

# A Student's Guide to BTEC Higher National Diplomas



- A route to a degree
- Skills for employment
- Flexibility and choice

# Introducing BTEC Higher National Diplomas

For more than 30 years, BTEC Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) have helped thousands of people gain the skills they need to make progress in their lives. Engaging and inspiring, these work-related qualifications provide a practical, real-world approach to learning. Because they are developed in consultation with employers and universities they are recognised and valued around the world for progressing directly into employment or advanced entry to a degree course.

## 1 Employability

Gain industry-standard skills that give you an employability edge in the jobs marketplace.

## 2 Mobility

Use your HND to get a degree at one of hundreds of universities worldwide.

## 3 Flexibility

Choose from a wide range of subjects, pathways and units, to study an HND that matches your needs.

## 4 Real-world learning

Acquire real-world skills through modular learning and practical assessment.



**“I find that the average BTEC student is an independent learner, they find it easy to adapt to university life and have a more mature outlook. Because BTEC courses are aimed directly at industry they also have a clearer understanding of how their study relates to jobs.”**

Mark Wallman, Course Leader and Senior Lecturer for Visual Effects, University of Hertfordshire, UK.

# What are BTEC HNDs?

BTEC HNDs are international qualifications aimed at students aged 18 and above. They provide a programme of work-related, specialist learning that reflects the professional skills demanded by employers.

## What will I learn?

Each BTEC HND qualification is based on modern industry practice. Learning is broken down into units, each helping you gain a specific set of in-depth skills and knowledge. The overall qualification structure is designed to provide you with all the essential competencies needed for the workplace, through a choice of units tailored to your needs.

## How long does a BTEC HND take?

Because of the in-depth nature of BTEC HND learning, the qualification is typically studied over two academic years as a full-time course. Many BTEC HND providers also help their learners connect with industry through work experience, helping them to see first-hand how the skills they are gaining apply in the workplace.

**“Students who gain BTEC Higher National Diplomas are favourably reviewed by employers. BTEC is an excellent example of vocational education.”**

Maqun Wu, Principal of Beijing Information Technology College, China.

## What can I do with my BTEC HND?

Once you have your BTEC HND you can progress directly into employment in your chosen industry. You can also gain advanced entry onto the second or third year of one of more than a thousand degree courses at one of hundreds of universities worldwide.

**The choice is yours.**

# Learning the BTEC HND way

Undertaking a BTEC HND is about taking knowledge and skills and applying them in practice, helping you to relate technical theory to the real world.

## Business

As a Business HND student, you would not just learn about marketing theory - you would also apply this theory to producing a marketing plan for a new business.

## Creative Media Production

As a Creative Media Production HND student, you would not just learn how to use a film camera - you would also apply this skill to planning and simulating production of a television news show.

## Computing and Systems Development

As a Computing and Systems Development HND student, you would not just learn about web authoring - you would also design and build your own website.

## Fashion and Textiles

As a Fashion and Textiles HND student, you would not just learn design techniques - you would also apply these techniques to researching a specific design theme to produce your own textiles portfolio.

## Engineering

As an Engineering HND student, you would not just learn the principles of thermodynamics - you would also apply these principles to designing and building your own thermodynamic system.

