



Pearson

# Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals Annual Student Survey

## Why is Pearson conducting an Annual Student Survey for Higher National students?

In 2014, the Pearson Higher Nationals Unit (HNU) commenced upon a 'root and branch' periodic review of the BTEC Higher Nationals (HN) suite of qualifications, with the aim of modernising and updating the suite **to focus on learner outcomes; essentially by putting the learner at the centre of what we do.**

In order to do this, HNU issued a consultation document to centres, employers and students to collect their views on HNs. This went to centres that offer HNs, both public and private, across the UK and internationally. Views were sought on a wide range of issues, including the fundamental purpose of the Higher Nationals; progression ambitions of students; employer requirements for higher level technical and professional education; best features and suggestions for improvements to the Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications; and what the ideal Higher National qualification would look like.

This research allowed the HNU to identify the clear purpose of the BTEC Higher National qualifications, which along with the agreed 'learner outcomes' from the Pearson Efficacy framework, was used to identify key outcomes for the HNs, and to identify the metrics that could be used to measure the HN impact on learner's experience, achievement and progression upon completion. In order for the HNU to measure this, several processes have been put in place to drive engagement and feedback; the Annual Student Survey being an important mechanism for gathering student feedback on their BTEC Higher National qualification.

The feedback from the Annual Student Survey will inform our annual review of our BTEC Higher National qualifications, and the periodic review of the qualifications.

## How will the survey be implemented?

For the outcome of this survey to be a success, we need all BTEC Higher National students to complete it. Pearson does not have access to individual BTEC Higher National students details and will require providers to distribute the survey link to all their BTEC Higher National students.

## What will the survey consist of?

The survey consists of 16 questions, which have been developed in partnership with Ipsos MORI, and should take HN students no longer than 10 minutes to complete. As this survey is based on the the Pearson Efficacy framework, the questions will relate to learner outcomes and will capture their opinions on their learning experience; their progression routes and preparation for this; areas where the qualification could be improved; and overall, whether Higher National qualifications are meeting the needs of the students.

## When will it be implemented?

The 2016 survey will be launched in May 2016, and students will be given 6 weeks to access and complete the questionnaire. As 2016 is the first year we are running this survey, we are open for suggestions for a more appropriate time of year. We know that students are required to provide feedback at many stages during their course, and don't want them to develop a case of survey fatigue.

## FAQs:

### Will I be able to see the questions beforehand?

This survey has been designed for current BTEC Higher National students with Ipsos MORI. You will receive a link to the survey initially to distribute to your students, so you are welcome to review the survey.

### Will I receive the outcomes from the survey for my centre?

This survey has been designed by Pearson and Ipsos MORI and according to our [privacy policy](#), the data received will only be handled by us. The information gathered from the survey will also be anonymous, unless students choose to supply us with their details. In 2016 we are piloting the Student Survey, with a plan to be able to share centre outcomes from the survey in 2017.

Pearson also has a responsibility to consider and act on information received. We will seek to address what may be common issues expressed by students, and where necessary Pearson will provide appropriate support to both students and our providers.

## Is it mandatory?

No, we cannot enforce that students take part, however as part of our responsibilities as the awarding organisation for the suite of BTEC Higher National qualifications, and in response to the requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) as regards to receiving feedback from students on their experience of the qualifications, the results from the survey will provide us with data to better inform the future of the Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications and their efficacy.

## Will you publish any reports?

This is our intention as part of our commitment to efficacy, but in 2016 it depends on the amount of responses we receive in order to sufficiently analyse trends. Once the 2016 survey has closed, the data from this survey will be shared with Ipsos MORI via a secure file transfer, to allow them to independently verify the responses, and provide a report of trends and statistics. If the number of responses is deemed insufficient by Ipsos MORI, we will defer this report until 2017.

## How can I help?

Your help is imperative to the success of this survey. Please can you make sure you and your colleagues send the link to **ALL** your current BTEC Higher National students, and regularly remind them to complete it. The survey should only take a few minutes, and their participation is important for the future of the qualifications.

If you still require information about the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals Annual Student Survey, please don't hesitate to contact us at [highernationals@pearson.com](mailto:highernationals@pearson.com)