

Considering studying a BTEC in Construction?

We spoke to **Dudley College** student **Leon Foster**, about his experience studying BTEC Level 3 Construction and the Built Environment.



Why did you choose to study a BTEC in Construction?

To provide a base level knowledge of the industry, to hopefully continue my education at university and become an architect in the future.

What skills have you learnt as part of your BTEC course?

How to write professional looking documents like reports and risk assessments. Some technical knowledge of software such as Revit, AutoCAD and Microsoft Project. Acquired a good basic understanding of different construction sciences like civil engineering and material science. I've improved my mathematical skills and gained industry related knowledge and learned how to use industry related terminology. As well as time management and organizational skills relating to construction projects and project management.

How do you think BTEC will prepare you for work/further study?

The BTEC teaches specific knowledge relating to a specific field of construction that I am interested in, giving me the opportunity to have an initial understanding in the field I want to study at university.

I found this course through my own research and decided that BTEC was better suited for me.



What has been the best part of your BTEC course so far?

Learning CADD software, Civil engineering technology application in construction, Mathematics and building material science. Unit 19 I found really interesting, learning the mathematics behind civil engineering. I also enjoyed using Revit in unit 8 (graphical detailing).

What's been the most challenging thing about your BTEC course?

The mathematics in some units were challenging, but overall I think managing time properly to do multiple units at once and prioritizing units based on deadlines.

What are you planning on doing once you complete your course?

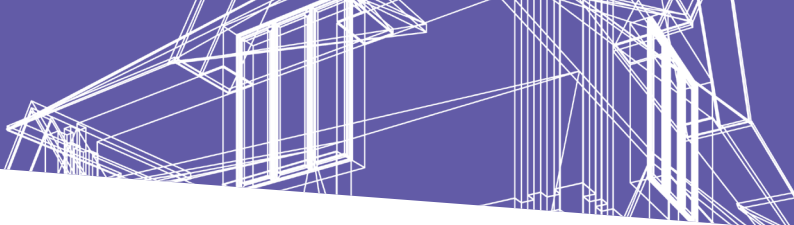
On completion of this BTEC course I plan to do an Architecture Degree at University, I have submitted my UCAS application.

What would you say to someone else thinking of doing a BTEC in Construction?

If you are undecided on what area of expertise you wish to go down then this course will help you decide. It will introduce different aspects of the Construction industry and provide a good foundation of knowledge. Over the duration of the first year you can identify your strengths and areas of construction you find interesting and what you want to know more about. You need good time management skills and need to be motivated to complete assignments on time, there are no exams but the pressure of completing written units can mount if you do not manage your time at college and home properly.

What was your perception of the Construction sector now compared to before you started your BTEC course?

I did not realize how complex construction projects could be and how many people were involved in completing a construction project. By doing this course, I have a better understanding of the skills I need to develop in order to be successful.



Did you always know what kind of job you wanted to do? Why did you think a BTEC would help with this?

I knew I wanted to do architecture, but this course challenged that thinking as I also really enjoyed the civil engineering aspect of the course. I wanted to do a course related specifically to the field I was interested in, a lot of students chose art-based courses to study at college when they want to be an architect, but I chose this course because I wanted to learn new things relating directly to the construction industry where an architect would work and the BTEC course has provided me with the necessary skills that will be needed in this field of specialization.

What's been your biggest achievement to date?

Achieving Distinction*Distinction* for my first year and being able to develop simple architecture design using Revit and manual drawing techniques.



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