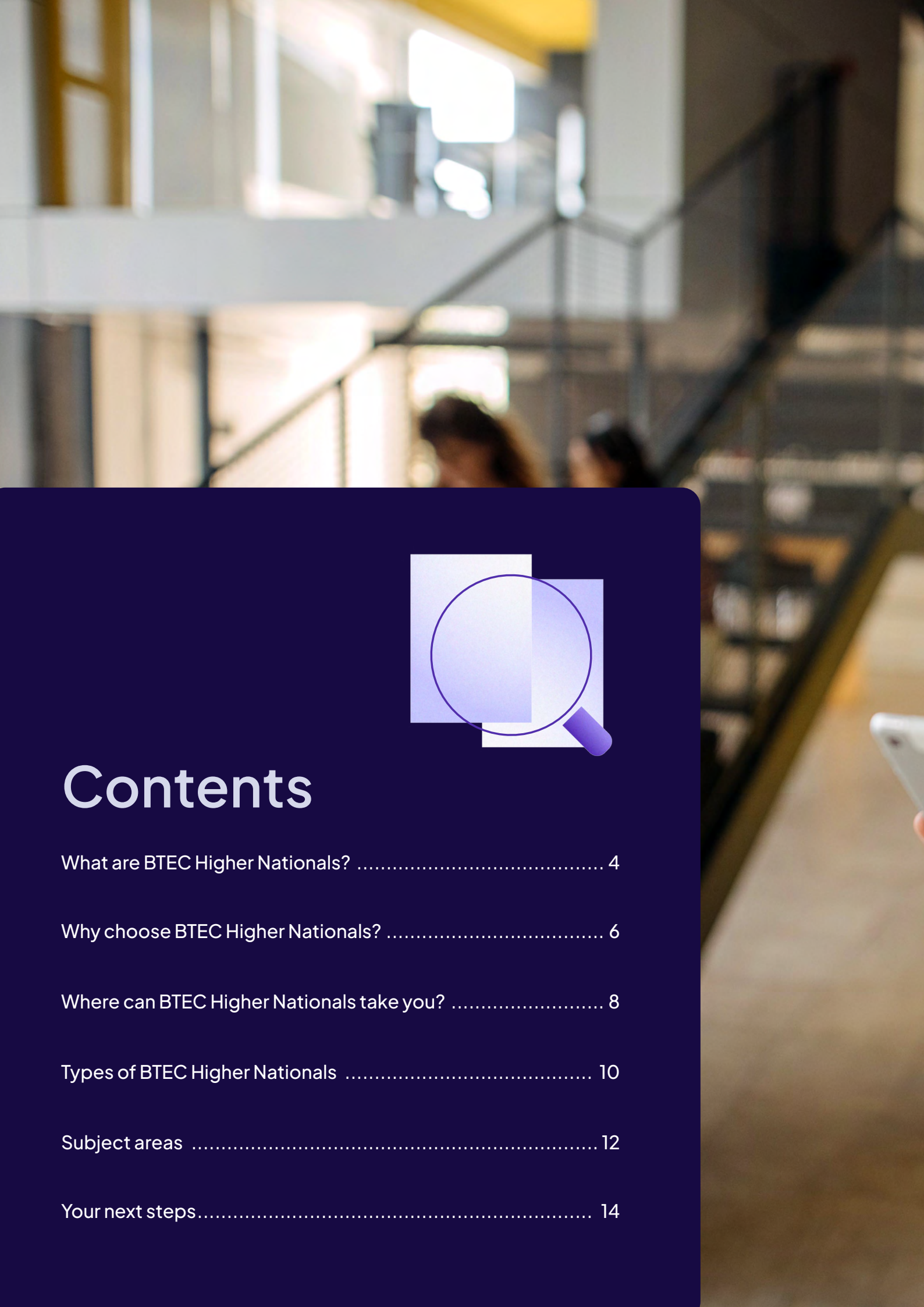


BTEC HIGHER NATIONALS

Built for the real world

Discover higher education that works for you



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Take control of your future

You've got big plans and BTEC Higher Nationals are here to help you make them happen, on your terms.

