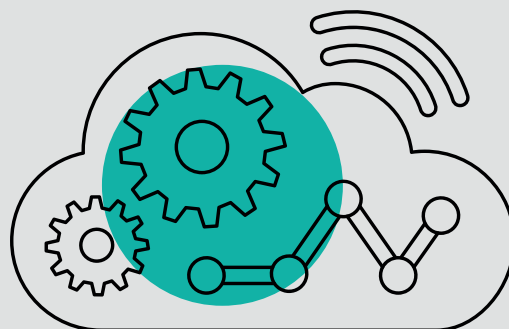


BTEC Higher Nationals in Digital Technologies

Pearson worked with South Central IoT (a collaboration between Milton Keynes College, professional bodies and several employer and higher education partners) to produce BTEC Higher National Qualifications in Digital Technologies.



The purpose of these qualifications is to develop students as professional, self-reflecting individuals able to meet the demands of employers in the digital sector and adapt to a constantly changing world. The qualifications aim to widen access to employment, apprenticeships and higher education, and enhance the career prospects of those who undertake them. Finally, to offer students the chance of career progression in their chosen field.

The aims of the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Digital Technologies are:

- to give students the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to achieve high performance in the national and international digital technologies environment
- to develop students with enquiring minds, who have the abilities and confidence to work across different digital technologies functions and to lead, manage, respond to change, and tackle a range of complex digital technologies
- to provide the core skills required for a range of careers in digital technologies, including cyber security, software development, data analytics, networking, animation, software testing, business analysis and change management
- to offer a balance between employability skills and the knowledge essential for students with entrepreneurial, employment or academic ambitions
- to develop students' understanding of the major impact that digital technologies have on the business environment
- to provide insight into digital technology operations and the opportunities and challenges presented by a global marketplace
- to equip students with knowledge and understanding of culturally diverse organisations, cross-cultural issues, diversity and values
- to allow flexible study to meet local and specialist needs.





Course Content

The qualifications have been designed to focus on the following 8 occupational specialisms/standards:

1. Business Analyst
2. Cyber Security Technologist
3. Data Analyst
4. Digital Community Manager
5. Junior Animator
6. Network Engineer
7. Software Developer
8. Software Tester

These occupational standards have been complemented by a range of specialist pathways, in addition to a general pathway within the specification.

The unit structure within the specialist pathways have been designed to reflect the eight occupational standards, in addition to providing alignment to a range of Apprenticeship Standards. As such, there is no flexibility with the combination of units studied at Level 4 and the opportunity for minimal optionality at Level 5. The general pathway provides greater flexibility, however, it is important that centres are cognisant of the "rules of combination", as detailed in the specification, to ensure that a barred combination of units are not delivered.



Pathways

Cyber Security and Cloud Networking, Software Development and Programming, Data Analytics, Games and Animation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solutions and Applications, Web and Content Management, Business Analytics and Change Management.



Approval

Centres who currently have existing approval to deliver the HNs in Computing, Creative Media Production or Business will need to apply for approval to deliver the HN in Digital Technologies. Centres who have approval to deliver the HN in Cloud Computing can be auto approved.



Progression opportunities

The Level 4 Higher National Certificate provides a solid grounding, enabling students to specialise, which students can build on if they decide to continue their studies. The Level 5 Higher National Diploma allows students to specialise by committing to specific career paths and progression routes to degree-level study. Once students have achieved the Level 4 Higher National Certificate or the Level 5 Higher National Diploma, they can develop their careers in the respective sector by:

- entering employment
- continuing existing employment
- linking with the appropriate professional body
- committing to continuing professional development, or
- going to university.



Next steps

For more information, contact highernationals@pearson.com