

BTEC Bulletin

Issue 37

JULY 2009

To access information quickly, click on the page numbers when using this electronically

Contents	Page
Extension of accreditation of BTEC Higher Nationals.....	1
Extension of accreditation of BTEC Specialist and Short Course qualifications.....	2
BTEC Entry, BTEC Introductory qualifications and FLT	2
The Foundation Learning Tier and BTEC vocational qualifications.....	3
Introducing WorkSkills Plus (Level 3)	3
BTEC Progression Survey	4
Training from Edexcel.....	4
CYQ Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing and BTEC Nationals in Sport	4
Quality Nominees: please check your contact details are up to date.....	5
Grade D* update.....	5
Contacting Regional Quality Managers	5
Sample tests available for BTEC onscreen tests	5
WorkSkills first year	6
Monitoring External Verifiers' and External Examiners' performance	7
Music External Verifier vacancies	7

EXTENSION OF ACCREDITATION OF BTEC HIGHER NATIONALS

We are pleased to announce that we have had confirmation of extensions to the accreditation for a number of BTEC HNCs and HNDs to 31 December 2010. This means that for these qualifications, approved centres may register learners on the current NOF specifications up to 31 December 2010. It should be noted that Edexcel is concurrently developing HNCs and HNDs for accreditation on to the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) for implementation from September 2010. Please check the following page for a list of the extensions confirmed so far:

<http://www.edexcel.com/notices/Pages/hnaccreditation.aspx>.

Please be aware that we have requested extensions to the accreditation of all our current NOF BTEC Higher National titles through the respective Sector Skills Councils and it should be noted that the

above page will be updated whenever any further extensions are confirmed, so please check this on a regular basis.

EXTENSION OF ACCREDITATION OF BTEC SPECIALIST AND SHORT COURSE QUALIFICATIONS

A number of BTEC Specialist and Short Course qualifications are due to expire in terms of accreditation during 2009, and we are currently in the process of seeking extensions with the various Sector Skills Councils for the vast majority of these, where possible, to either August or December 2010.

The very latest information regarding extensions to BTEC Short Courses that are due to expire can be accessed under "Accreditation Update" on the following page: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/btec-sc/Pages/Keydocument.aspx>. Please note that this document is updated whenever we receive confirmation of an extension, so please check this on a regular basis.

We are currently reviewing our entire suite of around 300 BTEC Specialist and Short Course qualifications, to determine which will be revised and submitted for accreditation onto the Qualifications and Credit Framework from September 2010. The outcomes of this review will be published in the same document mentioned in the previous paragraph and on the qualification pages of each specific qualification on the website.

BTEC ENTRY, BTEC INTRODUCTORY QUALIFICATIONS AND FLT

There are three suites of qualifications available at Entry Level and Level 1 - BTEC Entry, BTEC Introductory and Foundation Learning Tier. The BTEC Entry Level Certificates - in Skills for Working Life and in Life Skills - and the Level 1 BTEC Introductory qualifications have also been extended to 31 August 2010. Approved centres can, therefore, register learners for both suites up until this date with the final certification end dates being 31 August 2012 for the BTEC Entry Level qualifications, and 31 August 2011 for the BTEC Introductory qualifications.

Centres wishing to deliver qualifications for the first time at Entry Level and/or Level 1 from September 2009 can either:

- gain approval for the BTEC Entry or BTEC Introductory qualifications and register learners on these up until 31 August 2010 or
- gain approval for the Foundation Learning Tier, and register learners on the FLT qualifications from 1 September 2009 onwards.

With Edexcel, from September 2009, it is possible to continue with current BTEC provision, offer both BTEC and FLT qualifications concurrently or only offer FLT qualifications. From September 2010, in accordance with the current Government position, we anticipate that all vocationally related provision at Entry Level and Level 1 will only be available on the QCF as part of the FLT framework. From 1 September 2010 it should be noted that all registrations at Entry Level and/or Level 1 will need to be on the new Foundation Learning Tier framework.

