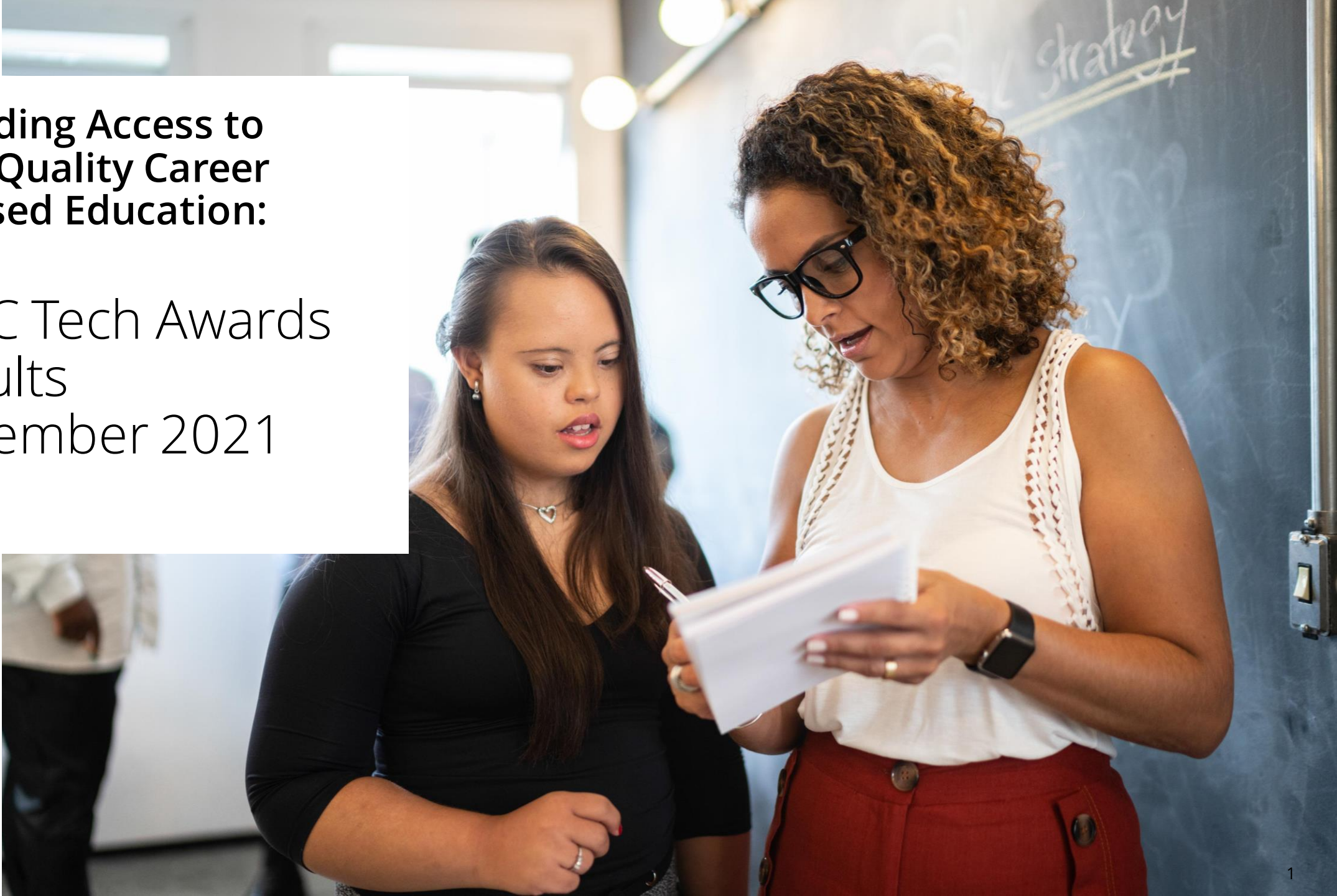# Providing Access to High Quality Career Focused Education:

BTEC Tech Awards Results November 2021

Pearson

Contents

BTEC Tech Awards Results 2021

BTEC is the leading internationally recognised qualification in career education

Supporting student progression to HE, careers & lifelong learning

Introduction: Understanding the BTEC Tech Awards

BTEC Tech Awards

- Level 1 and level 2 qualifications designed for **Key Stage 4 students in schools in England and Northern Ireland** to study alongside GCSEs.

