



Chris Harland

HND Computing

Why did you choose to complete a BTEC Higher National?

It was the natural progression from doing a BTEC National Diploma, to reach the qualification level and skills I wanted to get my career started. From this I was able to develop the research skills and deeper understanding of my chosen field's disciplines.

Through studying BTEC Higher Nationals I gained a wide range of IT related disciplines that enabled me to have a well rounded career with a good range of choice. The wide range of skills gained has enabled me to be quite dynamic and adaptive in my career choices. I have worked in various areas of IT as a result of this.

Do you have any career tips or advice for current or prospective Higher National students?

Remember that it's not just about the piece of paper at the end. It's about the experience and the capabilities you pick up along the way.

What has been your career path up until now?

I started work in a secondary school as an IT Technician, became the IT Manager and then went to work in the NHS as a Tech Support Manager.

I came to work for Pearson as a Server Engineer and then became a Network Architect, I then switched across to manage an Application Support team before moving into handling security for Edexcel. When the CISO office formed I was asked to join the Threat Management Team.

I currently assess threat and risks to Pearson's IT systems and data. This often involves understanding a wide range of IT disciplines in order to fully understand an issue. I am able to do this because I have spent my career building on the solid foundations of my HND.

I also completed an MSc in IT in 2015 which I was accepted on based on the fact I had a HND along with the work experience I had gained.