



# **Guide for BTEC Level 3 Students on Progression to Higher Education**

**Version 1 October 2023**

## Guidance for BTEC Students on Progression to Higher Education

This guidance is for students who are taking or have taken a BTEC Level 3 National or similar BTEC qualification and are considering applying to university. It will answer some questions that you may have and will give you some guidance on what types of course are available to you and where you can take them. It will give you links to other documents which will give you particular advice related to the BTEC subject that you are taking. It will also provide links to other organisations like UCAS and the Complete University Guide that will help you make your decision on what and where to study. There will also be some guidance on how to complete the UCAS application form.

So, let's make a start and by answering some fundamental questions that you may be asking.

### Can I go to higher education with a BTEC National?

Yes, each year around 100,000 BTEC National students are accepted on degree programmes (level 6) at universities in the UK. Now, over 99% of universities in the UK accept BTEC Nationals in their entry requirements for at least some of their degree programmes. Some students take shorter Higher Education courses at levels 4 and 5 (such as HNCs and HNDs) in either universities or further education colleges.

### What type of higher-level qualification can I take?

Most students take a 3-year full-time **undergraduate degree** course, although a few universities offer some accelerated degrees taking 2 years.

Some courses are offered as sandwich degrees which usually take 4 years. *[A **sandwich degree** is usually a four-year undergraduate course in which students undertake a placement year, or internship in industry, normally after the second year at university.]*

If you don't quite meet the entry requirements, some universities offer a foundation year course prior to the degree. *[A **foundation year** is for students who have not met the subject/content requirements of the degree they wish to progress to. Those who are successful on the foundation year course will progress to the degree programme of their choice. Foundation year programmes are offered mainly in subjects such as science, engineering, and computing.]*

You could take a shorter HE course and, if you wish, top it up to a degree later. These include:

- **one year – HNC** *[A **Higher National Certificate (HNC)** is a higher education vocational qualification at level 4 equivalent to one-third of a full honours degree. You will probably find one in a subject related to your BTEC National subject. HNCs are offered as a one-year full-time programme, although there may also be the option to study part-time.]*
- **two years – HND** *[A **Higher National Diploma (HND)** is a higher education vocational qualification at level 5 equivalent to two-thirds of a full honours degree. HNDs are offered as a two-year full-time programme, although there may also be the option to study part-time. You will probably find one in a subject related to your BTEC National subject. Some universities allow students to top up an HND to a full honours degree through a further year of full-time study. You will need to check with individual Higher Education Institutions to find out whether they will allow this for the HND you have taken.]*

- **two years – foundation degree** *[A **foundation degree** is a higher education level 5 qualification that is equivalent of two thirds of a full honours degree. Foundation degrees are in vocational subjects and are offered as a two-year full-time programme, although there may also be the option to study part-time. Normally you can continue for a further year to gain a full honours degree.]*
- **One or two years – Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)** *[HTQs are a new category of qualification, recently introduced by the government. They are based on a common set of standards with apprenticeships/T Levels and have been approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education as meeting occupational standards for the relevant sector. They are offered as a one-year or two-year full-time programme, although there may also be the option to study part-time. The first HTQs were approved for first teaching in 2022. Some are new qualifications but some existing HNC, HND and foundation degree programmes may be approved as HTQs. The Pearson BTEC HNC and HND in Computing were the first to be approved as HTQs for first teaching in 2022. Further HNC and HND qualifications in Digital, Construction, Healthcare and Sport have been approved as HTQs for first teaching in 2023. Also, HNCs and HNDs in Engineering and Business have been approved as HTQs for first teaching in 2024. Full details of these Pearson BTEC HTQ qualifications may be found on [this Pearson webpage](#). Up-to-date information about all HTQs may be found on the [UCAS HTQ webpage](#).*

Full details of **Pearson HNC and HND courses** are found on the [Pearson Higher Nationals webpage](#).

