

# BTEC qualifications - FAQs

## What is a BTEC?

BTEC stands for 'Business and Technology Education Council', named after the body which first governed the qualifications (they are now governed by Edexcel).

BTECs are vocational qualifications rather than traditional academic qualifications. Typical subjects offered at BTEC level include Business Studies, Sport, Engineering and Information Technology.

## What is the difference between BTECs and A-levels?

One of the main differences between BTECs and A-levels is the way they are assessed. A-levels mainly involve two years of study geared towards a few big exams at the end, whereas BTECs are continually assessed via coursework and practical projects, using assignments set in real-life scenarios, where students develop and apply the practical knowledge and skills employers and higher education are looking for.

BTEC courses suit students who are hard-working and consistent but don't always perform at their best in exam situations. These students are likely to perform better and achieve better results on a BTEC course.

## Can you go to university with a BTEC?

Ninety-five per cent of universities and colleges in the UK accept BTEC students, including competitive universities from the Russell Group. In 2015, over a quarter of students accepted into higher education held at least one BTEC.

Nearly all universities accept BTECs in relevant subject areas, similar to how they would with equivalent A-level qualifications.

BTEC students can often be better prepared in terms of the independent studying that's required at degree level, due to the portfolio-based nature of BTEC courses. The time management and self-organisation you'll pick up on a BTEC course can also give you an added edge.

BTEC students achieving good grades are just as sought after as students with good A-level results. BTEC students often have the experience of real-life practical tasks. This sets them apart from students studying A-levels, who don't usually have this element as a part of their course.