- They're **the same size as a single GCSE**.

- Their aim: to give students a taste of what a sector is like, and the skills and confidence to take their next steps.

- Designed to meet the DfE's guidance for **Key Stage 4 performance measures** in England to count in the 'Open group' (non-EBacc category) of Progress 8.

BTEC L1/2 Tech Award qualifications

BTECs are high quality, future-focussed qualifications that provide learners with the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need to progress.

Many of these students are on their journey into UK sectors that are currently in great demand. Included in the class of 2021 are many future healthcare professionals and engineers who are so vital to the UK's economy.

There is increasing demand from young people for BTEC courses in UK schools. The combination of traditional academic learning with vocational and transferable skills allows young people to prepare for the possibilities that will be opened to them as the careers of the future evolve.

Awarding the BTEC Tech Awards in 2021

The approach to awarding grades this summer reflected the continued disruption that learners had faced to their teaching and learning due to the ongoing pandemic. The DfE and Ofqual, the regulator for both vocational and general qualifications, set the regulatory framework which all awarding organisations had to work within to issue results.

In line with the process for A level and GCSE results, schools and colleges were asked to determine a final 'Q-TAG' (Qualification-level Teacher Assessed Grade) for each of their BTEC students - a holistic judgement based on the evidence they have of the learner's performance in the qualification.

This evidence was from banked assessments that have already taken place, alongside alternative forms of evidence, like classwork, or mock assessments.

Pearson conducted external quality assurance so that the grades awarded across the system can command confidence. It helps that teacher-led internal assessment has always been a large part of how BTECs are graded, so we used a repurposed version of this familiar and established assessment process to underpin the way we awarded qualification results this year.

As in every year, there was an appeals process in place.

Summary overview of BTEC Tech Awards

Key headlines

This is the second year that all L1/L2 Tech Awards have been available for certification.

Five subjects have been available since 2018-19, with certifications for six more subjects available since 2019-20.

There has been an increase in entries across all 11 qualifications as centres continue to transition from the BTEC Firsts suites.

Health & Social Care, Enterprise and Digital Information Technology are the most popular subjects.

There has been a decrease at the top grade of L2D* whilst outcomes for the other grades have remained broadly stable with the last academic year.

Introduction: Understanding BTEC Tech Awards

BTEC Tech Awards give students the chance to discover their aptitude for a career in a particular sector and develop essential knowledge and skills.

Every BTEC Tech Award has the same **three components:**

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Explore the sector	**Develop knowledge, skills and best practices**	**Apply knowledge, skills and best practices**

These components build on each other to motivate your students by helping them put what they've learned into practice and grow in confidence.

Introduction: Understanding BTEC Tech Award Results

Data definitions
The results publication for the BTEC Tech Awards only reports outcomes for completed qualifications. This is different from the data rules used for the BTEC Firsts, where results are reported based on projected completions. This means these results for the BTEC Tech Awards refer to those people claiming this academic year rather than being dependent on a projected length of course.

What is a completion? In these results, a completion refers to qualifications where a learner has been awarded a grade for the qualification, which can include U (unclassified).

What is a Pass? – These results also show figures for learners who have passed the qualification (achieved a Pass grade or above). Learners who have completed but not passed are awarded U. To pass, learners must have completed the qualification, passed the externally assessed units and achieved the required number of points on the qualification as a whole.

Rounding
Numbers in these slides are generally rounded to the nearest multiple of 100. Smaller numbers may be rounded to the nearest 10.

The 2020-21 academic year
The academic year for the purpose of this results publication is normally from 1 September to 31 August; results are grouped according to the academic year in which they complete the qualification.

