

Real skills **for** **the real world**



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A centre's guide to Pearson's
BTEC qualifications in
Information Technology

Real skills for the real world

Over the last 30 years, Pearson's BTEC qualifications have helped people across the globe develop the skills they need to achieve their education and career goals. Engaging and inspiring, these work-related qualifications are suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities. Our practical learning focuses students' minds and helps to show how theory works in real life.

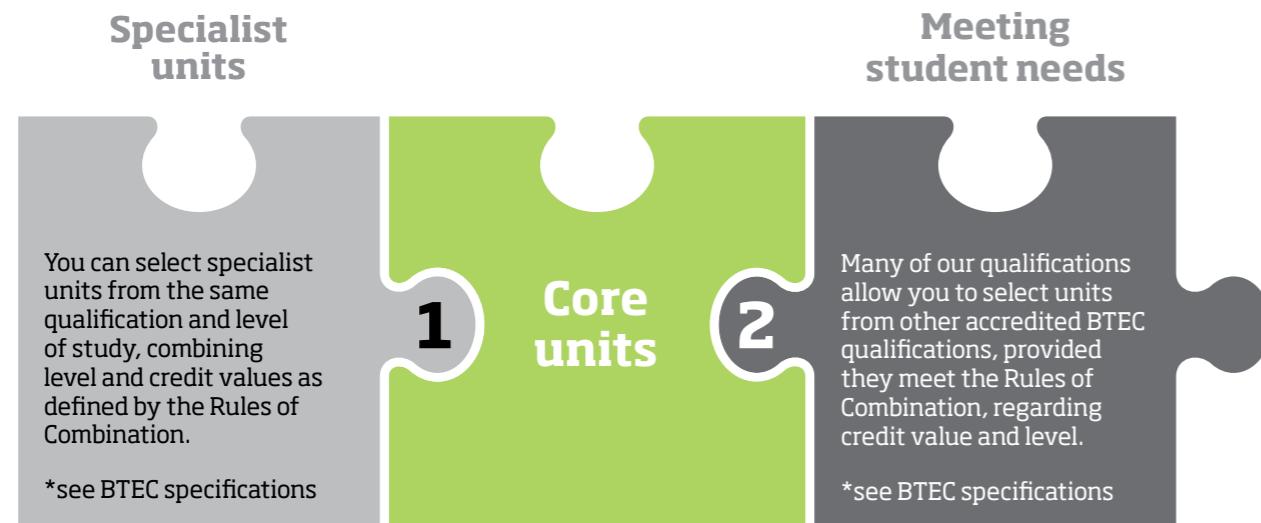
Pearson's BTEC qualifications in Information Technology (IT) are amongst our most popular qualifications. They have been designed to not only equip students with in-depth technical knowledge of business, but also to develop real world skills which they can transfer to the workplace or higher education.

Students learn best when they can apply their own knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to a subject. The flexibility of BTEC qualifications enables centres to tailor content to the career direction of their students and deliver a world-class learning experience.

A modular approach to learning

The structure of BTEC qualifications in IT is designed to adapt to the needs of students and to meet the requirements of employers. Each qualification is made up of **core units**, which provide a broad introduction and help students gain the essential knowledge of the subject area; and **specialist units**, which build expertise in specific areas relevant to students' needs.

When designing a programme to suit your students, you have two options for specialisation:



Teaching in ways your students will love

BTECs are uniquely placed to provide a blended approach to learning, underpinning academic achievement with practical real work examples. The modular approach to the course gives you scope to be more creative in your teaching and adapt the course delivery accordingly.

Recognising student success

BTEC qualifications that have been designed for progression to higher education are graded to enable your brightest students to achieve their university ambitions or to progress directly into employment. Whereas our work-related specialist BTEC qualifications have been designed to demonstrate a level of technical knowledge in a work related activity - resulting in increased job opportunities.

Giving students options

The world of education is changing and the flexibility of BTEC qualifications gives our BTEC learners across the world the opportunity to study part-time to aid their career progression, or follow a traditional full-time study pathway that leads to university and employment.



Wide-ranging and wide-reaching

BTEC qualifications are available from entry level (beginner) through to level 5 (equivalent to the first 2 years of university study). This gives students the opportunity to choose the right level for their requirements or steadily work their way through all levels, acquiring new skills and certificates at every stage.

A BTEC will generally take one or two years to complete depending on the level taken. For more detailed information on BTEC levels, please refer to our **Schools Guide to BTEC** and **BTEC Higher Nationals Guide**.

Here is a snapshot of the options available for teaching BTEC qualifications in IT:

LEVEL	STAGE OF LEARNING	FRAMEWORK	QUALIFICATIONS	PATHWAYS	TYPICAL PROGRESSION
LEVEL 1	ALL	QCF	IT USERS (ITQ)	GENERAL USER IT	ENTRY TO LEVEL 3
LEVEL 2	SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES	SRF	IT	GENERAL	LEVEL 3 PROGRAMMES OF STUDY
LEVEL 3		QCF	IT	GENERAL SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT NETWORKING AND SYSTEMS SUPPORT BUSINESS	UNIVERSITY /EMPLOYMENT
LEVEL 4	HIGHER EDUCATION	QCF	COMPUTING AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	GENERAL	2ND YEAR UNIVERSITY
LEVEL 5					FINAL YEAR UNIVERSITY

* Based on UK degree system - each University will make their own entry requirements.