Current BTEC customers currently offering BTEC Entry level Skills for Working Life/Life Skills and/or BTEC Level 1 Introductory qualifications, have already received automatic approval for:

- Personal and social development qualifications (PSD)
- Entry level Functional Skills

FLT is the new Government initiative for all provision on the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) at Entry level and Level 1. It consists of three distinct components, namely:

- Personal and Social Development skills (our provision includes the popular BTEC WorkSkills suite)
- Vocational learning (Entry level 3 and Level 1)
- Functional Skills (part of the national pilot, at Entry level and Level 1)

As FLT is not a single qualification, centres will need to have approval for individual qualifications on the framework. For more information about FLT, please visit our web pages at www.edexcel.com/flt. To gain approval for vocational programmes on the FLT framework, you will be able to seek approval in the normal way through Edexcel Online. Sectors that are not currently accredited will not appear here yet but Edexcel are updating them all the time as we obtain accreditation for new qualifications.

If you have any queries relating to FLT, please contact us on 0844 576 0026 or write to us at flt@edexcel.com.

THE FOUNDATION LEARNING TIER AND BTEC VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Those learners who are less engaged, or struggle with academic study, can flourish in the practical, real-world environment of vocational learning.

Our redeveloped and improved vocational courses now offer a bigger and better choice of engaging qualifications than ever before. All our vocational qualifications on the FLT are BTECs. This means that there is a direct progression route from the FLT to a BTEC First to help your learners achieve their full potential. Learners who aren't sure which vocational qualification would suit them can get a taster of different ones by taking the Vocational Studies option. Learners can also take a number of vocational qualifications on the FLT if they so wish.

The FLT with BTEC will benefit your centre in two ways:

- The BTEC style of learning is proven to work. All BTEC and FLT units have been developed in co-operation with the relevant Sector Skills Councils. They meet all the relevant National Occupational Standards (NOS). They are the ideal introduction into an industry for anyone studying on the FLT.
- The FLT BTEC vocational units have been developed specifically to allow your learners to progress onto further BTEC qualifications if they choose. We have linked units from our BTEC Firsts into a number of the FLT units which means students wanting to progress will already have a foot in the door. They will be familiar with the learning and assessment style of a BTEC, making the step up much easier.

If you are currently teaching BTEC Introductory or Entry Qualifications please click [here](#).

Please click [here](#) to see the transition from the current BTEC courses to the new FLT offer.

Please click [here](#) to see the draft specifications.

INTRODUCING WORKSKILLS PLUS (LEVEL 3)

Following exceptionally high uptake of the WorkSkills qualification (Entry 3 to Level 2) in schools and colleges last year, we're pleased to announce the completion of the suite with WorkSkills Plus (Level 3).

WorkSkills Plus shows learners how to relate their personal skill-set to potential employment scenarios at every stage, so they understand what an employer is looking for, and how to supply it. Throughout the academic year WorkSkills Plus learners accumulate credits for the units they take, so they can build on their successes. On completion learners could have:

- a highly relevant BTEC qualification that fulfils their AS level requirement
- the ability to relate their skills directly

For more information visit: www.edexcel.com/quals/workskills/level3/Pages/units.aspx.

BTEC PROGRESSION SURVEY

Have your students just completed their BTEC qualification?

If they log on to our survey and tell us their future plans they could win an ipod!*

Given the importance of BTEC qualifications to the 14-19 agenda, and concerns about where they are best positioned in the future, Edexcel is keen to undertake some substantive research to find out more about their impact on learner progression. We aim to explore the impact their achievement has had on learners' success in moving onto further study, or moving into employment. We would also like to hear their views about how the skills and knowledge gained through their studies have helped them in their transition.

We want to invite students who have just completed a BTEC qualification to 1) take part in a quick online survey, and 2) we have commissioned [Basis Research](#) to carry out more in-depth telephone interviews for those students who volunteer to be contacted. Prizes will be available for those taking part in either stage.

