

A close-up, black and white portrait of a young man with short hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The lighting is dramatic, with one side of his face in shadow.

BTECS: opening doors

Alexandros Pamnani, BTEC National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, BTEC National Diploma in Vehicle Technology, BTEC First Diploma in Vehicle Technology

Alex has achieved beyond his years: at 21, he had already won **IMECHE Engineer of the Year**, founded the **Future4All** charity to help disadvantaged young people into work and education, been shortlisted for the **Spirit of London Award** - and won a place at Loughborough University to study Engineering Management.

The secret of his success? Passion, practical experience – and BTEC.

“All of my achievements have come after or during my last BTEC. I’ve not just gained knowledge, but learned how to apply it.”

Find out how BTECs can open doors to university degrees and professional success at BTEC.co.uk/Alex

BTECS: OPENING DOORS

BTECs: stronger and more relevant than ever before

Are you worried your child may be left behind in the race for university places and job offers? And unsure where BTECs fit in alongside academic qualifications?

Helping your child choose the right learning path when they are aged 13 can be challenging. But rest assured: you can have confidence in BTECs - because universities, employers and education experts have confidence in them.

The facts tell their own story – BTECs open doors to ...

University places

20% of level 3 BTEC holders go on to undergraduate degree courses¹

Employment

With a level 3 BTEC you can boost your child's lifetime earnings by up to £92,000¹

62% of large companies have recruited employees with BTEC qualifications³

BTEC Nationals increase the likelihood of getting a job – by 8% for women and 5% for men¹

Educational reformers endorse the value of BTEC for progression

“BTEC National Diplomas are also valuable in the labour market, and a familiar and acknowledged route into higher education, alone or in conjunction with 1 or 2 A levels.”
Alison Wolf, Review of Vocational Education, March 2011

“Vocational education is ... an essential part of a broad curriculum. **Just as much as academic education, vocational learning provides invaluable opportunities for young people to develop their potential and expand what they know, understand and can do** ... If either academic or vocational study is over-emphasised, to the detriment of the other, we impoverish the opportunities available to young people in this country ...

“As Professor Wolf points out, there are ... examples of excellent vocational provision for young people ... providing clear routes for progression into full time employment, or further study in higher education.”
Government response to the Wolf Report, May 2011

BTECs: creating success stories for every type of student



Meet Megan Turner

Outstanding BTEC student of the Year in 2012

An inspiration to her fellow students – and women engineers of the future – Megan achieved three distinctions* in her BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Engineering. When Megan applied to Aston University to read Design Engineering, they recommended she enter directly on to the Masters programme, confirming her BTEC course was a major contributory factor in their recommendation.

“Engineering’s important to me, because - it’s me ... I love the experience of the BTEC programme because it hasn’t only opened ... one door of Engineering ... it’s opened me to mechanical, electrical, design, practical - so from learning all about it, I can see which ones I prefer, and where I’d like to go with it.”

Megan on BTEC Engineering



Meet Samuel Harry

Outstanding BTEC Sport Student of the Year in 2012

Sam transferred after a year from an A Level programme to a BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science to improve his chances of pursuing a degree course and, ultimately, a career in Sports Therapy. Dedicated and enthusiastic, Sam throws himself into leadership and sporting activities - setting up a running club and coaching at a local school. His tutors predict academic success - Distinction* across the board - and a bright future for Sam.



Meet Anne Markland

Outstanding BTEC Teacher/ Tutor of the Year

Anne has spent the last ten years bringing passionate and tireless commitment to her students and colleagues.

“Anne has kept students in college and achieving ... The BTEC qualifications really help her to do that because of their flexibility [and] their unit structure, [so] we’re able to choose the subject matter ... that can really engage with those particular learners. I think that’s made a huge difference for Anne, but most importantly, for those learners.”

Jane Tudor, Curriculum Manager, Preston College

Choose a BTEC and write your own success story

There’s a BTEC to realise the potential in every student. BTECs offer real-world experience - on their own or alongside academic learning - to support progression to further study and into the world of work.

Help your child write their own success story – with a BTEC.

Read more success stories at www.btec.co.uk/2012



Stronger and more relevant than ever before

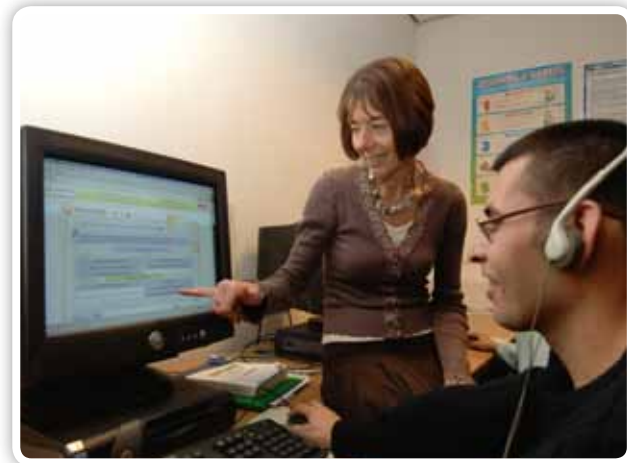
¹ Independent research carried out by London Economics, 2010

² UCAS (<http://www.ucas.com/parents>)

³ YouGov Large Business Research, February 2011

BTECS – THE **BIG** BENEFITS

What do BTECs offer over other qualifications and why could a BTEC be exactly the right choice for your child?



