

A background image of a smiling man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing an orange crewneck sweater. He is holding a tablet in his left hand. The image is overlaid with large, semi-transparent circular shapes in shades of purple and blue. The text 'Licensed Higher Nationals Fees:' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font over a dark blue circular area at the bottom left.

Licensed Higher Nationals Fees:

1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027

Level 4 and 5 Higher Nationals under licence

The Licensed Higher Nationals Agreement allow Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with degree-awarding powers, such as universities, to award their own **Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Higher National Diplomas (HNDs)**.

Licensed Higher National partners have responsibilities for the quality assurance of their own Licensed Higher National programme.

HEIs wishing to offer Licensed Higher Nationals must first be approved by the Licensed HN Partnerships Manager. This approval process is different from the regular Pearson BTEC Higher National centre approval or programme approval.

Licensed HN Centre Approval Fee	£1,000
Annual Centre Fee	£225.60

There are two licences:

The **Intellectual Property Licence** enables the licensed partner to award the HNC or HND under their own name, using the programme and curriculum content from the Pearson BTEC Higher National programme. This applies to both Higher Nationals RQF and Higher Technical Qualifications.

The **Trademark Licence** permits the licensed partner to award the HNC and HND under their own name, utilising their unique naming conventions and curriculum (subject to meeting Pearson requirements).



Registration Fees 2026/27

Intellectual Property Licence	
Level 4 HNC - Intellectual Property Licence	£214.76
Level 5 HND - Intellectual Property Licence	£287.78
Level 4 HNC - Intellectual Property Licence (HTQ)	£214.76
Level 5 HND - Intellectual Property Licence (HTQ)	£309.23

Trademark Licence	
Level 4 HNC - Trademark Licence	£171.81
Level 5 HND - Trademark Licence	£230.22
Level 4 HNC - Trademark Licence (HTQ)	£171.81
Level 5 HND - Trademark Licence (HTQ)	£247.38

Please note: The fees already includes the discounted rates for HEIs.



Top-up fees & drop-down refunds 2026/27



Top-Up

A top-up fee is charged when a learner who has completed a qualification and received a certificate wants to extend this to a larger qualification from the same specification.

Please note the fees are calculated on the basis that both the initial and the top up registrations are processed in the 2026/27 price list year (1 August 2026 - 31 July 2027).



Top-up Fees

Trademark Licence

Level 4 HNC /HTQ TM to Level 5 HND TM **£87.96**

Level 4 HNC/HTQ TM to Level 5 HND TM (HTQ) **£105.12**

Intellectual Property Licence

Level 4 HNC/HTQ IP to Level 5 HND IP **£102.57**

Level 4 HNC/HTQ IP (HTQ) to Level 5 HND IP (HTQ) **£124.02**



Drop-down refunds

Where a learner is unlikely to complete the necessary credits to gain certification in the programme on which they are registered, they may be able to 'drop-down' via a transfer to a smaller programme in the same specification.

When this happens, a credit (refund) is normally due, minus an administration fee. The refund due is calculated as the difference between the cost of the larger and smaller qualification, minus an administration fee of 50% of the difference between the two.

This administration fee is capped at **£29.55**.

HN Flex under licence

HN Flex under IP Licence	
HN Flex per unit (15 credits 60 GLH)	£52.95

Top-up from HN Flex under Licence				
Initial HN Flex product	Top-up product	Initial Product Fee	Product Fee for IP HNC RQF/HNC HTQ	Top-up Fees
1 Unit 15 credits 120 GLH	Level 4 HNC/HTQ under IP Licence	£52.95	£214.76	£191.36
2 Units 30 credits 60 GLH	Level 4 HNC/HTQ under IP Licence	£105.90	£214.76	£138.41
3 Units 45 credits 180 GLH	Level 4 HNC/HTQ under IP Licence	£158.85	£214.76	£85.46
4 Units 60 credits 240 GLH	Level 4 HNC/HTQ under IP Licence	£211.80	£214.76	£32.51





Registration timelines

Deadline for Registrations

The deadline to register learners on programmes that follow the academic year is **15th November**. If you register a learner after this date, we'll charge a late registration fee.

Late Registration Fees

For programmes following the academic year cycle, late registration fees will be charged according to the dates below:

- Registrations received between **16 November 2026** and **23 December 2026** will be charged at **1.05 x fee**.
- Registrations received between **24 December 2026** and **31 January 2027** will be charged at **1.1 x fee**.
- Registrations received on or after **1 February 2027** will be charged at **1.25 x fee**.

Please refer to the BTEC section of the [Understanding our vocational qualification fees](#) manual for further information.

For programmes that **do not follow the academic year** (i.e., programmes where learners have enrolled between November and August), or for any programmes of **less than one academic year** in length, late registration fees will be charged **four (4) weeks** after enrolment at **1.25 x fee** for all qualifications.

Pearson reserves the right to make additional quality assurance checks (at the customer's cost), if the volume of late registrations is abnormally high.

FAQs

These apply to all vocational Pearson Edexcel and Pearson BTEC qualifications, including Licensed Higher Nationals.

Are these fees final?

Fees are not likely to change during the period covered by this document (August 2026 – July 2027). Please check our website for the latest updates.

Deletions

Deletions for all Higher Nationals, regardless of whether your programme follows an academic year, must be made **within 49 days** of the student starting the programme of study (not from the date of EOL registration). Any deletions made **50 days or more** after the student's start date will not be eligible for a full refund.

Can I get a refund for my BTEC registration fees?

If you're delivering an academic-year programme, the deadline to delete a learner and receive a refund is 31 December 2026. If you submit a deletion request after 31 December 2026, we won't issue a refund of the registration fee.

Where can late fees be found?

You'll find our late fee charges in this guide.

What are top-up fees?

A top-up fee is the price difference between a smaller and a larger qualification plus a small administration fee.

What to do in the event of transfers?

A transfer is where the learner transfers their registration from one qualification to another before they have been certificated for the original qualification. No additional fee will be due where the fee for the new programme at the time of registration is the same as that paid for the original registration. Where the fee for the new programme is higher than that paid for the original registration, an invoice for the difference between the two fees will be issued.

Who does the new centres approval fee apply to?

New HEIs delivering qualifications under the Pearson Licence Agreement for the first time are subject to a fee of £1,000. Failure to pay this fee may result in withdrawal of approval.

What happens if the centre doesn't pay the new centre approval fee?

Unless the approval fee is paid, the centre will not be able to make registrations or claim certification.

Thank you



We would like to thank you and your colleagues for the incredible work that you continue to do to support your students to achieve the best possible outcome.





Here to help

If you need any help or advice about any of our qualifications, you can contact us directly via our [customer portal](#).