



# IT Practitioners (Software Development)

## Student Guide Level 3 BTEC National Diploma

### What is the Level 3 BTEC National Diploma for IT Practitioners (Software Development)?

The BTEC National Diploma for IT Practitioners (Software Development) will give you the key knowledge, understanding and skills to progress into a specific area of work which will incorporate the use of ICT, and move on to a more responsible job if already in employment.

The nature of the course structure allows the qualification to be flexible and adapted to meet your interests and aspirations. There are six compulsory core units plus a maximum of twelve more units from a choice of specialist areas (to total 1080 guided learning hours). The BTEC National Diploma for IT Practitioners (Software Development) provides you with knowledge of a wider variety of areas in the IT field.

The focus of the course is up to you, it can be software design and development, technical support or IT in business. Please note that the units studied may vary to meet local or learner needs.

### 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 wide variety of potential careers that you can explore, within sectors such as the growing computer games industry, product development, technical support, technical sales, telecommunications and hardware engineering. Jobs that are commonly taken after completion of the qualification are: systems analyst, network manager and IT technical sales specialist.

#### Further vocational and academic qualifications

The BTEC National Diploma for IT Practitioners (Software Development) has the equivalence of three 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 Diploma for IT Practitioners (Software Development) are laid down by individual centres. Fundamentally you should have a broad education including, for example, a BTEC First for ICT Practitioners 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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