Another alternative is to take a **higher apprenticeship** (level 4, 5 or 6) or a **degree apprenticeship** (level 6). When taking these, you will spend some time working for an employer. You'll also spend time attending college, a university or training provider, training at work or online. The advantages of these apprenticeships are that you will be paid by the employer and your tuition fees will be paid by the employer and the government. However, there are currently far fewer available than other higher education places. Further details are found in the [UCAS Higher and Degree Apprenticeships Guide](#).

### Where can I study?

Choose from over 150 universities together with other higher education colleges in the UK. Over 99% of universities in the UK accept BTEC National students for at least some of their courses.

Also, many further education colleges run programmes for bachelor degrees, foundation degrees, HNCs and HNDs, and, from 2022, HTQs. So, you may be able to find a course close to you.

### How can I study?

Most higher-level programmes are studied full-time. However, some courses are offered part-time, or through distance learning, work-based learning or blended learning (a combination of face-to-face and online learning). The UCAS webpage [What and where to study](#) is a very good page to explore. Other useful pages are, [Distance learning and part-time study](#) and [Distance learning](#).

### What subject can I study?

You will probably want to carry on studying a degree subject related to your BTEC subject. There is a wide range of specialist degree subjects available, many of which you may not have heard of. Choose from this list of BTEC National subjects and you can find out more about possible career paths and degree subjects you may be interested in.

Click on your BTEC subject area and it will take you to some guidance about related degree programmes:

[1. Applied Law](#)

[2. Applied Science](#)

[3. Art and Design](#)

[4. Business](#)

[5. Childcare](#)

[6. Construction](#)

[7. Creative Media](#)

[8. Engineering](#)

[9. Esports](#)

[10. Health and Social Care](#)

[11. Hospitality](#)

[12. IT and Computing](#)

[13. Land-based](#)

[14. Music and Music Technology](#)

[15. Performing Arts](#)

[16. Public/Protective Services](#)

[17. Sport](#)

[18. Travel and Tourism](#)

UCAS also has some [subject guides](#).

Find out about careers in this sector at [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk). You will be able to see the sort of careers available in your subject area and which ones will require a degree.

You don't have to study a degree subject related to your BTEC subject. Some degree programmes don't require you to have previously studied a related subject. For example, you could take a BTEC National in Engineering but apply to take a degree in Business Management.

### Will I need to take something else as well as my BTEC National?

It will depend on the size of BTEC National qualification you are studying/have studied and whether it is the old QCF version or the reformed RQF version. The reformed RQF BTEC Nationals were phased in from September 2016. The titles of the new qualifications are different from the old ones and the changes are shown in the following tables:

Equivalence in size	Old QCF title	New RQF title
0.5 A levels	BTEC Level 3 Certificate (QCF)	BTEC Level 3 National Certificate
1 A level	BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (QCF)	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate
1.5 A levels	BTEC Level 3 90-Credit Diploma (QCF)	BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma
2 A levels	BTEC Level 3 Diploma (QCF)	BTEC Level 3 National Diploma
3 A levels	BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (QCF)	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

**You will need to check carefully to find out the correct official title for the qualification that you have taken.**

### What are the entry requirements for level 3 BTEC Nationals?

#### a) Taking a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

Most university degree programmes will accept the Extended Diploma on its own, but a small number of highly selective degree programmes may require an AS or A level as well as the BTEC. This is more likely to be the case with the QCF BTEC Nationals, and is mainly in subjects, such as: science degrees which may require an A level in a science subject; engineering and computer science degrees which may require an A level in mathematics; physiotherapy degrees which may require an A level in biology.

Some of the more selective courses may ask for a specific pathway, for example some Midwifery courses ask for the Health Studies pathway of Health and Social Care. Others may ask for particular optional units, for example some engineering degrees may ask for the Further Engineering Mathematics unit.

