Higher Nationals

For the skills to stand out from the crowd

Go Higher

Pearson BTEC
Take control of your career with BTEC Higher Nationals

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

BTEC Higher Nationals have a long history of delivering higher level technical and professional skills. They provide career-focussed experience as well as academic knowledge; ensuring you'll gain the required expertise, as identified by business and industry, and the flexibility to take the next step into employment or continue to a degree.

Whichever path you choose, BTEC Higher Nationals offer you real opportunities and real qualifications to prosper in the real world.

In designing the BTEC Higher Nationals we’ve worked closely with relevant employers and Professional Bodies, to ensure alignment with recognised professional standards, and with universities to ensure alignment with degree programmes. The new BTEC Higher National qualifications are designed to reflect the increasing need for high quality professional and technical qualifications at Levels 4 and 5, providing you with a clear line of sight to your career, or progression to a degree at Level 6.
Go Higher

Why choose BTEC Higher Nationals?

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

- When developing the BTEC Higher National qualifications, we collaborated with a wide range of students, employers, higher education providers, colleges and subject experts, to ensure that the new qualifications meet their needs and expectations.
- There is now a greater emphasis on employer engagement and work readiness.
- They are designed to reflect this increasing need for high-quality professional and technical education pathways at Levels 4 and 5.
- These qualifications provide you with a clear pathway to employment, and a recognised progression route to gain the further learning required at Level 6.

Designed for clear transitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher National Certificate</th>
<th>Higher National Diploma</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Opportunities to develop project management skills.</td>
<td>An increased focus on research skills.</td>
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Assessment for both years will be through a varied programme of assignments.

Core modules credit values may vary by subject but will not be less than 30% of the whole qualification.

What is the difference between an HNC and an HND?

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I believe that the qualification helped me gain a good foundation in the practical and business aspects of photography and gave me the confidence to become a freelancer.

Yves Salmon completed BTEC Higher National Certificate in Photography
Christopher Meredith is a higher level apprentice working for the Jacobs engineering consultancy in Leeds, where he has progressed through completion of the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment and the Level 3 Advanced Technical Apprenticeship and BTEC HNC before embarking on the Higher Level Apprenticeship in February 2018.

Chris enrolled at the Leeds College of Building to pursue a BTEC Level 2 in Construction and the Built Environment (CBE) having taken the Level 1 at school. While Chris’s determined progress through these levels is impressive in itself, what makes Chris an award-winner is the fact that he has done this against the odds, lifting himself out of what could have been an unhappy future through the sheer force of his effort and personality.

Chris left school disillusioned with no GCSEs, having been frequently suspended during his time there. With his brother and several friends having already fallen foul of the law, Chris might well have gone a similar way, but he wanted more for himself, describing a “desperate yearning to be successful.” Having taken the Level 1 BTEC at school, Chris was able to enrol on the Level 2 course at college without GCSEs — a decision which he says, “changed his life forever.”

Chris is now heavily involved in the technical design of highways using 3D visualisation models and drawings. He communicates with project teams all around the world and is instrumental in solving complex civil engineering problems for Jacobs Engineering.

Having gained the Institution of Civil Engineer’s Quest Technician Scholarship — awarded only to apprentices of the highest calibre — and passing the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Technician Professional Review, Chris has gone from strength to strength.

Modestly giving much of the credit for his success to BTEC, Chris is actively involved with marketing apprenticeships and higher education to other young people, through radio and television, and acts as a mentor to junior apprentices at work. He also volunteers as a Student Ambassador at Leeds College of Building, because he says, “it’s important to give something back to the college that’s supported me for 6 plus years.”

Chris’s ambition is to finish his degree and ‘hopefully progress through the ranks of my company’. Chris is an excellent role model for apprentices - and living proof that with hard work and determination you can achieve anything you want. A very worthy winner of the BTEC Apprentice of the Year 2019 (19+) award and BTEC Student of the Year 2019.

Enrolling on a BTEC course has changed my life because it’s given me a prospect and a qualification that I need. And I can use this knowledge at work, as well as work knowledge at college so it works both ways.”