**Visit qualifications.pearson.com/it

Continue to deliver our BTEC Level 3 National (2010) qualifications with confidence

We regularly review all our qualifications to ensure they continue to meet the needs of learners in helping them progress to the next stage of their lives, whether into further education or employment. In 2014, we began a review of our BTEC Level 3 National (2010) qualifications, in light of new UK government recommendations for vocational qualifications.

As a result of our consultation with educators and key stakeholders, we are pleased to announce an extension to the last registration date for our existing BTEC Level 3 Nationals (2010) IT qualifications to 31 December 2017, allowing student registrations until the end of December 2017 with a last certification date of 31 December 2020. This means that you can continue to register learners onto these qualifications with confidence up until 31 December 2017. BTEC Level 3 Nationals (2010) will also continue to attract UCAS points and provide a clear progression pathway to Higher Education.



Where will BTEC take your students?

After completing their BTEC in IT, students can progress to:

- ◆ **University** – 95% of UK universities and 200 universities worldwide (including many from The Times Top 100 Universities) accept BTEC qualifications. Visit our degree course finder to see the latest UK and international universities, which accept our BTEC qualifications: degreecoursefinder.pearson.com
- ◆ **Employment** – many of the leading IT and Telecommunications companies such as Microsoft, BT, Cisco and Oracle actively recruit BTEC students.
- ◆ **Set up a business** – BTEC students can apply the entrepreneurial skills they've developed as part of their learning to set up their own company.

Whichever progression route your students decide to take, they can be confident that the skills and knowledge that they've acquired during their BTEC qualifications, can be seamlessly applied to university or the workplace.

Here is just a small selection of the careers that our BTEC learners have progressed onto:



For a flexible future

Employer case study:

Cisco BTEC Apprenticeship in IT, Software, Web and Telecommunications



Cisco used its experience of delivering network training and certification to work with Pearson to develop an Advanced Apprenticeship Program for employers who want to develop their employees and maximise workforce productivity with minimal cost and disruption.

The Cisco BTEC Advanced Apprenticeship Program enables employers to:

- Train and grow a sustainable workforce
- Improve staff morale and retention
- Help fill skills gaps effectively

As part of this program apprentices can study the BTEC Diploma in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Systems and Principles

The Cisco Advanced Apprenticeship Program provides an effective path to many entry-level IT network positions.

Student case study:

Mehreen Rana

BTEC Extended National Diploma in IT & BTEC in IT student of the year 2013



Mehreen is passionate about computing. While undertaking her BTEC qualification from Pearson, she organised a work placement within the analyst team at Whirlpool to gain experience of the practical applications of IT.

She is part of a joint UK/India Education Research Initiative project with partner colleges in India to encourage more women into computing and works with first year female students to increase their understanding of the subject and the possibilities available to them.

She is now studying Computer Science at Kings College London.

Support for everyone

We understand that delivering BTEC qualifications takes time and careful planning and our fully supported training and resources make teaching these qualifications as rewarding as studying them.

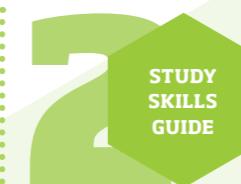
Each of our BTEC qualifications comes with a detailed specification outlining the qualification's objective; prior knowledge or skills that are required; units that must complete before the qualification is awarded; method of assessment; and performance criteria. To view the specifications for BTECs in IT, please visit: qualifications.pearson.com/IT

Below are some support services* that are available for BTEC qualifications:



DELIVERY GUIDES

Helping you achieve best practice in delivery and assessment. Contains unit-by-unit guidance on how to meet and exceed specification requirements.



STUDY SKILLS GUIDE

Indispensable guides for your students. Covers fundamental skills like study planning, research, assignment writing and avoiding plagiarism, preparing them to study at Higher National level and beyond.



SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT BRIEFS

We've created these handy templates to help you create assignments which are effective, easy to understand and meet specification requirements. We also provide examples of assignment briefs.



ASSIGNMENT CHECKING SERVICE

Get an expert review on two proposed assignments, per level, per subject, at the start of the teaching period.**



ASK THE EXPERT

Access our interactive, online portal to find answers to common questions, or to ask your own specific question.



SUBJECT ADVISORS

Our Subject Advisors are available by email and phone to support your requirements.



PROGRESSION SUPPORT

Progression Plus Students can learn about the global study opportunities open to them once they have gained their BTEC Higher National qualification by using our online Degree Course Finder tool: degreecoursefinder.pearson.com



TRAINING SOLUTIONS

Choose from a range of practical, hands-on events designed to help those actually delivering the qualifications.

For centres with very specific needs, we can also design bespoke programmes.

* This is a selection of the support we can offer, but please visit our website to find out what support is available for your chosen qualification.

** Not available for Higher Nationals



“Taking a BTEC National Diploma for IT Practitioners was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. I spent two years concentrating on a subject I really enjoy, and learning from a range of specialists. Since I earned UCAS points as I progressed through the course, I knew I had the grades for university. I applied to four and got four offers.”

Emyr Thomas is currently studying Computer Science at Cardiff University

Start teaching BTEC in IT

If you're already a BTEC approved centre, simply contact your local regional office to undertake the relevant paperwork.

For new centres you can get approved to offer BTEC qualifications in two simple steps:



Approval Process: Your local Pearson representative will visit you to discuss your specific requirements and assist you with completing an approval form.



Staff Training: We offer implementation training which includes both general teaching skills and subject specific content, adapted to your needs.

Set your
centre apart
with qualifications
that engage and
inspire students.



Learn more:
Contact your local Pearson
representative at:
[qualifications.pearson.com
/contactus](http://qualifications.pearson.com/contactus)

Or visit:
qualifications.pearson.com/BTEC