**So, you will need to check individual degree course requirements very carefully. Please note that the university degree course entry requirements may be different for the QCF and new RQF BTEC qualifications, particularly in the case of computing, engineering and science programmes. Most BTEC courses that you will be taking are now RQF qualifications.**

**b) Taking a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma, 90-Credit Diploma/Foundation Diploma or Subsidiary Diploma/Extended Certificate**

You'll probably need some additional qualifications to get a place on an honours degree course.

Entry requirements for **Foundation Degrees** and **HNCs/HNDs** tend to be more flexible and so a BTEC Diploma may be enough to get in on its own. A small number of bachelor degree programmes may also accept the BTEC Diploma on its own.

Make sure you **check the entry requirements carefully** for each course you're interested in.

**Will there be any GCSE requirements?**

The majority of degree courses require a grade 4 (previously grade C) in GCSE English and maths. Some will accept level 2 functional skills in English and mathematics as equivalents and some allow you to sit their own equivalency tests to qualify. Some courses require a grade that is higher than grade 4 for specific GCSE subjects. For example, some Accounting and Finance degree programmes require a grade 6 (previously grade B) or higher in GCSE maths.

You may find that some degree programmes also require a grade 4 in a science GCSE.

**So, again you will need to check the GCSE requirements for individual university degree programmes.**

**Are BTEC Nationals on the UCAS Tariff?**

The BTEC Nationals are all on the UCAS Tariff. The points allocated depend on the size of the BTEC and the grade achieved.

Extended Diploma	Diploma	Foundation Diploma	Extended Certificate	Certificate	AS level	A level	UCAS tariff points
D*D*D*							168
D*D*D							160
D*DD							152
DDD							144
DDM							128
DMM	D*D*						112
	D*D						104
MMM	DD						96
		D*					84
MMP	DM						80
							78
		D					72

MPP	MM						64
			D*			A*	56
PPP	MP	M	D			A	48
						B	40
	PP		M			C	32
				D*			28
		P		D		D	24
					A		20
			P	M	B	E	16
					C		12
					D		10
				P			8
					E		6

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## Getting started

In this section we will refer to HE (higher education) programmes. HE programmes could be degrees, HNCs, HNDs, foundation degrees, etc.

### 1. How do I decide what sort of course to apply for

You will want to apply for a course that you will enjoy doing and which maximises your chances of success. So, for example, it may be helpful to think about the following:

- What sort of topics would I like to see in the content of the HE programme? These may be things that you are particularly interested in and things that you think may benefit your future career.
- What balance of theoretical and practical work would I prefer?
- What scheme of assessment would be appropriate for my strengths? For example, does it have the right balance of exams, coursework, and practical assessment for me?

### 2. What research should I do?

You need to thoroughly research your possible HE programme options before deciding which courses to apply for. The best place to go first is the [Choosing an undergraduate course](#) page of the UCAS website. This gives comprehensive guidance on what you need to do.

You may also find it helpful to visit the [The Complete University Guide](#) website which similarly gives detailed guidance on the whole process of applying to university.

The [UniGuide](#) website is another site worth exploring as it gives some helpful information and advice specifically for BTEC learners who are thinking of applying to university.

[Discover Uni](#) gives the results of student surveys about the course they have taken. This will enable you to compare courses as it will give you some helpful information about what students think of the course, jobs and salaries after study and other key information. You will also find this information for each HE programme on the individual university websites.

If possible, it would also be helpful to visit universities that you are interested in, and to talk to some students, both face-to-face and via social media.

### 3. What will I need to achieve?

Find out the entry requirements of the universities that you wish to apply to. A small number of courses require an A level as well as a BTEC and some require you to have taken specific optional BTEC units. This is particularly the case with the following subject areas:

- The sciences, including biological sciences, biomedical sciences, chemistry, physics, etc – these usually look to see that you have studied sufficient relevant content to prepare you for the course that you wish to apply to.
- Engineering – these will be asking for enough mathematics and may require the Further Engineering Mathematics unit.
- Health courses, in particular physiotherapy – these will look for sufficient biological content, usually enough to make up 1 A level worth, i.e. 360 guided learning hours.

