



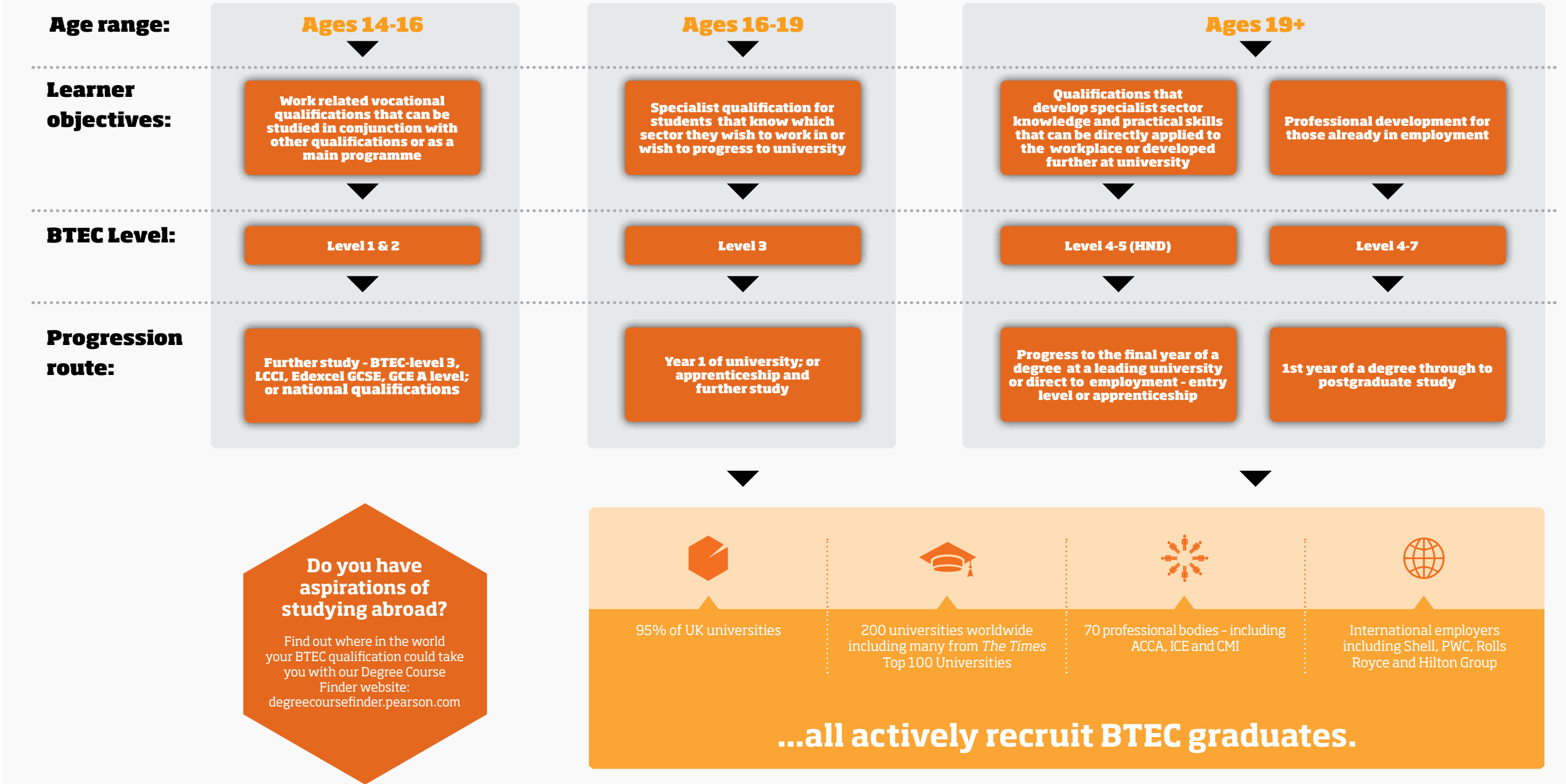
BTEC Parents' Guide

Guide your child in
the right direction

Giving you flexible options...

BTEC qualifications are perfect for students who know what career they want and for those who are still developing their goals. Our progression options and broad range of subjects can take you as far as you want to go.

Popular BTEC subjects: Information Technology, Engineering, Business, Art & Design, Hospitality, Travel & Tourism



*Age ranges are a guide only; all our qualifications can be taken at different ages.