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BTEC Higher Nationals are supported by a specially designed range of digital resources, to ensure that you’ll have the best possible experience during your course. These are available on our free dedicated platform for Higher National students – HN Global. You’ll be able to access free online learning to develop your study skills to support your higher education learning, and career development resources to support you with preparing for the real world. With HN Global, you can also participate within a community of other BTEC Higher National students from around the world, via online forums, to discuss anything relevant to your course.
BTEC Higher National Qualification | Pathways* | A few examples of typical jobs after HNC** | A few examples of typical jobs after HND**
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**Nuclear Engineering** *(UK Only)* | **• Nuclear Operations (Electrical and Engineering)**; **• Nuclear Operations (Mechanical)**; Nuclear Engineering Technician; Nuclear Maintenance Technician; Nuclear Engineer; Nuclear Maintenance Project Engineer; Nuclear Maintenance Operations Engineer. | Outdoor Adventure Instructor; Field Studies Officer; Sports Coaching; Health Promotion; Corporate Sports Hospitality; Outreach Work; Sports Entrepreneurship; Armed Forces and Police. | Adventure Tourism Manager; Environmental Education; Youth Development Officers; Sports Development; Health and Fitness Management; Sports Facility Management; PE teaching (via a PGCE). |

**Computing** | **• Network Engineering**; **• Software Engineering**; **• Data Analytics**; **• Security**; **• Intelligent Systems Applications Development**; Systems Engineer; Support Technician; Database Administrator; Services Desk Technician; System Testing Engineer; Network Support Technician. | Network Engineer; Systems Architect; Network Manager; Software Developer; Systems Designer; Business Analyst; Games Developer; Web Developer; Business Analyst. | Sports Coach; Community Sports Leader; Performance Developer; Sports Development Officer; Leisure Development Officer; Armed Forces or Uniformed Services. | Sports Therapist; Cardiac Rehabilitation Technician; Sports and Exercise Scientists; Strength and Conditioning; Teaching or Lecturing (via a PGCE). |

**Construction and the Built Environment** | **• Construction - Management**; **• Construction - Architectural Technology**; **• Civil Engineering**; **• Building Services Engineering - Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning**; **• Building Services Engineering - Electrical and Surveying**; Construction Technician; Architectural Draftsperson; Architectural Technician; Heating/Cooling System Technician; Building Services Engineer; Site Engineer; Site Technician; Surveying Technician. | Assistant Design Coordinator; Construction Design Technician; Construction Technician; Architectural Draftsperson; Architectural Technician; Heating/Cooling System Technician; Building Services Engineer; Site Engineer; Site Technician; Surveying Technician. | Police Officer (if reached min age 18); Prison Officer (if reached min age 18); Firefighter (if reached min age 18); Royal Navy; Royal Marines; Army; Royal Air Force; Local Government. | Police Officer; Prison Officer; Royal Navy; Royal Marines; Army; Royal Air Force; Firefighter (middle management); Local Government; project management/Senior clerical; Public Sector Commercial Officer. |

**Art and Design** | **• Product Design**; **• Interior Design**; **Fashion**; **Textiles**; **Graphic Design**; **Photography**; **Art Practice**; **Digital Design**; Assistant Art Production Manager; Logo Designer; Broadcast Designer; Assistant Illustrator; Photographer's Assistant; Art Director; Illustrator; Visual Image Developer; Photographer; Assistant; Illustrator; Visual Image Developer; Photographer; Assistant; Illustrator; Visual Image Developer; Photographer; Assistant; Illustrator; Visual Image Developer; Photographer. | Design & Build Co-ordinator; Construction Site Supervisor; Site Manager; Project Manager; Health & Safety Manager; Architectural Technologist; Information Manager; Architectural Designer; Heating/Cooling System Designer; Electrical System Designer; Lighting System Designer; Structural Engineering Designer; Civil Engineering Design; Transport Engineering Design. | Laboratory Technician - Research; Laboratory Technician - Process; Development; Polymer Technologist; Laboratory Manager; Laboratory Analysts. | Analytical Chemist; Molecular Biologist; Microbiologist; Formulation Scientist; Process Technologist; Biotechnologist; Biochemist; Botanist; Clinical Engineer; Ecologist; Marine Biologist; Medical Laboratory Assistant; Microbiologist; Zoological Scientist; Food Scientist; Nature conservation Officer; Environmental Engineer; Pharmacologist; Research and Development Scientist; Research scientist (life sciences); Research scientist (medical); Soil Scientist; Analytical Scientist; Chemical Engineer; Chemistry Laboratory Technician; Colour Technologist; Industrial Chemist; Toxicologist. |

