

January 2015

**Important, please read:  
English language expectations for students on BTEC Higher National (HN)  
programmes that are assessed in English – Update 2**

Dear Head of Centre,

Following on from our communication to you in May 2014, regarding the English language expectations for students on BTEC HN programmes that are assessed in English, I am writing to update you on our expectations of all centres when recruiting students from 1 April 2015 on the existing BTEC HN programmes that are assessed in English.

**What has changed?**

For parity and consistency, we expect all centres delivering BTEC HN programmes to ensure that all students that are assessed in English, who are non-native English speakers, or who have not studied the final two years of school in English, can demonstrate capability in English at a standard commensurate to:

- **IELTS 5.5, with a minimum of 5.0 being awarded on individual sections, for a level 4 or 5 qualification**
- **IELTS 6.5 for a level 6 or 7 qualification**
- **PTE Academic score of 42 to 49, for a level 4 or 5 qualification**
- **PTE Academic score of 58 to 64, for a level 6 or 7 qualification**

**Is my centre required to consider the above expectation when recruiting learners?**

Yes. Whilst this is not yet a mandatory entry requirement for existing BTEC HN programmes, we expect you to recruit students that have a level of English comparable to the above.. This is because higher level BTEC programmes require students to have this level of English language ability in order to benefit from HN study.

**How will my centre demonstrate the level of English language expectation?**

All centres are expected to recruit students with integrity, to ensure that students have the skills to enable them to benefit from the programme of study. You will be expected to demonstrate how your admissions processes achieve this with regard to the applicants' level of English; this can be achieved in a variety of ways [for example if they've passed an English language test or hold an English language qualification].

In addition, students' level of English ability will be evidenced in the standard of written English used by the student when producing evidence for assessment.

If the International Standards Verifier reviews any student work that does not demonstrate advanced levels of knowledge and understanding in an appropriate level of English, then he/she will work with you to find a solution.

### **What about applicants without this level of English?**

It is possible for students to be taught and assessed in their native language. Their certificate will then include the statement, "Assessed in a Language Other than English". If this is appropriate for your students then you must notify your Pearson regional representative before the start of the programme so that this can be arranged.

### **What about existing students registered on the course without this level of English?**

As this is a new expectation being introduced, it will only apply to students registering from April 2015. This does not apply to students already registered on programmes.

### **Who do I contact for support?**

If you have any queries regarding this guidance, please contact your Pearson regional representative in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



**David Crowther**  
**Director of International Products and Global Partnerships**