Pearson's BTEC qualifications are recognised by leading universities, professional bodies and international employers. So whatever your career aspirations, BTEC can help you achieve them.

Real-life learning

BTEC is the perfect choice if you enjoy learning by doing practical assignments and tasks. It encourages communication and collaboration, and puts into practice the skills required for success in a 21st century business environment.

Wide-ranging and well-regarded

You can choose from a wide range of vocational subjects and specialise in areas linked with a career you are interested in. BTECs are developed in close consultation with **industry**, and many graduates progress direct to the workforce.

Engaging, inspiring and real

You will be assessed in-centre by the teacher, using both theory and practical assignments. These are often work-related such as film clips or business plans and proposals; and can take place within real work environments.

Recognised the world over

BTEC qualifications demonstrate that you have achieved internationally set standards in skills, knowledge and behaviours. Colleges, universities and employers around the world welcome applications from candidates with BTEC qualifications.

"I think all students should have the chance to do at least one BTEC just to help them gain the skills needed for the 21st Century."

Sandra Carter, Cambridge International School, Dubai

Taaleem schools offering BTEC qualifications:



DUBAI BRITISH SCHOOL

Dubai British School in The Springs offers the BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business and the BTEC National Award in Travel & Tourism.

Call the school on T +971 (0)4 361 9361 or visit www.dubaibritishschool.ae for more information.

مدرسة جميرا للبيكالوريا Jumeira Baccalaureate School

Jumeira Baccalaureate School, located in Dubai, Jumeira 1, offers a BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Information Technology (IT), including the following units: Unit 1/Communication and employability skills in IT, Unit 2/Computer systems, Unit 18/Database design, Unit 28/ Website production, Unit 30/Digital graphics, Unit 31/Computer animations

Call the school on T +971 (0)4 344 6931 or visit www.jbschool.ae for more information.



Greenfield Community School in Dubai Investments Park offers the BTEC National Diploma in Business and the BTEC National Diploma in Art & Design, both Level 3 National Diploma courses/university entry courses.

Call the school on T +971 (0)4 885 6600 or visit www.gcschool.ae for more information.

Note: above courses may be subject to change. Please confirm with the individual schools.

Guide your child in the right direction

Parents play a major role in guiding young students' choices when they leave school.

A survey conducted in 2007 by Edge, the educational foundation promoting practical and vocational learning, shows that a significant number of parents urge their child to do A levels and go to university.

GCSEs and A levels need not be the only education route that leads to university or a successful career. A BTEC course offers applied learning related to work which may be best for your child's learning and development.

This guide has been produced to provide you with the information you need on BTEC qualifications.

What is a BTEC?

BTECs are work related qualifications suitable for a wide range of students, built to accommodate the needs of employers and allow progression to university. They provide a more practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a key theoretical background. They can be taken as well as, or in place of, GCSEs and A levels in schools and colleges. BTECs are recognised by schools, colleges, universities, employers and professional bodies across the United Kingdom and in over 100 countries worldwide.

BTECs have been around for 25 years, their reputation is second to none and they continue to grow and develop. In 2007, more than one million students enrolled on a BTEC course.

Where are BTECs delivered?

BTECs are delivered through schools, colleges, independent training providers and employers. They are popular qualifications amongst young people and adult students alike. BTECs are flexible, enabling students to study them full-time or part-time, as part of an Apprenticeship programme or alongside work commitments and other qualifications.

How are BTECs assessed?

BTECs are not exam-based qualifications. Exams work well for some students but others find them rather daunting and struggle to see how they fit into the real world of work.

Instead, students study real-life, work-based case studies and complete projects and assessments, which contribute to achieving each unit studied.

Each BTEC is made up of units. The number of units is dependent on the level and size of BTEC being studied (eg BTEC Introductory, BTEC National).

In order to complete each unit, students must achieve against a set of outcomes. The assessment criteria address theory with practical exercises. The assessment process is ongoing, so it allows the student to analyse and improve their own performance through their course in much the same way as they would in a real workplace.

The projects that students undertake form the basis of their unit results which are graded as a Pass, a Merit or a Distinction.

Which BTEC is suitable?

BTECs are available at various levels:

BTEC Entry develops the initial skills for either a broad work sector or everyday life where confidence is needed by students. BTEC Entry Certificates are suitable for any student aged 14 upwards and are designed for students with learning difficulties or those who struggle with traditional learning.