**Rail Engineering (HNC only)** | **• Track**; **• Command and Control**; **• Traction and Rolling Stock**; **• Rail Systems**; Rail Engineering Advanced Technician; Rail Signalling; Telecommunications; Traction & Rolling Stock; Electrification; Overhead Line; Rail Systems. | Assistant Design Coordinator; Construction Design Technician; Construction Technician; Architectural Draftsperson; Architectural Technician; Heating/Cooling System Technician; Building Services Engineer; Site Engineer; Site Technician; Surveying Technician. | Assistant Design Coordinator; Construction Design Technician; Construction Technician; Architectural Draftsperson; Architectural Technician; Heating/Cooling System Technician; Building Services Engineer; Site Engineer; Site Technician; Surveying Technician. | Assistant Design Coordinator; Construction Design Technician; Construction Technician; Architectural Draftsperson; Architectural Technician; Heating/Cooling System Technician; Building Services Engineer; Site Engineer; Site Technician; Surveying Technician. |

**Manufacturing Operations Engineering (HNC only)** | **• Manufacturing Operations**; Operations Coordinator; Manufacturing Test Technician; Production Manager; Operations Team Leader; Manufacturing Technician; Manufacturing & Production Engineer; Quality Technician; Lead Manufacturing Technician. | Operations Coordinator; Manufacturing Test Technician; Production Manager; Operations Team Leader; Manufacturing Technician; Manufacturing & Production Engineer; Quality Technician; Lead Manufacturing Technician. | Assistant Design Coordinator; Construction Design Technician; Construction Technician; Architectural Draftsperson; Architectural Technician; Heating/Cooling System Technician; Building Services Engineer; Site Engineer; Site Technician; Surveying Technician. | Assistant Design Coordinator; Construction Design Technician; Construction Technician; Architectural Draftsperson; Architectural Technician; Heating/Cooling System Technician; Building Services Engineer; Site Engineer; Site Technician; Surveying Technician. |

*It's a great way to get your foot in the door of employment, greater than that compared to going to university.*

-HNC Electrical and electronic Engineering student 2017
A few examples of typical jobs after HNC**

**These are suggestions of the typical job roles related to this qualification at this level. Pearson does not guarantee employment pathways to be delivered within your chosen qualification.

A few examples of typical jobs after HND**

*This list is a combination of pathways at both BTEC HNC and HND level. Please consult with your local college regarding exact pathways to be delivered within your chosen qualification.

** These are suggestions of the typical job roles related to this qualification at this level. Pearson does not guarantee employment upon completion, and you will have a responsibility to make sure that you meet the employer's requirements.

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**Looking back at the two years I spent studying at the College, I can easily say that completing the HND course has brought out the best in me and I am more confident than I have ever been before.**

Stuart Munn, BTEC Higher National Diploma in Computing student at Heart of Worcestershire College, UK.
In 2017, Pearson asked students from around the world why they enjoy studying a BTEC Higher National qualification. BTEC Higher Nationals really do make a difference to students' lives, and prepare them for real world experiences that they will require when embarking on their career journey.

Click on the video to find out what some of our current students have to say.

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

Funding
BTEC Higher Nationals are subject to student loan funding within Further Education Colleges, but you will generally only receive student finance for your first higher education qualification. A full breakdown of available funding can be found on the opposite page.

If you are considering a BTEC Higher National at a private college in the UK, you will need to consult with the college regarding the tuition fees.

What to do next
1. If you are interested in studying a BTEC Higher National qualification, spend time researching the course that you are interested in.
2. Visit the college website(s) and attend open days to find out what they have to offer.
3. Make sure you meet all application requirements.
4. Speak to your careers advisor if you need more support.

As part of an initial advice and guidance, interview and enrolment procedure, colleges might take into account the prior experience and knowledge you have gained from outside the formal education and training system. This is known as Recognition of Prior Learning, or RPL. Speak to your local college if you're unsure.

Where will you study?
You can find an institution where you can study your chosen BTEC Higher National easily with our College Finder - visit www.highernationals.com/find-your-college

Some examples of the current exemptions/vendor accreditations for BTEC Higher National qualifications

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<td>Business</td>
<td>Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), CIMA, CIPD, CIPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>CompTIA, CISCO, Microsoft, Oracle, AXELOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and the Built Environment</td>
<td>Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), Chartered Institute of Highways &amp; Transportation (CIHT), Institute of Highways Engineers (IHE).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you have any further queries, or would like more information about any individual subject, please contact
highernationals@pearson.com