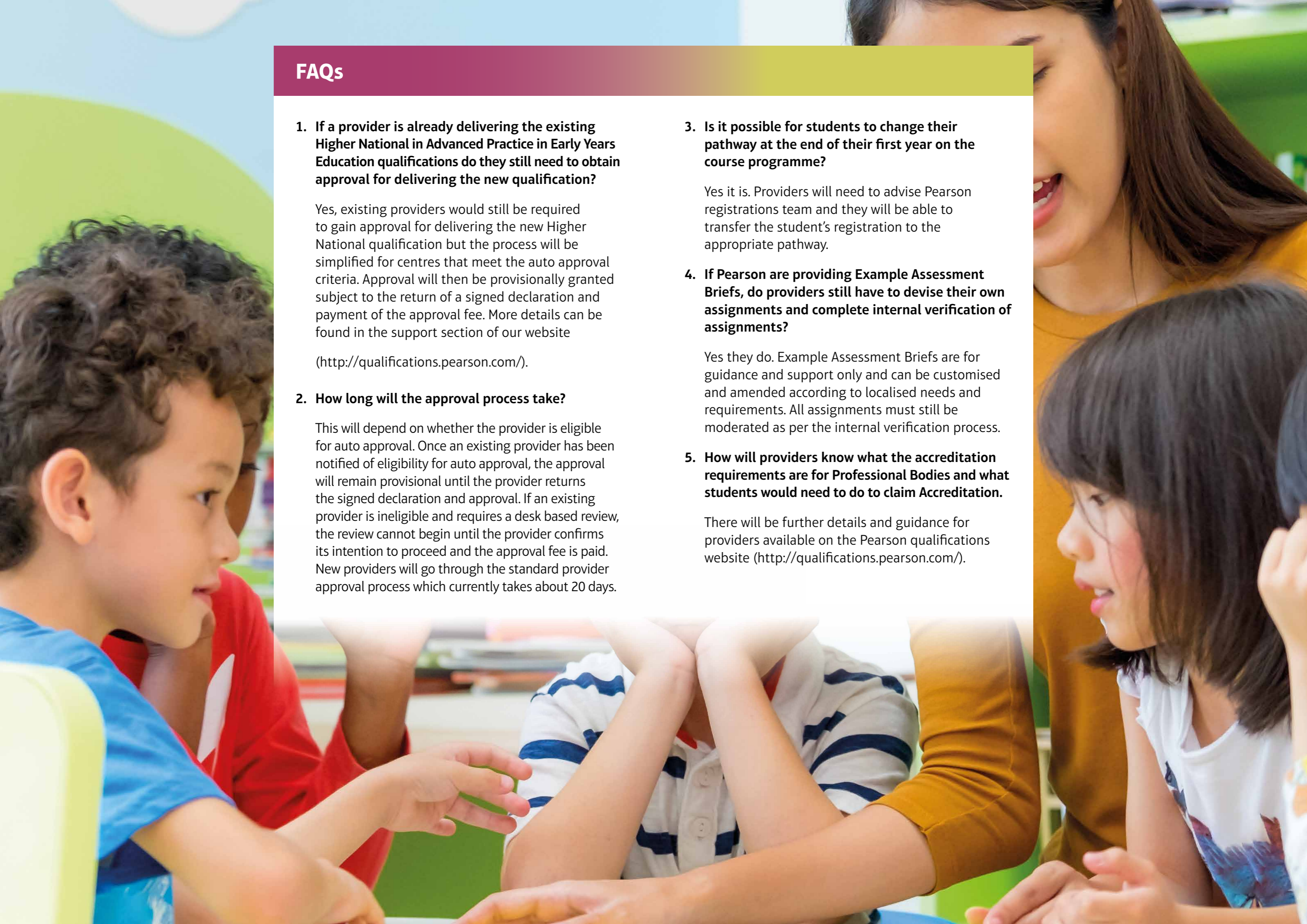
Yes it is. Providers will need to advise Pearson registrations team and they will be able to transfer the student's registration to the appropriate pathway.

- 4. If Pearson are providing Example Assessment Briefs, do providers still have to devise their own assignments and complete internal verification of assignments?**

Yes they do. Example Assessment Briefs are for guidance and support only and can be customised and amended according to localised needs and requirements. All assignments must still be moderated as per the internal verification process.

- 5. How will providers know what the accreditation requirements are for Professional Bodies and what students would need to do to claim Accreditation.**

There will be further details and guidance for providers available on the Pearson qualifications website (<http://qualifications.pearson.com/>).







[highernationals@pearson.com](mailto:highernationals@pearson.com)

[qualifications.pearson.com/higher-nationals](https://qualifications.pearson.com/higher-nationals)

Images

Cover: shutterstock - © Rawpixel.com

p4: shutterstock - © DGLimages

p8: shutterstock - © Wallenrock

p10-11: shutterstock - © Rawpixel.com

p12-13: shutterstock - © weedezi