2021
Learner completions

BTEC Tech Awards

BTEC Tech Awards specifications for first teaching 2017

BTEC Tech Awards - 170,000 learners completing

BTEC Tech Awards: completion – All 11 subjects since 2019/20

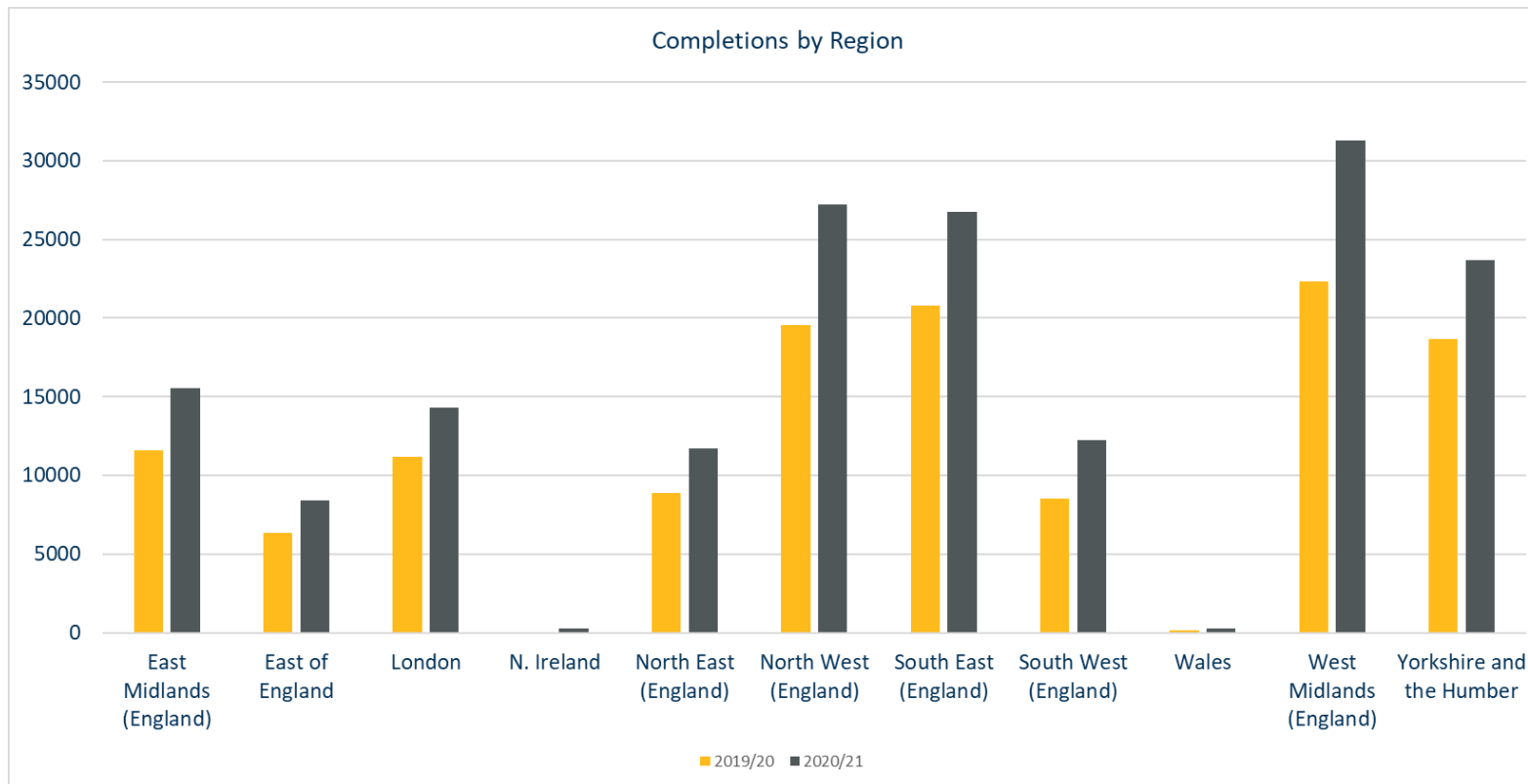| Sector	Completion		Change from previous year
	2019/20	2020/21	
Health And Social Care	32,300	47,100	+46%
Enterprise	28,000	39,700	+42%
Digital Information Technology	20,300	23,800	+17%
Performing Arts	19,900	21,200	+7%
Creative Media Production	10,500	12,200	+16%
Engineering	8,700	11,600	+33%
Sport, Activity And Fitness	3,800	6,900	+82%
Music Practice	1,300	2,800	+115%
Travel And Tourism	1,100	2,700	+145%
Art And Design Practice	1,600	2,400	+50%
Child Development	700	1,900	+171%

