



Pearson Licensed Higher Technical Qualifications FAQs

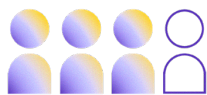
July 2026

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Introduction

This document provides answers to additional questions from new and current Licensed HN partners considering developing and/or delivering Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs).



If you are **not a Licensed HN partner** but interested in delivering HTQs, please **get in touch** with us at:

LicenseHN@pearson.com



Frequently asked questions

Q1

I am new to Pearson Licensed HNs. What do I need to do to deliver HTQs under the Pearson Licensed Agreement(s)?

If you are interested in offering Licensed HTQs, please contact us at LicenseHN@pearson.com. We can guide you through the process and next steps.

Useful resources

The following resources will help you understand the offer and requirements:

- An Introduction to Licensed Higher Nationals [flyer](#) and [video](#).
- [Licensed HN web page](#) for key information, guidance and forms.
- [Licensed HN Centre guide](#) for detailed guidance.
- Pearson's list of currently [approved Higher Technical Qualifications](#) (HTQs).
- Please note that, in some sectors, both the HNC and HND are not approved as HTQs. For example, in Computing, Digital Technologies and Early Years, only the HND carries the quality mark. Please check before requesting approval.

Next steps

1. After reviewing the information, complete the [Licensed-HNs-Centre-Approval-Form](#) and sign the relevant Licence Agreement(s).
2. Once this is complete, you can begin the programme approval process. All required forms are available on our [Licensed HN web page](#).



I am an existing Licensed HN partner. Can I deliver HTQs under my Licensed Agreement(s)?

Yes. Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals (HNs) approved as HTQs are available exclusively through our **Intellectual Property (IP) Licence**. Refer to column 1 in the HTQ consent grid.

HTQ consent grid (updated August 2025)

Provider wants to submit an HTQ which...	1 ...is an Ofqual regulated Pearson BTEC Higher National	2 ...uses their own content but has 'Higher National Certificate/Diploma' (HNC/HND) in the title
Higher Education Institutions (HEI) with validating powers	Pearson will submit a number of Higher Nationals as HTQs. Any HEI can seek approval from Pearson to deliver those Higher National HTQ(s) under the Intellectual Property (IP) Licensed Agreement. No requirement for HEI to make any submissions to Skills England.	Advance consent from Pearson required to use the Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma Trademark(s) under licence and the PROPOSED HTQ title must be different to existing Pearson's EQUIVALENT BTEC Higher Nationals and Higher Technical Qualification/s title Consent must be obtained before the HTQ submission to Skills England, ideally at the start of the development. HEI responsible to make submission to Skills England
Higher Education Institutions (HEI) without validating powers	Pearson will submit a number of Higher Nationals for HTQ approval. Eligible Pearson Approved centres can receive approval to deliver the Higher National HTQ(s). No requirement for provider to make any submissions to Skills England.	Providers can choose to work with Pearson to co-design a Higher National HTQ, for submission by Pearson, which meets their local needs. Providers can choose to work with a licensed HEI to co-design a Higher National (HTQ). The HEI will need advance consent from Pearson prior to submission to Skills England, ideally at the start of the development.

Key benefits of approved HTQs under the IP Licence include:

- [Skills England](#) (formerly IfATE) approval is already in place.
- No submission to Skills England is required from your institution.
- The content is fully developed and ready for delivery.
- The qualification is supported by industry and employers.

These [approved HTQs](#) can be validated, delivered, quality assured and awarded in the same way as your own qualifications, provided the content¹ is not changed. Pearson content must only be used under the IP Licence.

Q3

When should I contact Pearson about my HTQ submission to Skills England?

Contact Pearson as early as possible, before any development begins. The Skills England application process requires consent from the intellectual property and/or trademark owner. Please refer to the column 2 in the [HTQ consent grid](#) above.

Important: you must obtain Pearson's consent for HTQ titles **before starting development**. Please complete the [HTQ Consent form](#) to request title approval.

Q4

Can I develop my own HTQ under the HN Licence and submit to Skills England?

Yes. This may be possible under your Trademark Licence agreement with Pearson. If you want to develop your own HTQ(s) using the Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma Trademark(s) and submit them to [Skills England](#) for approval, you should contact us as early as possible.

We will discuss the key information and guiding principles Pearson needs to approve use of the licence for this purpose, including HTQ titling principles. See column 2 of the [HTQ consent grid](#) above.

Q5

What are the key principles for titling my HTQs under a Trademark Licence?

The title of your HTQ must be different from existing Pearson's approved BTEC HNC/HND/HTQ titles including pathways.

Title requirements:

- You must not use the words **Pearson**, **BTEC** or '**for England**' in your title.
- Review the full list of [approved HTQs](#) to avoid duplicating any existing title(s).
- You can differentiate your title by adding a prefix, suffix, for example, **Applied**, **Higher Apprenticeship**, an employer name, **or** an occupational standard. For example: HND **Applied** Computing **or** HNC Computing (**Pearson**) **or** HND Computing (**Higher Apprenticeship**) **or** HND **Higher Apprenticeship** in Computing.

Mapping requirements:

- If you use a title such as 'HNC/HND in Construction', you must complete the mapping to show the core and specialist mandatory content of Pearson's HTQ maps to your proposed HTQ, to demonstrate alignment to the occupational standards
- Mapping guidance and template can be found on our [Licensed HN web page](#)
- Once Pearson has approved the title under the Trademark Licence, it can be included in your submission to Skills England. You may publish and promote the programme on your website only after both Pearson and Skills England have approved it as an HTQ.

How and where can I use the HTQ quality mark?



When delivering Higher Nationals under licence that are approved as HTQs, you must use the HTQ quality mark carefully and in line with the relevant guidance.

Where can you use the quality mark?

The quality mark may be used only in relation to an approved HTQ to:

- Show that a qualification has been approved by [Skills England](#) and to promote a specific course leading to that HTQ for careers information and guidance
- Explain and promote the Higher Technical Qualifications programme more broadly

Important conditions:

The quality mark should be used only for approved HTQs and must not imply endorsement of any other qualifications you deliver. For details on who can use the mark, how it should be applied, and how to download the logo, refer to the GOV.UK [Higher Technical Qualifications provider toolkit](#), the [HTQ Terms and Conditions](#), and the [HTQ quality mark guidelines](#).

Is the approval and Edexcel Online (EOL) registration processes different for HTQs under Licence?

No. The approval and Edexcel Online (EOL) registration process for HTQs under licence is the same as for other Licensed HNs.

Once you have received approval from Skills England, complete the [Licensed HN New Programme Application form](#), so the HTQ programme can be approved and added to EOL. This form can be found on the [Licensed HN web page](#).

Are Licensed HTQ registration fees the same as the Licensed HN fees?

No. Licensed HTQ fees are different from Licensed HN fees. Full fee information is available in the current Fee Booklet on the [Licensed HN web page](#).

Is the length of the approval period different for HTQs under Licence?

No. The licence approval period for Higher Nationals approved as HTQs is also five years, which is the same as for other Licensed Higher Nationals.

Q10

Will I still need to complete the Institutional Review Report (IRR) for HTQs under Licence?

Yes. All Licensed HEI partners must complete the Annual IRR. It is used to gather and review key information and data from Licensed HEI partners, which is then reviewed and reported anonymously in the Annual IRR report.

Q11

I cannot see my question above, who can I contact for information?

If you have any further questions, please contact the Licensed Higher Nationals team at LicenseHN@pearson.com.