If you would like your students to be involved please contact Siân Owen (sian.owen@edexcel.com, 0207 190 7340) for hard copies of flyers which can be given to your students.

* Terms and conditions apply

TRAINING FROM EDEXCEL

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new 2009/10 National Programme Training Directory which can be downloaded via the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/resources/training/training-courses/Documents/Training%20Directory.pdf>.

CYQ LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE IN FITNESS INSTRUCTING AND BTEC NATIONALS IN SPORT

Edexcel and Central YMCA Qualifications (CYQ), the UK's leading Health and Fitness specialist awarding body, are delighted to announce further developments to their working partnership.

Now learners undertaking the BTEC Nationals in Sport can put much of their achievement towards the CYQ Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing. In addition CYQ learners will also be able to use their knowledge assessment as evidence towards the BTEC Nationals.

For more information, please [click here](#).

QUALITY NOMINEES: PLEASE CHECK YOUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE UP TO DATE

We are always looking at ways to improve the support we give you and, to this end, we are keen to ensure that BTEC staff can contact you throughout the year. All Centre Quality Nominees should check and update their contact details and their centres' contact details on Edexcel Online.

We are aware that some centres have changed their Quality Nominees, or email addresses have changed, and this has caused a delay in returning calls or arranging timely support. Contact details should ideally be checked at least twice a year to ensure they are correct. If you need help in updating your contact details, please call our Edexcel Online Helpdesk on 0844 576 0024.

GRADE D* UPDATE

Centres delivering BTEC Firsts in Health and Social Care were issued with new programme numbers for use from September 2008 to relate to version 2 of the specification, which permitted the awarding of a D* overall qualification grade. Learners registered for the new specification who achieve the required unit grades will automatically be awarded a D*.

Learners on the earlier version of the programme (September 2006) who have not been certificated may be transferred to the new specification if they have achieved high enough unit grades to be awarded a D*. A letter with the reference FD CDHSC was sent to centres in August 2008 to confirm this.

Please note that transfers must be completed prior to certificates being claimed.

If centres have any specific issues with certification, please contact Service Operations on 0844 576 0026 or email serviceoperations@edexcel.com.

CONTACTING REGIONAL QUALITY MANAGERS

A reminder to mention the centre number and your name in the subject field of emails when contacting the Regional Quality Managers. This will enable us to respond to your queries quicker. [Click here](#) to find your Regional Quality Manager.

SAMPLE TESTS AVAILABLE FOR BTEC ONSCREEN TESTS

Sample tests are now available for some onscreen tested qualifications. Tests which are already available are:

- Business Administration
- Customer Service
- Retailing
- Introducing Retailing and Management

The following will be shortly available:

- Children's Care, Learning and Development
- Health and Social Care

Each test is in the format of the onscreen tests that learners sit. So you can see exactly how these tests will be presented to them. Many of the functions of an onscreen test are included in these samples.

The tests combine questions from both Level 2 and Level 3. Each sample test has 40 questions. The first 20 are from Level 2 and the last 20 are from Level 3. This is to give both centres and learners a

taster of what they can expect in the onscreen test. Children's Care Learning and Development is now live and we're only waiting on Health and Social Care.

[Click here](#) to view the tests.

WORKSKILLS FIRST YEAR

After a relatively quiet start, WorkSkills has gathered pace during the year as the potential of this range of qualifications is realised by centres. WorkSkills are small and flexible qualifications that can stand alone or be linked with the delivery of other qualifications. The designed flexibility and the roll on / roll off nature of the qualifications has encouraged a wide range of centres to take up these qualifications. These have included prisons, young offenders institutions and training providers as well as schools and colleges. Every centre seems to have responded to the potential that these qualifications offer in a different way.