A practical approach to study

BTECs offer a practical approach that can be lacking in more traditional routes, by applying learning to real-life situations. Students have to undertake a number of units for which they present evidence, based on actual work and studies. This allows them to demonstrate their skill and knowledge.

Appropriate and rigorous assessment

When studying the BTEC way, progress is measured throughout the course, allowing students to gauge their own performance on a continuing basis, just like in a real workplace. In September 2012, we introduced the first of our next generation of BTECs (in line with government guidelines) which include an appropriate element of external assessment. Not necessarily an exam – it could be a task, a test or a performance, depending on the subject. This combination of assessment provides a critical mix of ongoing reward and motivation for the student along with the rigour of external benchmarking that some employers and universities are seeking. For many students the ongoing assessment provided by the BTEC route could be the better option.

Keep your options open

If you are not familiar with all of the many options available to school-leavers, like further education, Apprenticeships and jobs that offer workplace learning and vocational degrees, you are not alone. Few parents are aware just how many options are available. By all means seek advice from the school or college. BTECs offer students a full progression route from Entry level through to Level 5 Higher Nationals.

Inspiring confidence

Learning should be fun, not daunting. In our experience, students enjoy BTEC programmes because they can specialise in areas of learning linked with work that they are interested in, like sport or the music business. Courses tap into what they enjoy, feel good at and find familiar. Students build their confidence because they are developing skills that will help them secure a job or place in higher education in the future. Assignments may be in written form, but it's just as likely they will be in other formats, e.g. film clips, project proposals, business plans and structured databases. Students are always given clear guidelines so they know what they have to achieve and how to do this.



Rewarding effort

BTEC students will have to meet deadlines set by teachers and tutors, but can do this at their own pace rather than having to perform to the time constraints of an exam. Teachers and tutors monitor progress individually, and they provide personal support and guidance, helping students develop their learning skills and to reach their potential. They get to learn progressively, starting from small-scale and simple topics, progressing to larger more complex themes.

Working together

Teamwork is an important aspect in the world of work. Not surprisingly, it is also a key feature of BTECs. Students work on assignments both individually and in groups, such as a group drama production or in a manager-employee role play.

Fitting study around other things

BTECs are flexible. They can be studied full time or part time. BTECs can be taken as part of an Apprenticeship programme or with other qualifications and alongside work commitments.

Staying up to date

We are continually developing and updating BTECs in response to the needs and skills required by employers. This ensures that learners gain maximum benefit from their work whilst qualifying; and the qualifications stay up to date and relevant. Before deciding on a course to follow, it's worth considering whether the course has been revised recently and that the content is relevant; if it is a BTEC, you can be assured that it has.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2011-12, we received nearly 1.4 million BTEC registrations and one in every two GCSE-level learners chooses a BTEC as the next step in their career path.

Students who gain a BTEC Level 3 National qualification will earn UCAS points which count towards entry on to a higher education/degree course in the UK. You can find out more about UCAS at www.ucas.com.

BTECs are ideal for students who have already decided on their career. If your child is one of these students, a BTEC will give them relevant and worthwhile experience, right from the word go. And that experience will be valued highly by employers.

BTEC

Stronger and more relevant than ever before

BTECS: IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

What does a BTEC look like?

BTEC qualifications come in different levels, from BTEC First for level 2 learners up to BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diplomas.

Look inside a BTEC and you'll see it is made up of a number of units; this number is dependent on the level and size of the BTEC. To complete each unit, students' work is assessed along the way, pulling together skills, knowledge and understanding. This ongoing assessment allows students to analyse and improve their own performance through their course in much the same way as they would in the workplace. All this teacher assessment is complemented by an external assessment to give a clear and robust view of the student's real abilities and performance.

Unit results are graded as Pass; Merit; or Distinction.

The time taken to complete a BTEC is dependent on the size and level of the qualification. Many BTECs will generally take one to two years to complete depending on whether the student is studying full or part time, but some take considerably less.

BTEC Firsts for level 2 learners

Around 100 BTEC First qualifications are available for level 2 learners, each linked to an industry sector. Students may take BTEC Firsts alongside core GCSE subjects such as English, maths and science, giving them the balanced curriculum recommended by the majority of schools.



BTEC Level 3 Nationals

BTEC Level 3 Nationals are designed as specialist, vocationally-related qualifications for those who have a clear view of their future career or who want to progress to higher education. They are an alternative to A Levels and accepted as an entry requirement for universities and further education colleges, and highly valued by employers. There are around 300 qualifications for students to choose from. BTEC Level 3 Nationals are suitable for students aged 16 upwards and are recommended for those who have achieved at least four A*- C grade GCSEs or have completed a BTEC First.