All eleven specifications for the BTEC Tech Awards had certifications in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Six of these, such as Digital Information Technology, had their first completions in 2019/20.

The BTEC Tech Awards appeal to learners nationwide
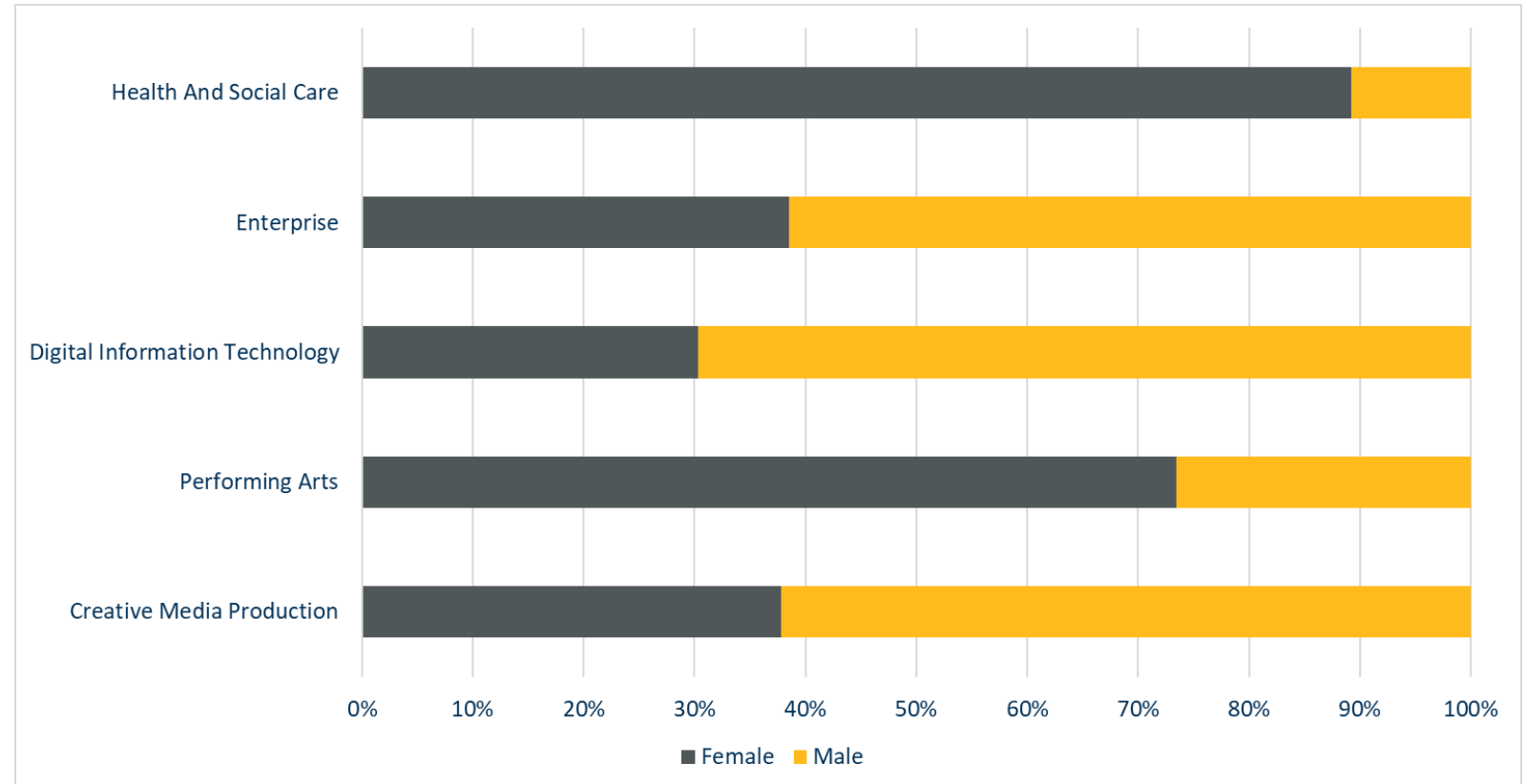
Outcomes by region

