

# Health and Social Care (Health Sciences)

## Student Guide Level 3 BTEC National Certificate

### What is the Level 3 BTEC National Certificate in Health and Social Care (Health Sciences)?

The BTEC National Certificate in Health and Social Care (Health Sciences) will build essential practical skills and understanding to provide learners with the principles of health and social care, enabling progression into employment or higher level education. Work experience and links to the workplace form a central part of the programme. The course is designed to be flexible so that it reflects individual career aspirations and the teaching strengths of centres, therefore making it possible to enter a specific vocation or for the exploration of more specialist aspects of job roles within the sector.

There will be an emphasis on employment opportunities, so that students can choose to progress into a specific area of work, and if already in employment, move on to a more responsible job within the industry.

There are nine compulsory core units plus a range of specialist areas (totalling 720 guided learning hours). Please note that the units studied may vary to meet local or learner needs.

Students have the opportunity of gaining a broad understanding of the sector and a specialist understanding of health sciences.

### Where will this qualification take me?

#### Employment opportunities

With the international recognition of BTEC courses such as this, you can progress straight into employment. If successful there are a variety of potential careers that you can explore, all of which will benefit from your studies, such as a nurse or health care assistant.

#### Further vocational and academic qualifications

The BTEC National Certificate in Health and Social Care (Health Sciences) has the equivalence of two GCE A Levels, and it is possible for you to progress further into higher education, as successful BTEC National qualifications give UCAS points for university applications.

## How long will it take me to complete this qualification?

The length of the course is dependant on the centre. Normally, it will take two academic years to complete but it can be studied for longer.

## What are the entry requirements?

The entry requirements for the Edexcel Level 3 BTEC National Certificate in Health and Social Care (Health Sciences) are laid down by individual centres. Fundamentally you should have a broad education including, for example, a BTEC First in Health and Social Care and/or four GCSEs (graded C or above) and, in addition, the interest and potential to succeed in achieving the qualification.

## How can I find out more?

Ask your careers teacher or adviser or your local school or college for more information or see the Edexcel website – [www.edexcel.org.uk/btec](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/btec)

## Contact us

[www.edexcel.org.uk/about/contact](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/about/contact)

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