

A close-up portrait of a young man with light brown, spiky hair, looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark, collared shirt.

BTECs: opening doors

Nathan Whitely, BTEC Level 3 IT Practitioners
(Software Development)

Nathan Whitely is a one-man phenomenon; software developer, undergraduate at Leeds University and Royal Society of Arts IT Student of the Year, admired for his practical experience and wide-ranging knowledge. **The secret of his success? Hard work, determination – and a BTEC.**

Find out how BTECs open doors to dream careers, university degrees and professional accolades at BTEC.co.uk/Nathan



Stronger and more relevant than ever before

BTECS: OPENING DOORS

BTECs: stronger and more relevant than ever before

Worried your child may be left behind in the race to university places and job offers? Unsure how BTECs fit in? Helping your child choose the right learning path aged 13 can be difficult. But rest assured, you can have confidence in BTECs because universities and employers have confidence in them.

The following facts tell their own story...

UCAS awards equal tariff points to Level 3 BTECs and A-levels in all sectors²

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

A Level 3 BTEC 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



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¹ Independent research carried out by London Economics, 2010

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

³ YouGov Large Business Research, February 2011

BTECs: creating success stories for every type of student



UNDERGRADUATE
CHARITY FOUNDER
ENGINEER OF THE YEAR
BTEC GRADUATE

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

Alex is an inspiration to his peers; undergraduate at the University of Loughborough, named Engineer of the Year and founder of Future4All, a charity that helps disadvantaged young people into work and education.

The secret of his success? Passion, practical experience – and (a couple of) BTECs.



TEACHER
MENTOR
ROLE MODEL
BTEC ADVOCATE

Euthan Newman, Teacher of Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care

Euthan is on the other side of the BTEC story; as a teacher at South Thames College, he sees the difference that BTECs make to students every day. For him, BTECs offer a neat combination of education and vocation. When his students return from their work placements, they're more confident, enthusiastic and excited about learning. **The secret of his students' success? Good teaching, practical experience – and a BTEC.**



ACTRESS
DANCE TEACHER
MENTOR
BTEC GRADUATE

Megan Robertson, BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts

Megan is a real high-flyer; awarded a distinction in her BTEC, she then secured four A Levels, six professional theatre jobs and one film role. But it doesn't stop there. She's also a teacher and mentor to a group of young dancers. **The secret of her success? Hard work, real-world experience – and a BTEC.**

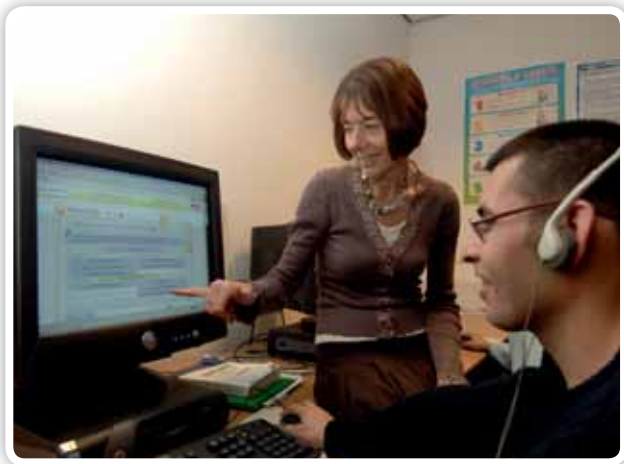
Choose a BTEC and write your own success story

There's a BTEC for every type of student. BTECs offer real-world experience alongside academic learning; textbooks alongside work placements and external assessment alongside practical learning.

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

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. From September 2012 we are introducing revised BTECs (in line with government guidelines and subject to Ofqual accreditation) that 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.





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.

Rewarding effort

BTEC students will have to meet deadlines set by teachers but can do this at their own pace rather than having to perform to the time constraints of an exam. Progress is monitored individually by teachers who 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2010/11, we received nearly 1.4 million BTEC registrations and one in every two GCSE-level learners choose a BTEC as the next step in their career path.

Students who gain a BTEC Level 3 National qualification will earn UCAS points at the same time. UCAS points 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.



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BTECS: IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

What does a BTEC look like?

BTEC qualifications come in different levels, from BTEC Level 2 Firsts up to BTEC Level 5 Higher Nationals.

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 BTEC being taken. 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/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 Level 2 Firsts

Around 100 BTEC Level 2 First qualifications are available, each linked to an industry sector. Students may take BTEC Level 2 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 Level 2 First.

BTEC Level 4/5 Higher Nationals

The BTEC Level 4 HNCs and BTEC Level 5 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 is a Level 3/4 programme, lasting normally a 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 upon 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 Level 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.

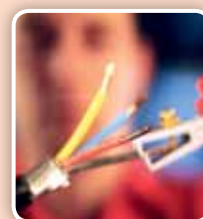
WHICH SECTORS DO BTECS COVER?

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
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 every type of student

Find out how BTECs open doors to dream careers, university degrees and professional accolades at **[BTEC.co.uk/Nathan](https://www.btec.co.uk/Nathan)**

Got a question?

Email our dedicated BTEC support team at btec@edexcel.com.

 **BTEC**

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