Completions by Region

The West Midlands has the highest number of learners completing the Tech Awards, and South East England the next highest in 2020-21.

Gender differences exist among subject choice

BTEC Tech Awards: 2020/21 top five sectors by volume and gender

Learners taking Health and Social Care and Performing Arts are more likely to be female, while learners
taking Enterprise, Digital Information Technology and Creative Media Production are more likely to be male.

Gender differences exist among subject choices

BTEC Tech Awards: 2020/21 top five sectors for female candidates
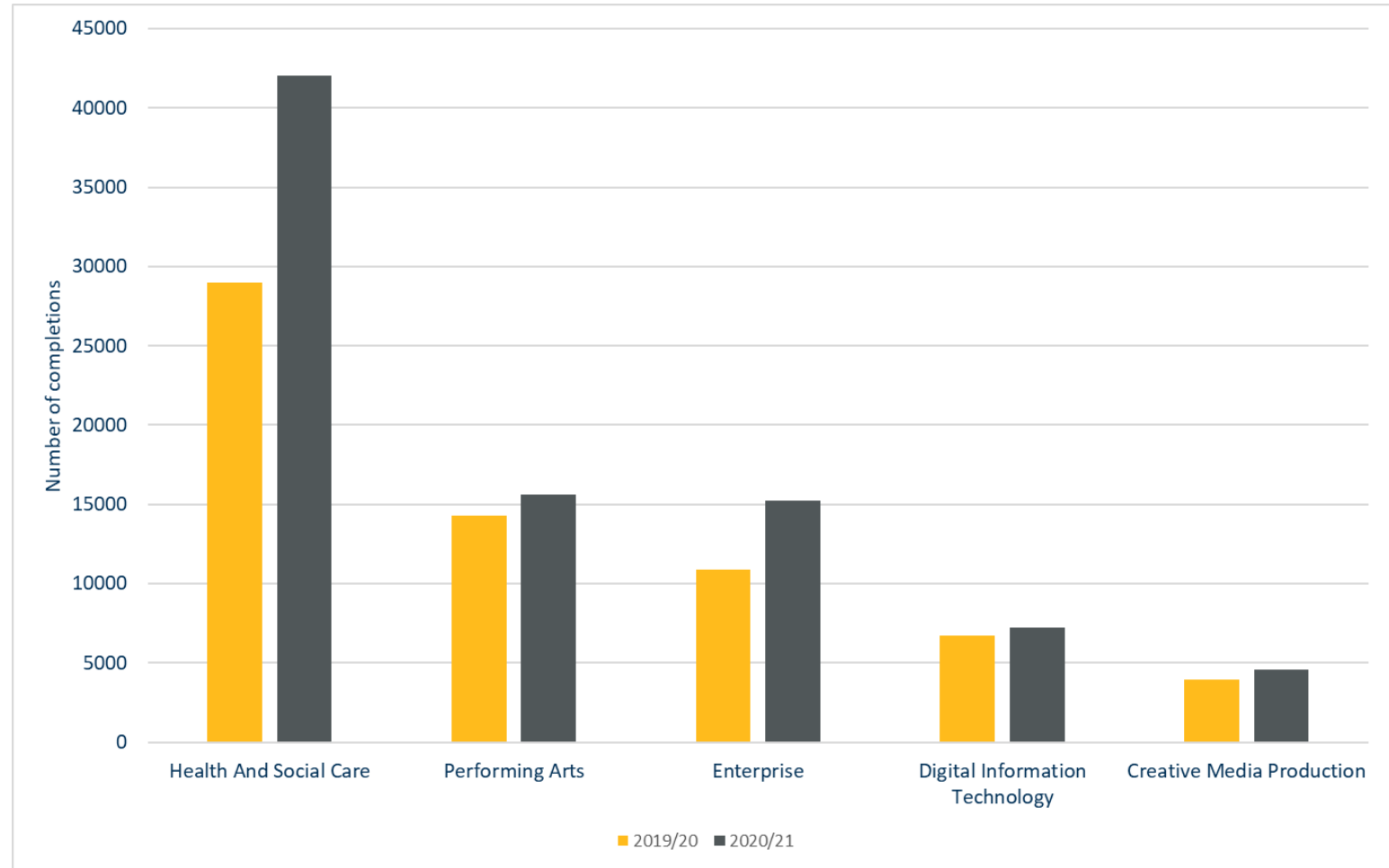
Learners taking Health and Social Care and Performing Arts are more likely to be female, but Enterprise, Digital Information Technology and Creative Media Production are also popular.