BTEC Introductory qualifications are at Level 1 and offer an entry point to an industry sector and encourage the development of personal and work-related skills. The BTEC Introductory qualifications are suitable for any student aged 14 upwards and are designed for those who are not able to achieve A*- C grade GCSEs, but who are motivated by a work-related course.

BTEC Firsts are Level 2 qualifications which are the equivalent of traditional GCSEs grades A*- C. In 2007, there was a 50% increase in BTEC uptake across schools in the UK. There are currently over 60 BTEC First qualifications available, linked to industry sectors. The BTEC First is suitable for students aged pre-16 and is designed for those who are capable of achieving A*- C grade GCSEs, but wish to focus on a work related vocational qualification or work area. Students may take BTEC Firsts alongside core GCSE subjects such as English, Maths and Science.

BTEC Nationals are designed as specialist qualifications for students who have a clear view of their future career or are seeking progression to higher education. BTEC Nationals are equivalent to A levels and are highly valued by universities, further education colleges and employers alike. There are more than 250 qualifications for students to choose from. These qualifications are suitable for students aged 16 upwards and are recommended for those who have achieved at least four A*- C grade GCSEs or have completed a BTEC First and have a clear view of where they want to be, or wish to go to university.

BTEC HNDs and HNCs – The BTEC Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) are Level 5 higher education qualifications, widely recognised by universities and professional bodies. There are more than 150 qualifications available, suitable for students aged 16 and above. The HNC is often studied part-time alongside full-time employment. A Higher National student will develop management and other higher level technical skills required by employers. After a period of usually two years, students often progress to the final year of degree programmes. Higher Nationals can be studied in both FE colleges and universities.

Other BTEC qualifications

BTEC Development and Professional Development Qualifications are a range of BTEC short course qualifications at all levels from 1-7. Each focuses upon the understanding, skills and knowledge needed for a sector, area of expertise or professional development.

BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design is a Level 3 programme, lasting normally a year, during which individuals are prepared for entry to higher education to study art and design.

BTEC WorkSkills is a suite of units developed in response to the demand for employable people. These units build on the skills already taught in schools and colleges, recognising them with a formal BTEC qualification. WorkSkills encompasses work placement, interview skills, teamwork and vocational skills. It also helps people acquire the soft skills that employers are looking for; adaptability, a positive 'can do' attitude, and communication and presentation skills. There are over 30 skills-based units in total.

Students taking existing BTECs, GCSEs, GCEs, Diplomas and other recognised courses can fit WorkSkills into their timetable, adding a further work-based qualification to their CV.

A parent's view on BTEC

"I'm extremely proud of Matt's achievements; he's got a great job and he's very happy so I don't think either his mother or I would have wanted to change the route he took to getting where he is today"

John is the father of Matt Lazenby, a student who left school following his GCSEs and undertook a BTEC in Art & Design at York College. Matt chose not to go on to university, despite achieving sufficient grades, and instead took up a job at a design company, which led to him co-founding design and branding agency LazenbyBrown with a friend in 2005.



How long does a BTEC take to complete?

The time taken to complete a BTEC is dependent on the size and level of the qualification. A BTEC will generally take one to two years to complete depending on whether the student is studying full or part time. Schools, colleges and other BTEC centres determine the mode of study for the BTEC programmes they deliver. They are also responsible for ensuring that the students they accept to study a BTEC course are capable of achieving it, and for supporting them through their studies.

What is the difference between a BTEC Award, Certificate and Diploma?

The different sizes of BTEC qualifications vary at each level; the smallest is an Award, the next size is a Certificate and the largest is a Diploma. The actual number of units and the amount of content within each is not fixed, but varies according to the design and focus of each qualification.

Which industries does BTEC cover?

When developing its BTECs, Edexcel works very closely with employers from various industries and professional bodies to create qualifications that give students the skills they need to either move on to higher education or go straight into employment. For instance a BTEC National Certificate in Business would cover all aspects of business including marketing, law, human resources and accounting. Currently BTECs cover the following subject areas:

Applied Sciences

Art and Design

Business, Management and Services

Children's Care, Learning and Development

Construction

Education and Training

Engineering

Hairdressing, Beauty and Related Therapies

Health, Care and Counselling

Hospitality

IT and Computing

Land and the Environment

Languages

Media

Performing Arts and Music

Public Services and Security

Sport, Leisure and Recreation

Travel, Tourism and Transport Services

A successful alternative to A levels

"After getting 12 GCSEs (10 with A and A* grades) I did a BTEC National Diploma for IT Practitioners. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I spent two years concentrating on a subject I really enjoy, and learning from a range of specialists. Since I earned UCAS points as I progressed through the course, I knew I had the grades for university. I applied to four and got four offers."