Although initially the QCF units are at Entry 3, Level 1 and Level 2, a Level 3 is planned as well as qualification groupings of the units into particular titles such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). The delivery of these qualifications has been supported by a new approach to quality focusing on the standards around the delivery of internal verification in a programme team. This model is dependent on training, support and the use of online OSCA2 accreditation.

The third window for OSCA2, the online standardisation tool for lead internal verifiers, closed last month. All centres that have failed to obtain accreditation and need certification of their learners before the end of this academic year have been allocated a standards verifier to sample assessment and verification decisions. For training providers and centres operating a roll-on, roll-off program for WorkSkills, there is a further window available from 14 September to 16 October. For centres seeking certification of their learners later in the academic year, the first available window of the year is 23 November 2009 to 8 January 2010.

Centres will be required to re-register their lead internal verifier on OSCA2 in September to maintain their three year WorkSkills accreditation; an email will be sent from Edexcel next month to explain this process to lead internal verifiers and quality nominees and invite re-registration.

The next compulsory Lead Internal Verifier training events for WorkSkills are taking place in September, as listed below.

Date	Training Event	Venue	Time
8 September	New to BTEC WorkSkills	High Holborn, London	9am-5pm
8 September	WorkSkills Lead Internal Verifier Training	CENTRA - Online	10am-1pm
15 September	WorkSkills Lead Internal Verifier Training	Manchester Regional Office	10am-1pm
16 September	WorkSkills Lead Internal Verifier Training	CENTRA - Online	1pm-4pm

The New to BTEC WorkSkills is a full day event for centres without any prior experience of BTEC qualifications. It also includes the compulsory Lead Internal Verifier training.

The WorkSkills Lead Internal Verifier training is a half day event for centres already familiar with BTEC qualifications. This introduces centres to WorkSkills and the quality assurance process. This is compulsory training for centres wanting to deliver WorkSkills qualifications, and must be attended by the Lead Internal Verifier prior to taking the OSCA2 assessment.

MONITORING EXTERNAL VERIFIERS' AND EXTERNAL EXAMINERS' PERFORMANCE

As we approach the end of the year, BTEC quality assurance processes are finishing, results are being reported and certificates issued. It is a busy time for us as we are monitoring the performance of our Risk Assessors (RA), External Verifiers (EV) and External Examiners (EE) who have worked hard to meet all the deadlines. Centres are asked to contribute to this process and we would like to thank all of you who have gone onto Edexcel Online and completed the feedback form for your RA, EV, or EE.

Every year we sample around a quarter of the people who work for us in this role and this wouldn't work as successfully as it does without centre staff taking the time to reflect on the performance of their RA, EV and EE. Review meetings are held in June through to September when the different BTEC qualifications are discussed. We still have the NVO, FAD, Higher Nationals and International externals to discuss so there is still time to submit feedback for these. All feedback is treated in confidence and does not affect the quality assurance outcome. We have had some very positive feedback this year so far and this is just as useful as the not so good feedback - we know who is doing an excellent job and who needs some extra support. Every contribution helps us to improve the quality of the Risk Assessor, External Verifier and Examiner workforce and we are very grateful for all your help.

If you have any questions about the monitoring process, please get in touch with us on this email address - BTECAAMonitoring@edexcel.com

MUSIC EXTERNAL VERIFIER VACANCIES

We are looking for experienced and qualified BTEC practitioners to join our team of external verifiers for BTEC Levels 2-3 in Music Practice.

As an EV you would be required to verify centre assessment decisions to ensure BTEC NQF programmes are assessed to National Standards, prepare a report outlining the results of your sampling and provide advice to the centre as necessary.

You must have relevant qualifications, a good understanding of the vocational sector and significant experience of delivering and assessing BTEC NQF programmes to Level 3.

For details and the online application form please visit our recruitment website at:
https://home.edexcelgateway.com/pages/job_search_view.aspx?jobId=403

Training for successful applicants will be held on 18/19 September at the University of Warwick.



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