

2021/22 BTEC Process Summary and Teacher Guidance

What steps to take to ensure certification in 2021/22

Learner registration type	Internal assessment unit grades where full assessment took/takes place (20/21 and 21/22)	Internal assessment 'Z flags' (20/21) to be given U-TAG	External assessment 'Absent' (20/21) to be given U-TAG	Q-TAG (20/21) to be converted to unit grades	Streamlined assessment/in-unit adaptations available this year (21/22). Unit grades to be reported for all planned units.
20/21 Mid-flight learners certifying in 21/22	✓	✓	✓		✓
Topping up learners 20/21 to 21/22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New learners on 2 year programme	✓				✓
New learners on 1 year programme	✓				✓

By **10 November**, centres need to give a U-TAG (Teacher Guidance on next page) for each:

- 'Z-flagged' internally-assessed unit (on EOL as an interim claim)
- externally assessed 'Absent' entry (on a Pearson-provided spreadsheet).

By **10 November**, for **topping up learners only**, centres need to **convert the holistic Q-TAG to unit grades (U-TAGs or fully assessed grades)** to enable the aggregation of the qualification grade and unit-level certification in 2021/22.

Streamlined assessment (minimum of one Learning Aim/ Outcome in the streamlined unit) may be applied, if necessary, to the maximum number of units/credits/GLH as defined in the **Streamlined Internal Assessment Guide**.

Reported unit-level achievement (U-TAGs) should align with the Q-TAG claimed.

In-unit adaptations are defined in the **sector's teaching and learning delivery guidance**. Where relevant, these **may be applied in addition to streamlined assessment**.

Find [FAQs here](#)

Internal assessment (further information can be found in the **BTEC Guidance 2021/22**)

- Only learner evidence from **1 August 2020 to 31 August 2021** can be used to inform U-TAGs.
- If a learner wishes to improve an awarded U-TAG, they may **resubmit** the unit **with a new assignment** in 21/22, which should be assessed as normal. **The resubmission grade would not be classified as a U-TAG.**
- If no resubmission opportunity was available (due to COVID) after a planned assessment was completed in 20/21, learners can complete resubmissions against the same assignment brief(s) this academic year*.

*All other rules of resubmission will still apply (meeting the eligibility requirements, working independently, and having 15 days to complete the work)

External assessment (further information can be found in the **BTEC Guidance 2021/22**)

- Only learner evidence from **1 August 2020 to 31 August 2021** can be used to inform U-TAGs.
- If a learner wishes to improve a U-TAG, the only option is to take a Pearson-set and marked (live) external assessment in 2021/22.
- The U-TAG does not count as one of the learner's attempts and the **highest grade/points** will be applied to the certification claim.

Teacher Guidance for Unit level TAGs (U-TAG)

Applicable to learners who were 'mid-flight' in 2020-21 and certificating in 2021-22, or those 'topping up' in 2021-22.

In the academic year 2020-2021, teachers submitted 'Z-flag' notifications (for internally assessed units). They also may have 'absent' entries (where external assessment was cancelled) for learners who were mid-flight, and where assessment could not take place. In both scenarios, a grade called a Unit level Teacher Assessed Grade (U-TAG) should now be added to the 'Z-flag'. This will allow unit level performance to be reported on the Notification of Performance at the point of certification, and for the systems to progress qualification claims in the 'normal' way.

This guidance supports teachers to arrive at their U-TAGs and follows many of the principles of our teacher assessed grades in Summer 2021. The guidance and principles issued for Q-TAGs can be found on our website [here](#).

The key underpinning principles for a unit teacher assessed grade (U-TAG) are:

- The grade should be based on evidence
- That learners receiving a unit teacher assessed grade are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged to learners who received a qualification teacher assessed grade
- That the judgments are objective (please refer to Ofqual's guidance for centres on making Objective Judgments [here](#)).

The U-TAG is a holistic best-fit grade based on relevant and available learner evidence.

The teacher should review the learning aims and assessment criteria of the unit to confirm what appropriate evidence is available to support the learner's U-TAG. This should take into account the learner's performance in relevant or similar activities, such as:

- completed or partially completed assessments for the unit
- completed assessments for a similar unit i.e. knowledge and understanding or skills/practical-based activities
- mock or practice external assessments
- non-assessed work such as classwork, homework, group learning activities
- relevant extra-curricular activities.

Using the command verbs and/or performance descriptors, which differentiate the criteria to be awarded e.g. Pass, Merit and Distinction, the teacher should review the evidence to arrive at the holistic overall grade for that unit using best-fit principles.

Individual assessment criteria do not need to be awarded. For the U-TAG, the lowest assessment criterion awarded in a unit does not have to define the holistic overall unit grade. Alternative evidence can be considered. Due to the nature of the previous 'reduced assessment' mitigation, we acknowledge that unit-specific assessment evidence may be limited but, as content will have been delivered, it is anticipated that there will be evidence available to base the U-TAG judgement upon.

You should record the U-TAG decisions made on the [U-TAG Record Form](#) (or equivalent) and ensure that this documentation and supporting learner evidence is retained and available for quality assurance purposes should it be required.

Please contact us via the [Pearson Support Portal](#) if you have any questions.