Emyr Thomas opted for a work-related course rather than taking the traditional A level route. He chose this job-ready route because he believed it would be beneficial for university, giving him the upper hand on students who had followed the traditional A level route. Emyr is currently studying Computer Science at Cardiff University.



BTEC Recognition

BTECs are understood and recognised by a large number of organisations in a wide range of sectors. BTEC qualifications are developed with key industry representatives and sector skills councils ensuring we meet employer and student needs.

Many industry and professional bodies offer successful BTEC students exemptions for their own accredited qualifications. A Recognition Directory is available from Edexcel to those seeking to qualify for professional memberships following the achievement of BTEC HNCs and HNDs.

For more information on professional recognition for BTECs, please contact our customer services team on 0844 576 0026.

For more information see
www.edexcel.org.uk/btec
or call 0844 576 0026

Progression

BTECs allow students to move on to higher education, to progress further in their career, to start their career in a certain industry or in some instances give them the skills to start their own business. They allow the student flexibility and choice in what they choose to do.

The table below shows all the educational progression routes available to BTEC students together with their more traditional equivalents:

NQF Level	Qualification title	Equivalent to	No of units/GLH	Overall grade	Progression	Availability	
						Pre-16	Post-16
5	BTEC Higher National Diploma	Foundation Degrees, Dip HE	16 units 960 GLH	N/A	Bachelors Degree, employment		✓
	BTEC Higher National Certificate	Intermediate level qualifications	10 units 600 GLH	N/A	BTEC HND, Bachelors Degree, employment		✓
3	BTEC National Diploma	3 GCE A levels	18 units 1080 GLH	✓	BTEC HND/HNC, Foundation Degree, Bachelors Degree, NVQ, employment		✓
	BTEC National Certificate	2 GCE A levels	12 units 720 GLH	✓	BTEC HND/HNC, Foundation Degree, Bachelors Degree, NVQ, employment		✓
	BTEC National Award	1 GCE A level	6 units 360 GLH	✓	BTEC HND/HNC, Foundation Degree, Bachelors Degree, NVQ, employment		✓
	BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	N/A	9 units 600 GLH	✓	Bachelors Degree (Art & Design), BTEC HND/HNC, NVQ, employment		✓
2	BTEC First Diploma	4 GCSEs (A*-C)	6 units 360 GLH	✓	BTEC National, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
	BTEC First Certificate	2 GCSEs (A*-C)	3 units 180 GLH	✓	BTEC National, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
1	BTEC Introductory Diploma	4 GCSEs (D-G)	360 GLH	✓	BTEC First, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
	BTEC Introductory Certificate	2 GCSEs (D-G)	180 GLH	✓	BTEC First, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
E	BTEC Entry Level Certificate in Life Skills	N/A	6 units 180 GLH	✓	BTEC Introductory, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
	BTEC Entry Level Certificate in Skills for Working Life	N/A	6 units 180 GLH	✓	BTEC Introductory, NVQ, employment	✓	✓

GLH = Guided Learning Hours

BTEC Development and Professional Development Qualifications

There are BTEC short course qualifications at levels 1-7, leading to BTEC Diplomas, BTEC Certificates and BTEC Awards that are designed to accredit knowledge, skills and understanding for a specific area of work. These qualifications have variable sizes and progression routes and no formal equivalences.



Progression to higher education and beyond

"It is difficult to say at 16 where you want to spend your working life. A BTEC opens up avenues such as university whilst also being relevant to your profession. BTEC formed the basis of my engineering knowledge and proved to employers I had achieved an academic standard as well as practical skills."

Ben Hughes completed a BTEC HNC in Mechanical Engineering and went on to complete a BEng degree in Mechanical Engineering in which he achieved first class honours. In 2007, he was offered and accepted a PhD position with the Engineering Physical Sciences Research Centre (EPSRC), one of the most prestigious PhDs in the profession. In 2007, he was also the recipient of a Whitworth Scholarship, presented by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.