Gender differences exist among subject choices

BTEC Tech Awards: 2020/21 top five sectors by male candidates

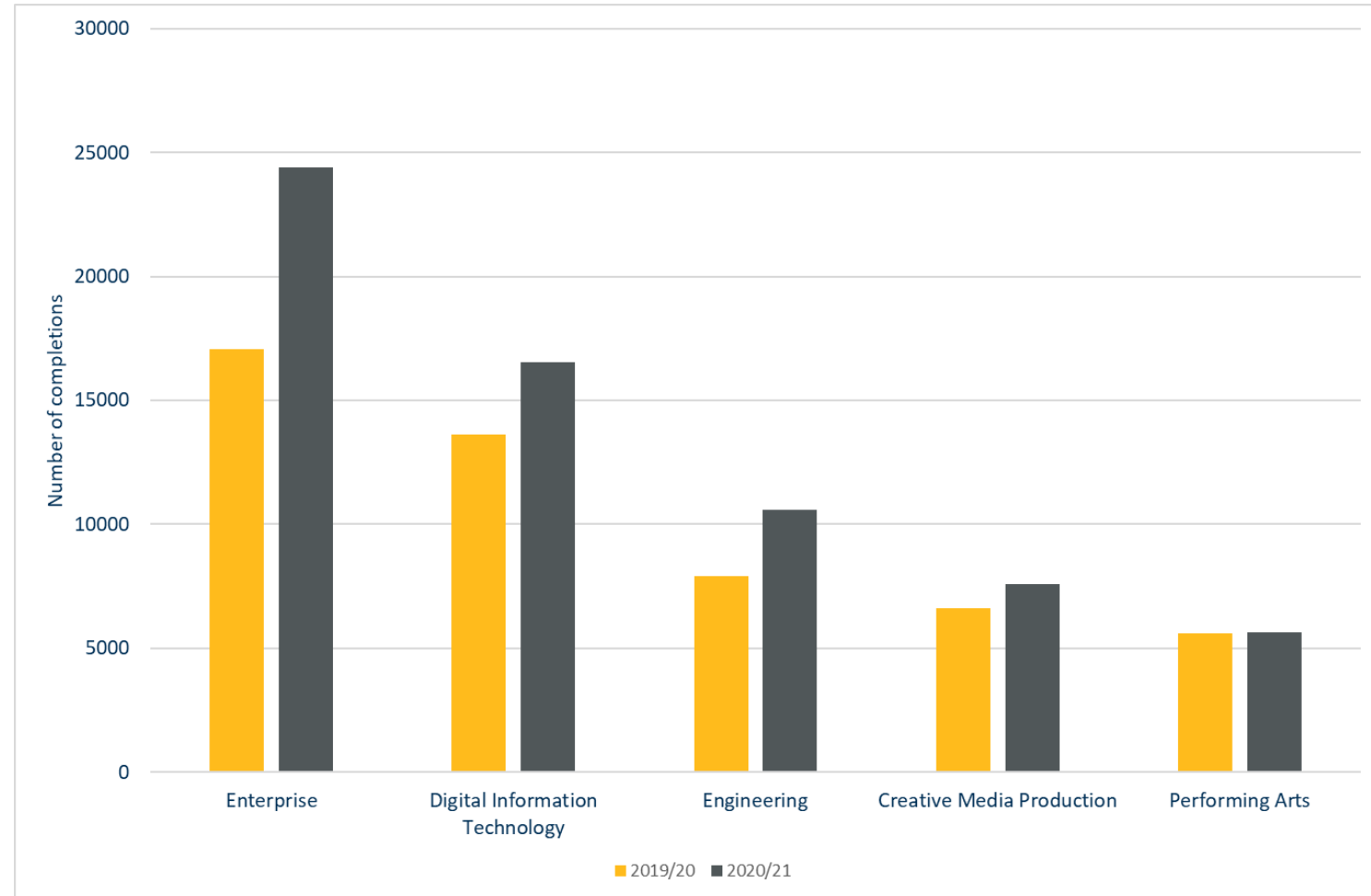Enterprise, Digital Information Technology, Engineering and Creative Media Production are most popular with male learners.