If you are in a small school or college, you may not have any choice in the optional units offered to you. If you do have some choice, check the entry requirements of some universities to which you may wish to apply, and you can then take units that will help to broaden your options.

If the entry requirements are not clear on the website, contact the university to get full details of what they would want from you. Also, check out the [UCAS undergraduate entry requirements](#).

### 4. Where can I get help with my UCAS application?

When you are ready to apply, go to the UCAS website to look at their guidance on [filling in your UCAS undergraduate application](#).

The Complete University Guide also gives detailed guidance in its [completing your UCAS application](#) section.

### 5. The application process

#### a) Getting your details right

You should use **your legal name on the UCAS application, not your nickname or favoured name**. It should also be **the same as your name on your BTEC registration**, otherwise UCAS will be unable to match you with us and your results will not be shared with UCAS in the summer. So, please check with your tutor that the name recorded on your BTEC registration is the same as the name you will be using on your UCAS form.

#### b) Entering details of your BTEC qualification

Completing the UCAS form can be confusing for BTEC learners as the titles of the qualifications have changed over the years and it is important that you select the right one. If you put down the wrong title, it may mean that either you don't get an offer or you receive an offer you can't meet. Some universities like to know which optional units you are taking. So, it is best to enter that information in full, otherwise you may not receive an offer.

Enter the **BTEC registration number** for your qualification. You will find this out from your tutor. This will help in the matching process and ensure that your results are sent to UCAS in August. There is only space on the UCAS form for one BTEC registration number. So, if you are doing more than one BTEC qualification, enter the registration number for your largest/main BTEC National.

We have produced a video presentation [Guidance for BTEC students on completing their UCAS application form](#), and so you may find it helpful to watch this before completing your UCAS application.

### c) How to write a successful personal statement

**UCAS says:** “The personal statement is an important part of your UCAS application. It’s your chance to describe your ambitions, skills, and experience to university and college admissions staff.”

**So,** look at some examples on the guidance websites to get an idea of how to compose it.

**But** write your own personal statement because:

- **UCAS** has software that will detect whether you have plagiarised it.
- **Universities** will be looking to see what makes you special and stand apart from others.

The [UCAS guidance on how to write a personal statement](#) includes a helpful video as well as some detailed guidance.

You may also find it helpful to look at the Complete University Guide’s [Tips for writing your personal statement](#).

The [UniGuide](#) contains a few tips specifically for BTEC students. You need to say what sets you apart from others. As a BTEC student, you may have strengths and experiences that other applicants may not have. For example:

- you may have had a relevant work placement,
- you will have experience of doing real-life practical tasks,
- you may have developed independent learning skills and time management skills.

**All universities** tend to give guidance as to what information they would like in personal statements and so check out the ones you are applying to.

It's the same personal statement for all courses you apply to – so avoid mentioning universities or colleges by name, and ideally choose similar subjects.

### d) Will there be anything else to do after I have applied?

Some HE courses have additional requirements. These include the following:

- Admissions tests: these are mainly for highly selective courses but other courses have them, for example literacy and numeracy tests for nursing if you do not have the required grades in GCSE Maths and English. It is helpful to look at [UCAS guidance on admissions tests](#)
- Interviews and auditions: have a look at [UCAS guidance on these](#)
- A portfolio of work: this is usually a requirement of courses related to art and design; it is reviewed either at interview or by uploading it.

### e) How is it best to prepare for going to university?

Naturally, the most important thing that you will need to do is to work hard to achieve the grades needed to meet the entry requirements for the course you have applied to. However, there are some other important things that you will need to do as well. These include:

- Preparing financially, including applying for a student loan and preparing to manage your own finances.
- Finding accommodation if the HE institution is too far away for you to live at home.
- Completing other checks and disclosures that are required by certain courses, particularly those related to health and education.
- Developing the skills you will need for your HE course.

The UCAS guidance on its webpage [Preparing for your studies](#) gives you some useful tips on these matters.