BTEC Higher Nationals at levels 4 & 5

The BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Level 5 Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) are widely recognised by universities and professional bodies. The HNC is often studied part time alongside full-time employment, and an HND is often studied full time. A Higher National student will develop management and other higher level technical skills required by employers. After a period of usually two years, students often progress to the final year of degree programmes. BTEC Higher Nationals can be studied in both further education colleges and universities.

The BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

This programme is available at levels 3 and 4 and normally lasts one year, during which individuals are prepared for entry to higher education to study art and design.

BTEC WorkSkills

The purpose of WorkSkills is to enhance employability and encourage students to gain soft skills to help them with career progression. Learners wishing to gain BTEC WorkSkills can choose from a range of unit options. Many units build on existing life and workplace skills, while some develop skills integral to the school and college timetable. For more information go to www.edexcel.com/WorkSkills.

BTEC Specialist qualifications

These are a range of BTEC qualifications at all levels from 1-3. Each focuses on the understanding, skills and knowledge needed for a particular sector or area of expertise. For more information go to www.btec.co.uk/specialist.

BTEC Professional qualifications

These are designed to provide continuing professional development at Level 4 and above. For more information go to www.btec.co.uk/professional.

BTEC Apprenticeships

Built on the core BTEC values of flexibility, employability, progression and quality, BTEC Apprenticeships focus on developing employability skill with fit-for-purpose qualifications developed in consultation with Sector Skills Councils. BTEC qualifications provide the knowledge components and are integrated within the package, meeting the government requirements, resulting in a seamless approach that eliminates duplication of learning and administration.

Foundation Learning

If a student is studying at Entry or Level 1, they will be able to choose from one of the BTEC qualifications within the Foundation Learning suite of qualifications focussing on the basic principles of working within a specific sector. For more information go to www.edexcel.com/foundationlearning.

WHICH SECTORS DO BTECS COVER?

Applied Science
Art and Design
Business, Administration and Support Services
Children and Young People
Construction
Customer Service
Engineering
Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy
Health and Social Care and Health Services



Hospitality
Information Technology
Land-based and Environment
Languages
Media
Performing Arts and Music
Public and Uniformed Services

Retail
Sales
Security
Sports and Recreation
Management and Team Leading
Training and Education
Transport and Logistics
Travel and Tourism

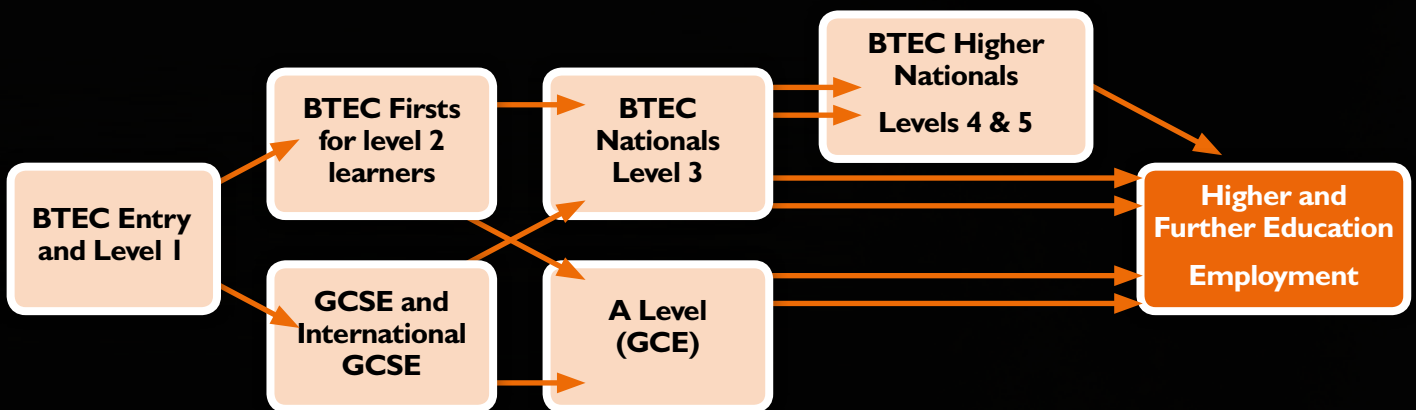




BTECS: opening doors

There's a BTEC to suit everyone. Find the blend of academic and vocational learning that's right for your child, and there will be a BTEC to support their progression.

How BTEC can open the right doors to your future career



Every year, we talk to BTEC learners who have completed their studies to find out how BTEC has changed their lives. In our most recent survey, we discovered:

- **85%** of learners who progressed to further studies expect to derive **long-term, career-related benefits from their BTEC.**
- **79%** of learners who progressed to work consider the **BTEC** one of the **stepping stones towards their dream job.**

Want to know more?

Explore your child's BTEC options at www.btec.co.uk



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