Learner achievement BTEC Tech Awards

BTEC Tech Awards specifications for first teaching 2017

BTEC Tech Awards grades explained

Qualification Grade	Grade name
L2D*	Level 2 Distinction Star
L2D	Level 2 Distinction
L2M	Level 2 Merit
L2P	Level 2 Pass
L1D	Level 1 Distinction
L1M	Level 1 Merit
L1P	Level 1 Pass
U	Unclassified

BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grades explained

Learners who pass the BTEC Tech Awards are awarded grades using the range from Level 1 Pass (L1P), the lowest qualifying grade, up to Level 2 Distinction Star (L2D*), the highest.

Learners who have not met the standard for a Level 1 Pass are graded U (Unclassified).

BTEC Tech Awards Results 2021 - achievement across the suite

BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grade distribution overview

The table below shows the percentage of learners on each grade for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Year	Completions	L2D*	L2D	L2M	L2P	L1D	L1M	L1P	U
2019/20	128,300	18.2%	13.0%	20.2%	33.9%	5.7%	4.9%	3.1%	1.1%
2020/21	172,400	10.8%	17.6%	24.3%	32.5%	6.9%	4.7%	3.1%	0.1%

Grades at pass and above for these qualification suite are awarded as a single grade which also indicates whether the grade is at Level 1 or Level 2, e.g. L1D.

The awarding of grades in 2019/20 and 2020/21 was completed under extraordinary regulatory conditions in place during that time. Therefore, comparisons to historical years should be viewed with caution.

BTEC Tech Awards Results 2021 - achievement across the suite by gender

BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grade distribution overview by gender

The table below shows the percentage of learners on each grade for 2019/20 and 2020/21, split by gender.

Sector	Gender	Learners in the gender cohort	Gender cohort as a percentage of annual cohort	Percentage of gender cohort with each outcome							
				L2D*	L2D	L2M	L2P	L1D	L1M	L1P	U
2019/20	Female	69,800	54.4%	22.7%	15.3%	20.8%	30.2%	4.8%	3.5%	1.9%	0.8%
	Male	58,500	45.6%	12.6%	10.4%	19.3%	38.5%	6.8%	6.5%	4.5%	1.5%
2020/21	Female	93,900	54.5%	14.2%	20.6%	25.1%	28.9%	5.6%	3.4%	2.1%	0.1%
	Male	78,500	45.5%	6.7%	13.9%	23.2%	36.9%	8.5%	6.2%	4.4%	0.2%

Grades at pass and above for these qualification suite are awarded as a single grade which also indicates whether the grade is at Level 1 or Level 2, e.g. L1D.