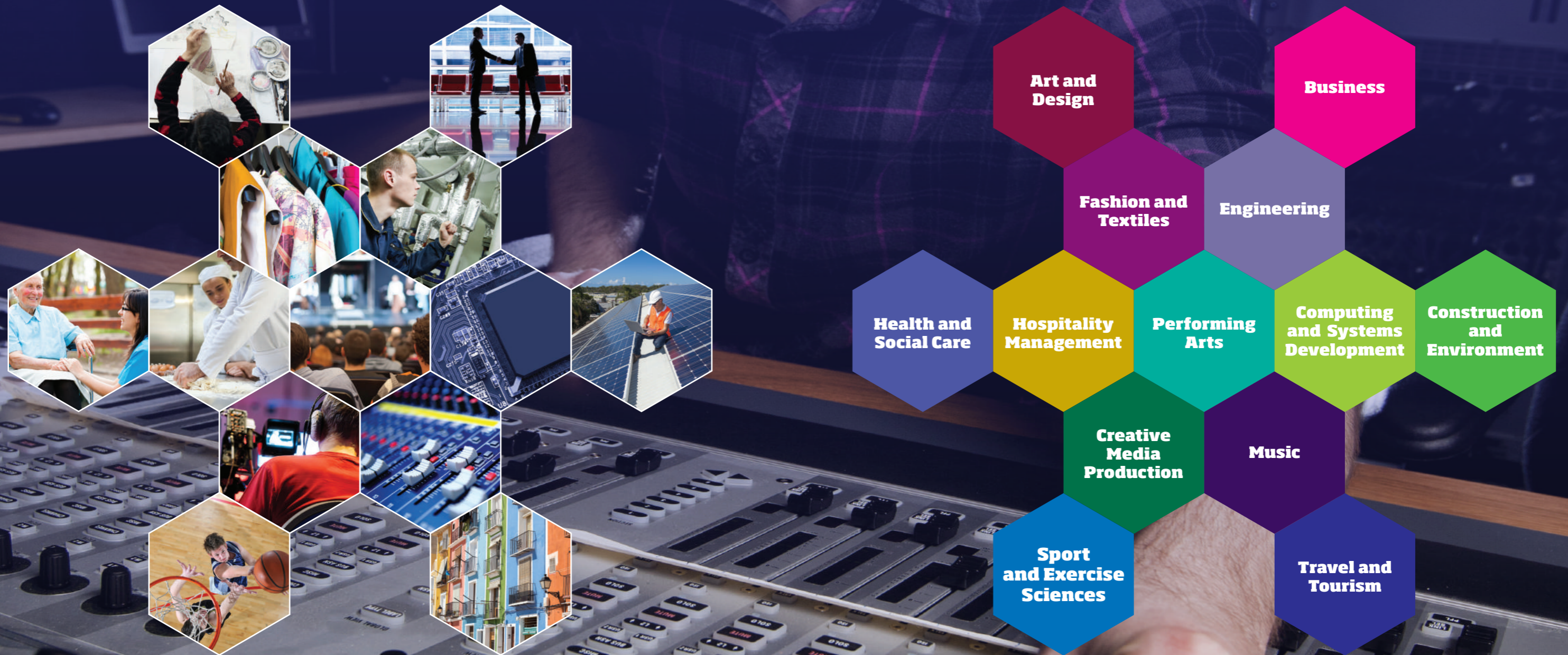
## Assessment

BTEC HND learning is closely linked to assessment. When you start each unit you will have a clear idea of the things you are going to learn and why you need to learn them - and you will also know exactly how what you learn will be assessed. BTEC HND assessment is done through assignments, which give you the chance to showcase the skills and knowledge you gain by applying them to the kind of task you might undertake in the workplace. It is precisely because of this assessment style's relevance to life in the workplace that the qualifications are so highly valued by employers.

\*Some HND courses can even be studied in your local language.

# Which sectors do BTEC HNDs cover?

BTEC HNDs are divided into areas that correspond to real industry sectors. Most sector areas have BTEC HNDs in a number of specialisation pathways, providing a real range of study choices. Get in touch with your local BTEC HND centre to find out more about what options are available to you.



# What can I do with my BTEC HND?

## Progress to employment

Because of the industry-relevant skills and knowledge BTEC HNDs are based on, many employers, including Shell, BAE Systems, PWC and Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, actively recruit applicants with these qualifications. Many institutions that deliver BTEC HNDs have close links with local employers and often provide their own progression pathways into employment with these companies and organisations. In addition, over 70 professional bodies recognise BTEC HNDs for membership.

In an increasingly competitive global jobs marketplace, a BTEC HND will help you stand out from the crowd.

## Progress to a degree

BTEC HNDs are highly valued by universities all over the world and are widely recognised as equivalent to the first two years of a degree course, which allows you to go straight into the final year of many degree courses – known as a top-up degree. Studying a BTEC HND is a great way to experience a blend of local and overseas study on your route to a degree. Some BTEC HND providers work directly with universities to give their learners the chance to get their top-up degree in the same place they studied their HND.

To find out where your BTEC HND can take you, visit the Degree Course Finder, where you can search from more than 1,500 degree courses at nearly 300 universities worldwide.

[degreecoursefinder.pearson.com](http://degreecoursefinder.pearson.com)



**"My BTEC HND gave me a mix of academic and practical learning. It helped me gain a range of transferable skills like time management and interpersonal skills. As you work a lot as a team, I also gained useful leadership skills as well."**

Alexandros Pamnani. A former BTEC HND student who went on to study a top-up degree at the University of Loughborough (UK), was named Engineer of the Year 2012 and recently set up his own charity - Future4All.

95% of UK Higher Education Institutes

nearly **300 universities worldwide** - including many of *The Times* top 100 ranked universities internationally

over **70 professional bodies** - including the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), Management, Accounting and Engineering Institutions

**international employers** such as Shell, BAE Systems, PWC and Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group

**...all recruit BTEC HND graduates.**

The infographic consists of four horizontal sections, each with an icon on the left and text on the right. The icons are: a hexagon with a white shape inside, a graduation cap, a starburst, and a globe. The background is a solid orange color.

## About Pearson

BTEC HNDs come from Pearson. At the core of everything we do is the desire to make a measurable impact on improving people's lives through learning. Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. From primary to secondary school, through to professional certification; our qualifications, curriculum materials, multimedia learning tools and testing programmes help to educate millions of people worldwide.

Find out more at [Pearson.com](http://Pearson.com)



## About BTEC

BTEC HNDs are part of Pearson's suite of BTEC qualifications. The world's most successful, best-loved applied learning brand, BTEC has been engaging learners in practical, interpersonal and thinking skills for more than 30 years. Designed to meet the needs of employers, BTECs are work-related qualifications for learners taking their first steps into employment, progressing through their careers or planning to enter university.

Find out more at [qualifications.pearson.com/BTEC](http://qualifications.pearson.com/BTEC)

## BTEC learners in numbers

- ◆ 1,700,000+ students choose BTEC courses every year
- ◆ 87% satisfied or very satisfied with their BTEC
- ◆ 76% boosted confidence by studying a BTEC
- ◆ 90% said studying a BTEC was important for further studies
- ◆ 90% said studying a BTEC was important for getting job

**"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, Vice Principal,  
Cambridge International School, Dubai.

# There's a BTEC HND to suit every type of student

To find out where a BTEC HND could take you:

- ◆ get in touch with your local BTEC centre
- ◆ or email [internationalqualifications@pearson.com](mailto:internationalqualifications@pearson.com)



Learn more about BTECs at  
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/BTEC>