### f) What happens on results day?

On results day you will learn whether you have secured your place at university. UCAS calls the process Confirmation. UCAS provides helpful guidance on this and the Clearing process in its guide [Confirmation and Clearing: the Essentials for 2023](#). This guide is updated each year.

### f) What if I don't meet the entry requirements?

If you don't quite meet the entry requirements, there are a number of options open to you.

- You may still be accepted on the course you have applied for. So, it is worth contacting the university to check whether they will accept you on the course.
- Some universities offer a foundation year course prior to the degree, and you may meet the entry requirements for that. Please be aware that there are cost implications associated with this, so it is not a decision to be taken lightly. *[A **foundation year** is for students who have not met the subject/content requirements of the degree they wish to progress to. Those who are successful on the foundation year course will progress to a degree programme. Foundation year programmes are offered mainly in subjects such as science, engineering and computing.]*
- You will be able to apply for a course at another university through the Clearing process. This is all explained in the UCAS guide [Confirmation and Clearing: the Essentials for 2023](#).

# 1. Applied Law

## What degree course can I take?

As you will be taking this qualification alongside other qualifications, you will probably have a wide range of courses open to you.

You could take a degree course in **Law** itself, but there are lots of related or more specialist subjects that might interest you, including:

- Criminal Law
- Criminal Justice
- Criminology
- Policing
- Public Services
- Business Management and Legal Studies
- Forensic Investigation

The [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Business](#) have a Law pathway.

You don't have to apply for a course related to law. Students who have taken this BTEC National have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 2. Applied Science

### What degree course can I take?

You can study science-based courses at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree (3- or 4-year course) level. Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of sponsorship and a job when you graduate.

There are a wide range of science-related degree courses that you could apply to. These include:

- Biological sciences
- Biomedical Sciences
- Chemistry
- Ecology
- Engineering
- Environmental Conservation
- Environmental Management
- Environmental Science
- Forensic Science
- Geology
- Medical Technology
- Microbiology
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Pharmacology
- Pharmacy
- Physics
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Other Subjects Allied to Medicine
- Zoology

Additionally, if you are interested in forensic science, you may be interested in taking one of the following:

- Criminal Law
- Criminology
- Policing
- Public Services

The [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Applied Sciences](#) have a range of pathways that may meet your individual needs.

You don't have to apply for a course related to applied science. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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### 3. Art and Design

#### What degree course can I take?

You can study Art and Design at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in **Art and Design**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- 3D Design
- Animation
- Architecture
- Ceramics
- Craft Creative Arts Practice
- Design Studies
- Fashion
- Fine Art
- Footwear Design Games Design
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Jewellery
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Product Design
- Textiles

**PLEASE NOTE:** most art and design courses will need to see a portfolio of your work and some may require an interview.

**PLEASE NOTE:** even for creative subjects, a small number of the more selective universities prefer qualifications to have some external assessment. This is something to be aware of if you are taking a BTEC National in Art and Design Practice.

The [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Art and Design](#) have a range of pathways that may meet your individual needs.

You don't have to apply for a course related to art and design. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 4. Business and Enterprise & Entrepreneurship

### What degree course can I take?

You can study Business at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in **Business**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Accountancy
- Banking and Finance
- Business
- Business Administration
- Business Computing
- Business Economics
- Business with a language Business IT
- Business Law
- Business Marketing
- Business Management
- Business Studies
- E Commerce
- Economics
- Entrepreneurship
- Event Management
- Law
- Logistics
- Management
- Marketing
- Risk Management Retail Management
- Supply Chain Management
- Tourism Management
- European Business
- Hospitality
- HR Management
- International Business

**PLEASE NOTE:** degree programmes in subjects with a high mathematical content, e.g. Accounting, Finance and Economics, may require a high grade in GCSE mathematics.

The [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Business](#) have a range of pathways that may meet your individual needs.

Also, the [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Leadership and Management for England](#) have been approved as Higher Technical Qualifications for first teaching in 2024.

