

31st May 2022

Status of Pearson BTEC qualifications

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide information on selected Pearson qualifications in the context of the UK education system, and on how the UK system and credits align to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and ECTS. This reflects UK ENIC's role to support understanding of UK qualifications internationally.

About the UK and European Frameworks

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) oversees the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) for England and Northern Ireland and maintains the Register of Regulated Qualifications. The RQF runs from Entry Level through to Level 8, where Levels 4-8 also align with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).

The RQF was referenced to the EQF in 2019, finding the following alignment:

FHEQ	RQF	EQF
	Entry 1	
	Entry 2	
	Entry 3	1
	1	2
	2	3
	3	4
4	4	5
5	5	6
6	6	7
7	7	8
8	8	

Status of Pearson awards

Pearson BTEC qualifications are included on the Ofqual register, with awards ranging from RQF Entry Level to Level 7 such as:

- BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificate
- BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma
- BTEC Level 7 Certificate/Diploma.

Higher National Certificates and Higher National Diplomas can alternatively be issued by degree-awarding bodies in the UK, under licence from Pearson.

Both the Pearson-issued and Pearson-licensed HNC and HND are recognised at Levels 4 and 5 respectively and have the same overall total qualification time (1200 and 2400 hours respectively).

In the UK, 1 higher education credit typically corresponds to 10 notional learning hours and as such institutions may consider at their discretion, the Higher National Certificate to be broadly 120 credits, and the Higher National Diploma to be broadly 240 credits. One ECTS credit represents approximately 25-30 learning hours and thus 1 credit in the UK can be considered 2-3 ECTS.

I hope this provides useful information to support understanding of Pearson BTEC awards for the purposes of further study or progression.

Yours faithfully,



Abigail Jones
Head of International Research
UK ENIC, Ecctis