What are BTEC Higher Nationals?

BTEC Higher Nationals are career-focused qualifications that combine hands-on learning with academic knowledge. Designed hand-in-hand with employers, BTEC Higher Nationals give you practical skills and the confidence to step into work or further study.Whether you're starting out or switching paths, they offer a flexible way to take your next step towards your dream career.

How will they help you succeed?

Built around what industries actually need, BTEC Higher Nationals help you gain skills that are relevant, respected and ready to use. These qualifications sit at Levels 4 and 5—the same as the first two years of university.



> “Because of the HNC, I developed a thirst for lifelong learning. It made me appreciate that with the right support and course; anyone can achieve their goals.”

— Brendan Coulson, HNC Computing graduate

Why choose BTEC Higher Nationals?

The smart way to get hired.

BTEC Higher Nationals are created with input from industry leaders, so you're learning the skills employers actually need and want. From day one, you'll build practical experience and technical knowledge that prepares you to step confidently into the working world.

You'll develop skills such as:

- Real problem-solving and decision-making
- Staying organised and meeting deadlines
- In-demand, sector-specific knowledge

Different route. Same destination.

BTEC Higher Nationals are built to fit your life. They offer a faster, more flexible way to get qualified, with the option to top up to a degree if that's your plan.

You can qualify in just 1–2 years, studying full-time or part-time. It's a smart way to gain career-ready skills without putting everything else on hold.

They're also a more affordable route. With lower tuition fees than most university degrees, you can study locally, reduce your living costs and avoid the long-term debt of a three-year course.

When you finish, you've got options. Step into skilled work or top up to a full degree. It's your path, your pace.



Costs: fees vary by institution—check their website or prospectus for details.



Funding: student loans are available at most further education colleges. If you're applying to a private provider, speak to them directly about tuition and funding options.

Want to learn more about student finance in the UK?
Scan here ▶



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Real learning. Real people. Real support.

With BTEC Higher Nationals, you're more than just a name on a list. You'll learn in smaller groups, get personalised support from tutors who know you, and become part of a close-knit community focused on helping you grow. You'll also have access to the tools you need to feel confident, capable and career-ready.



HNC & HND Computing graduate

Alex Warren

The small group size meant that whenever support or feedback was needed from a tutor, it was individualised and always given timely, which was definitely helpful.

Where can BTEC Higher Nationals take you?

Your future, your way

BTEC Higher Nationals are designed to give you options, so you can shape your future on your terms. Whether you want to jump straight into work, continue studying, or gain professional recognition, there's a pathway for you.

How it works

Start from

Level 3 qualification (A-Level, BTEC National, T Level, Access to HE Diploma)

Then progress to

BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificate (120 Credits)

BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma (120 Credits)

Then choose your next step

- Step into work
- Top up to a full degree
- Gain professional body recognition



Step into work

BTEC Higher Nationals are made with employers, so everything you learn reflects real industry needs. You'll graduate with job-ready skills, hands-on experience and the confidence to start your career—not just search for one.

Top up to a full degree

Your BTEC Higher National qualification can take you further. It's recognised by universities across the UK and worldwide so you can build on what you've achieved and top up to a full undergraduate degree.

Want to explore your options? Use our degree finder tool and be sure to check each university's entry requirements.
Scan here ▶

Gain professional body recognition

We work closely with professional bodies to make sure your qualification counts. That could mean fast-tracking a certification or working toward Chartered status in your field.

BTEC Higher National qualification	Some examples of current exemptions/vendor accreditations
Business	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants ACCA, CIMA, CIPD, CIPS
Computing	CompTIA, CISCO, Microsoft, Oracle, AXELOS
Construction and the Built Environment	Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Institution of Structural Engineers (iStructE), Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), Chartered Institution of Hoghways & Transportation (CIHT), Institute of Highways Engineers (IHE).

Types of BTEC Higher Nationals

BTEC Higher Nationals come in two levels, both designed with input from employers, subject experts, and students to meet your learning goals and prepare you for the workplace.

Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Higher National Diploma (HND)
Usually takes one year to complete if studying full time, and two years if studying part time.	Usually takes two years to complete if studying full time,and four years if studying part time.
Equivalent to the first year of a University degree (level 4).	Equivalent to the first and second year of a University degree (level 5).
Usually a more introductory programme with a 'core' of learning essential to the subject (some sectors may have more specialist content depending on level of entry to the job market).	A more specialised programme of learning with pathways linked to occupational outcomes.
Opportunities to develop project management skills.	An increased focus on research skills.
Assessment for both years will be through a varied programme of assignments.	
Core modules credit values may vary by subject, but will not be less than 30% of the whole qualification.	

BTEC Higher Nationals can be studied at an approved college or university. Want to see what's on offer near you?

Head to our website to find a list of approved providers across the UK. **Scan here ▶**

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

Higher Technical Qualifications, or HTQs, are technical qualifications available for students in England at higher education level.

Some BTEC Higher Nationals carry the HTQ quality mark. That means they're the same trusted qualifications but with even more employer validation.

HTQ-approved BTEC Higher Nationals meet rigorous industry standards and align with specific job roles. They're designed to give you the technical skills and knowledge employers are actively looking for.

We currently offer over 40 HTQ-approved qualifications across nine key sectors, including Business, Construction, Digital, Early Years, Engineering, Healthcare, Land, Sport and Creatives.

Want to learn more?

Visit the Department for Education's website or speak to your local centre to find out which HTQs are available near you.
Scan here ▶

> "I knew I wanted to take a more practical route into my career. After deliberating for a while, I decided that the best option was the HND Computing course—it fit in with all my needs and its HTQ status added more value to the qualification."
>
> — Chloe Caine, HND in Computing (HTQ) alumni

Subject areas

With BTEC Higher Nationals, there's a wide range of subject areas to choose from with specialist pathways designed to match your career goals.



Acting

Aeronautical Engineering*

Animal Management *

Applied Sciences

Architectural Technology*

Art and Design

Automotive Engineering*

Business*

Computer Systems Engineering*

Computing*

Construction*

Construction Management*

Counselling and Applied Psychology

Creative Media Production

Dance

Digital Technologies*

Directing

Early Years Professional Leadership*

Electrical and Electronic Engineering*

Electrical Systems Engineering*

Electronic and Electrical Systems Engineering*

Electronic Systems Engineering*

Engineering*

Esports

Fashion and Textiles

Film and Television

Fine Art

Game Development

Graphic Design

Healthcare Practice

Healthcare Professions Support*

Hospitality Management

Interior Design



Image: © GettyImages

Journalism

Makeup and Hair Artistry

Manufacturing Engineering*

Manufacturing Operations*

Mechanical Engineering*

Mechatronics*

Modern Methods of Construction*

Motorsport Engineering*

Music Business

Music Performance

Music Production

Musical Theatre

Nuclear Engineering

Operations Engineering*

Photography*

Policing

Product Design

Public Services

Quantity Surveying*

Rail Engineering

Screenwriting

Social and Community Work

Sound Engineering

Sound Media

Space Technologies*

Sport*

Sport and Exercise Science

Technical Arts

The Animation Industry

Travel and Tourism Management

Visual Effects

Web Design

*HTQs are available in these subjects for students in England.

Your next steps

1. Do your research

Start by exploring the courses and career paths that interest you. Think about where you want to go—and how a BTEC Higher National can help you get there.

2. Explore your options

Visit college websites, read their prospectuses and attend open days. This is your chance to get a feel for what each place offers and find the right fit.

3. Apply with confidence

Once you've found the right course, check the entry requirements and get ready to apply. Need support? Speak to a tutor or careers adviser, they're here to help you through the process!



HND, Digital Technologies Alumni

Deborah Mungai

My BTEC Higher National experience was incredibly enriching and exceeded my expectations.
My experience has made me more confident and vocal, both in the workplace and in my personal life.



Image: © GettyImages



Got questions? Let's talk.

If you'd like to learn more about BTEC Higher National qualifications or need help deciding your next step, we're here to support you.

Speak to your local college or institution

highernationals@pearson.com

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