You don't have to apply for a course related to business. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 5. Childcare

### What degree course can I take?

The Pearson BTEC National qualification you are taking or have taken will probably have the title Children's Play, Learning and Development, but it may differ slightly from that but still be about the general subject of **childcare**.

You can study childcare at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in **Childcare**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Child Development
- Child Psychology
- Childhood Studies
- Community Studies
- Early Years
- Education Studies
- Health Promotion Midwifery
- Nursing
- Social Work
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Teacher Training
- Youth Work
- Youth Studies

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Early Childhood Education and Care](#).

You don't have to apply for a course related to childcare. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 6. Construction and the Built Environment

### What degree course can I take?

You can study Construction-related at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in **Construction and the Built Environment**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Architecture
- Architectural Technology
- Building Conservation
- Building Environment
- Building Services Building Surveying
- Built Environment
- Civil Engineering
- Construction Design
- Construction Management Construction Engineering
- Estate Management
- Fire Safety
- Housing Management
- Property Development Surveying
- Town Planning
- Urban Planning
- Urban Studies

**PLEASE NOTE:** degree courses in Civil Engineering tend to require evidence of good ability in maths and many require maths units. Some universities require an A level in maths as well as the BTEC. Others require the BTEC in Engineering rather than the BTEC in Construction & the Built Environment as it contains more maths.

Here are links to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Construction](#) (which has a range of pathways), [Construction & the Built Environment](#) (which has a range of pathways), [Future Homes Design and Construction](#) and [Quantity Surveying](#).

Here are also links to Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals that have been awarded HTQ status for first teaching in 2023, namely [Architectural Technology for England](#), [Construction Management for England](#), [Modern Methods of Construction for England](#), and [Quantity Surveying for England](#).

You don't have to apply for a course related to construction. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 7. Creative Media Production/Creative Digital Media Production

### What degree course can I take?

You can study Creative Media Production at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course).

You could take a degree course in Media Production, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you: Advertising

- Animation
- Audio and Music Production
- Computer Games Design
- Computer Games Development
- Computer Games Technology
- Creative Media Practice
- Creative Writing
- Digital Media Development
- Digital Media Production
- Film Production
- Film Studies
- Interactive Media
- Journalism
- Media Communications
- Media Studies
- Multimedia Development
- Photography
- Radio
- Television Production
- Television Studies
- Web Design

**PLEASE NOTE:** even for creative subjects, a small number of the more selective universities prefer qualifications to have some external assessment. This is something to be aware of if you are taking Creative Media Practice.

Here is a link to the [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Creative Media Production](#), which have a range of pathways.

You don't have to apply for a course related to creative media. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 8. Engineering

### What degree course can I take?

You can study Engineering at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in Engineering, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Acoustics Engineering
- Aeronautical Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
- Agricultural Engineering
- Architectural Engineering
- Audio Engineering
- Automotive Engineering
- Biochemical Engineering
- Building Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering Computer Engineering
- Control Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Electronic Engineering
- Energy Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Fire Safety Engineering
- Network Engineering
- Marine Engineering
- Materials Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mechatronics
- Medical Engineering
- Motor Vehicle Engineering
- Product Design Engineering
- Robotics
- Software Engineering
- Sound Engineering
- Sport Engineering
- Telecommunications Engineering

**PLEASE NOTE:** some engineering degree programmes may require specific grades on mathematics units, some may require you to take certain maths-based optional units, and a small number of highly selective courses may require A or AS level Mathematics as well as the BTEC National in Engineering.

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Engineering](#), [Nuclear Engineering](#), and [Rail Engineering](#), all with a range of pathways. There are also Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Aeronautical Engineering](#), and [Manufacturing Operations](#),

In addition, Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals have been approved as Higher Technical Qualifications for first teaching in 2024 in [Aeronautical Engineering for England](#), [Electrical & Electronic Engineering for England](#), [Engineering for England](#), [Manufacturing Engineering for England](#), [Mechanical Engineering for England](#), [Operations Engineering for England](#), [Space Technologies for England](#), [Computer Systems Engineering for England](#), [Automation & Control Engineering for England](#), [Electronic and Electrical Systems Engineering for England](#), [Manufacturing Operations for England](#), and [Mechatronics for England](#).