The awarding of grades in 2019/20 and 2020/21 was completed under extraordinary regulatory conditions in place during that time. Therefore, comparisons to historical years should be viewed with caution.

BTEC Tech Awards Results 2021 for each subject

BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grade distribution overview

This table shows the percentage of learners who have achieved each grade.

Sector	Completions	L2D*	L2D	L2M	L2P	L1D	L1M	L1P	U
Health And Social Care	47,100	11.9%	19.1%	23.5%	31.6%	7.1%	4.1%	2.6%	0.1%
Enterprise	39,700	9.7%	18.7%	23.2%	33.4%	7.3%	4.6%	3.1%	0.1%
Digital Information Technology	23,800	8.3%	14.1%	22.2%	35.1%	9.0%	6.5%	4.7%	0.2%
Performing Arts	21,200	16.7%	19.9%	28.5%	27.0%	3.5%	2.4%	1.7%	0.3%
Creative Media Production	12,200	10.7%	16.4%	27.2%	32.0%	5.4%	4.9%	3.4%	0.1%
Engineering	11,600	7.4%	16.4%	24.5%	35.8%	7.4%	4.9%	3.2%	0.3%
Sport, Activity And Fitness	6,900	8.0%	15.1%	23.9%	35.5%	8.5%	5.5%	3.4%	0.2%
Music Practice	2,800	11.0%	14.1%	26.4%	32.5%	5.2%	5.7%	4.3%	0.8%
Travel And Tourism	2,700	6.1%	10.6%	20.2%	37.0%	10.6%	9.3%	6.2%	0.0%
Art And Design Practice	2,400	10.5%	13.4%	27.4%	33.3%	4.3%	6.8%	4.4%	0.0%
Child Development	1,900	10.6%	16.6%	22.9%	33.4%	8.6%	5.4%	2.5%	0.0%

The volume of learners varies across sectors and outcomes also vary across sectors. As with GCSEs, results are not expected to look similar across different subject areas.

BTEC Tech Awards Results 2021 by gender

BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grade distribution overview by gender for the five most popular subjects.

This table shows the percentage of learners who have achieved each grade.

Sector	Gender	Learners in the gender cohort	Gender cohort as a percentage of annual cohort	Percentage of gender cohort with each outcome							
				L2D*	L2D	L2M	L2P	L1D	L1M	L1P	U
Health and Social Care	Female	42,000	89.2%	12.8%	20.2%	24.1%	30.7%	6.5%	3.6%	2.1%	0.1%
	Male	5,100	10.8%	4.5%	10.2%	18.7%	38.7%	12.4%	8.8%	6.6%	0.1%
Enterprise	Female	15,300	38.5%	13.8%	23.3%	24.0%	28.0%	5.6%	3.2%	2.0%	0.1%
	Male	24,400	61.5%	7.1%	15.8%	22.7%	36.8%	8.3%	5.4%	3.8%	0.1%
Digital Information Technology	Female	7,200	30.4%	12.4%	17.7%	22.6%	31.2%	7.4%	4.9%	3.6%	0.2%
	Male	16,600	69.6%	6.4%	12.5%	22.1%	36.8%	9.7%	7.2%	5.2%	0.1%
Performing Arts	Female	15,600	73.5%	19.1%	21.3%	29.0%	24.6%	2.7%	1.8%	1.3%	0.3%
	Male	5,600	26.5%	10.1%	15.8%	27.3%	33.8%	5.8%	4.0%	2.9%	0.3%
Creative Media Production	Female	4,600	37.8%	17.2%	22.1%	28.0%	24.9%	3.1%	2.9%	1.8%	0.0%
	Male	7,600	62.2%	6.9%	12.8%	26.7%	36.3%	6.7%	6.1%	4.5%	0.1%

The volume of learners varies across sectors and outcomes also vary across sectors. As with GCSEs, results are not expected to look similar across different subject areas.