You don't have to apply for a course in engineering. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 9. Esports

### What degree course can I take?

You can study subjects linked to esports at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take one of the following degrees:

- Esports
- Event Management
- Media

Here is a link to the [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in International Travel and Tourism Management](#), [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Creative Media Production](#) and to the [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Business](#). These have a range of pathways that may meet your individual needs.

You don't have to apply for a course related to esports. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 10. Health and Social Care

### What degree course can I take?

You can study courses in this broad sector at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in Health and Social Care, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Childhood Studies
- Counselling
- Dental Hygiene
- Dental Technology
- Dental Therapy
- Dietetics
- Education Studies Health & Social Care
- Health Studies
- Health Promotion
- Nutrition
- Medical Technology
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Osteopathy
- Other Subjects Allied to Medicine
- Paramedic Science
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Radiography
- Social Policy
- Social Science
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Sports Therapy
- Teacher Training
- Youth and Community Work

**PLEASE NOTE:** some more selective courses in Physiotherapy, Medical Technology and Radiography may require specific science content.

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Healthcare Practice](#), [Healthcare Practice for England](#), and [Social and Community Work](#).

The Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Healthcare Professions' Support for England](#) have also been awarded Higher Technical Qualification status.

You don't have to apply for a course related to health & social care. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 11. Hospitality

### What degree course can I take?

You can study hospitality-related subjects at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course).

You could take a degree course in Hospitality, but there are some more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Culinary Arts Management
- Events Management
- Hospitality Management
- Hotel & Catering Management
- International Tourism Management
- International Hospitality Management
- Travel and Tourism Management

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Hospitality Management](#).

You don't have to apply for a course related to hospitality. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 12. IT and Computing

### What degree course can I take?

You can study IT and computing at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in **Information Technology (IT)** or **Computing**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Animation
- Artificial Intelligence
- Business Information Technology
- Computer Aided Engineering
- Computer Games Development
- Computer Networks
- Computer Science
- Computer Security
- Computing
- Cyber Security
- Information Systems
- Multimedia Computing
- Software Development
- Software Engineering
- Web Design
- Web and Mobile Development

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Digital Technologies](#) (with a range of pathways), and [Cloud Computing](#).

The Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Computing for England](#) (with a range of pathways) have been awarded HTQ status for first teaching in 2022. Similarly, the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Digital Technologies for England](#) have been awarded HTQ status for first teaching in 2023.

You don't have to apply for a course related to IT or computing. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 13. Land-based

### What degree course can I take?

You can study some land-based subjects at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course). There is a bigger range of subjects available at Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in the same subject as your BTEC, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Agricultural Science
- Agricultural Engineering
- Agriculture
- Animal Management
- Animal Science
- Aquaculture and Fishery Management
- Arboriculture
- Countryside Conservation
- Countryside Management
- Ecology
- Ecology Conservation
- Environmental Management
- Environmental Sustainability
- Equine Management
- Equine Science
- Equine Studies
- Floristry
- Forestry
- Garden Design
- Horticulture
- Landscape Architecture
- Veterinary Medicine
- Veterinary Nursing
- Wildlife and Conservation
- Zoology

**PLEASE NOTE:** if you wish to study veterinary medicine, you will need to be studying a BTEC in Animal Science and take a lot of science-based optional units.

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Agriculture](#) (with a range of pathways), [Animal Management](#) (with a range of pathways), and [Horticulture](#).

You don't have to apply for a land-based course. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 14. Music and Music Technology

### What degree course can I take?

You can study subjects linked to travel and tourism at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

As well as at universities, music degree programmes are also offered at **conservatoires**. Please see the [UCAS guidance on conservatoires](#).

You could take a degree course in **Music**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Commercial Music
- Digital Music
- Music Management
- Music Production
- Music Technology
- Musical Theatre
- Popular Music
- Education Studies with Music

**PLEASE NOTE:** some courses may require an audition.

**PLEASE NOTE:** in addition to the BTEC National, some music degrees at highly selective universities may require a certain grade at A level Music or a certain grade in a Trinity or ABRSM practical or theory exam.

Here is a link to the [Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Music](#), which has a range of pathways.

You don't have to apply for a course related to music. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 15. Performing Arts

### What degree course can I take?

You can study performing arts subjects at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (usually a 3-year course). As well as at universities, degree programmes in performing arts are also offered at **conservatoires**. Please see the [UCAS guidance on conservatoires](#).

You could take a degree course in **Performing Arts**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Dance Performance
- Dance Studies
- Dance and Choreography
- Acting
- Drama
- Theatre Studies
- Drama Production
- Directing
- Costume
- Stage Management
- Production Lighting
- Musical Theatre
- Education Studies with Dance
- Education Studies with Drama

**PLEASE NOTE:** many performing arts courses will require an audition.

**PLEASE NOTE:** even for creative subjects, a small number of the more selective universities prefer qualifications to have some external assessment. This is something to be aware of if you are taking a BTEC National in Performing Arts Practice or Production Arts Practice.

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Performing Arts](#) (with a range of pathways).

You don't have to apply for a course in performing arts. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 16. Public Services and Uniformed Protective Services

### What degree course can I take?

You can study subjects linked to public services at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in **Public Services**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Business Studies
- Criminology
- Fire and Leadership Studies
- Fire Safety Engineering
- Fire Safety Management
- Housing Studies
- Law
- Management Studies
- Nursing
- Police and Community Studies
- Policing and Security
- Politics
- Protective Services
- Public Administration
- Public Relations
- Public Services Management
- Social Policy
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Town Planning
- Urban Studies

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Public Services](#) (with a range of pathways), and [Policing](#).

You don't have to apply for a course related to public services. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 17. Sport

### What degree course can I take?

You can study Sport at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in **Sport**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Adventure and Outdoor Activities Management
- Education Studies
- Journalism
- Leisure Management
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Sport and Exercise Science
- Sport and Physical Education
- Sports Coaching
- Sport Development
- Sports Fitness
- Sports Management
- Sports Therapy
- Teacher Training

**PLEASE NOTE:** some of the more selective Sport & Exercise Science, Physiotherapy and Sports Therapy degree programmes may require the BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sport & Exercise Science and may not accept the BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sport.

**PLEASE NOTE:** a small number of the more selective universities prefer qualifications to have some external assessment. This is something to be aware of if you are taking a BTEC National in Sport Coaching and Development, Sporting Excellence and Performance, Sport, Fitness and Personal Training, or Sport and Outdoor Activities

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Sport](#), and [Sport & Exercise Science](#), both with a range of pathways.

Also available are the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [Community Coaching for England](#) which have been awarded Higher Technical Qualification status.

You don't have to apply for a course in sport. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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## 18. Travel and Tourism

### What degree course can I take?

You can study subjects linked to travel and tourism at HNC (1-year course), HND or Foundation degree (2-year course) or Honours Degree level (3- or 4-year course). Some courses also offer the chance to spend a year in industry (sandwich courses), giving you great hands-on experience and the chance of a job when you graduate.

You could take a degree course in **Travel and Tourism**, but there are lots more specialist subjects that might interest you:

- Airline and Airport Management
- Air Transport Management
- Business and Tourism Management
- Cruise Industry Management
- Event Management
- Geography
- Geography & Tourism
- Hospitality and Hotel Management
- Marketing
- Resort Management
- Sport
- Tourism Studies
- Transport and logistics Management
- Travel and Tourism Management

Here is a link to the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in [International Travel and Tourism Management](#).

You don't have to apply for a course related to travel and tourism. Students who have taken these BTEC Nationals have also been accepted for a wide range of other courses.

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