



The Studio

BTEC

Parent and Learner

Handbook

2015-2016


BTEC Nationals at The Studio: Introduction

Welcome to the The Studio BTEC Parent and Learner Handbook. Are you worried your son/daughter may be left behind in the race for university places and job offers? And unsure where BTECs fit in alongside academic qualifications?

Helping your son/daughter choose the right learning path can be challenging. But rest assured; you can have confidence in BTECs – because universities, employers and education experts have confidence in them.

BTECs are ideal for students who have already decided on their career. If your son/daughter 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 by employers.

The facts tell their own story:

University places – “95% of universities and colleges in the UK accept BTEC students, including competitive universities from the Russell Group” *UCAS and *

Employment – “With a level 3 BTEC you can boost your son/daughters lifetime earnings by up to £92,000” *independent research carried out by London Economics*

“62% of large companies have recruited employees with BTEC qualifications” *YouGov Large Business Research*

“BTEC Nationals increase the likelihood of getting a job – by 8% for women and 5% for men” *independent research carried out by London Economics*

Education reforms – “BTEC Nationals are also valuable in the labour market and a familiar and acknowledged route into higher education, alone or in conjunction with 1 or 2 A levels” *Alison Wolf, Review of Vocational Education for the Government*

Find out how BTECs can open doors to university degrees and professional success at: BTEC.co.uk/Alex

BTEC Nationals at The Studio: 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. BTECs offer real-world experience – on their own or alongside academic learning – to support progression to further study and into the world of work. There are three sectors for students to choose from at The Studio, they are:

- Creative Media Production
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Information Technology

BTEC Level 3 Nationals are suitable for students aged 16 upwards and are recommended for those who have achieved at least five A*- C grade GCSEs or have completed a BTEC First.



A BTEC Level 3 National course in Year 12 at The Studio is structured in the following way each week:

- 6 hours of taught time
- 6 hours of guided private study time
- A period of work experience that is part of the course guided learning hours

Students who gain a BTEC Level 3 National qualification will earn UCAS points which count towards entry to a higher education/degree course in the UK. You can find out more about UCAS at: www.ucas.com

BTEC Nationals at The Studio: What does a BTEC National look like?

A BTEC National is made up of a number of units; this number is dependent

on the level of qualification and size of the BTEC National. To complete each unit, students' work is assessed along the way, pulling together skills, knowledge and understanding. This on-going assessment allows students to analyse and improve their own performance through their course in much the same way as they would in the workplace.

Unit results are graded as the following:

BTEC Level 3 Nationals	A-Level equivalent
D* (Distinction Starred)	A*
D (Distinction)	A
M (Merit)	C
P (Pass)	E

The time taken to complete a BTEC is dependent on the size and level of the qualification.

BTEC Nationals at The Studio: The BIG benefits

The following will explain what BTEC Nationals offer over other qualifications and why a BTEC could be exactly the right choice for your son/daughter:

A practical approach to study

BTEC Nationals 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 a BTEC National, progress is measured throughout the course, allowing students to gauge their own performance on a continuing basis, just like in a real workplace. For many students the on-going assessment provided by the BTEC route could be the better option.

Inspiring confidence

Learning should be fun, not daunting. In our experience at The Studio, students enjoy BTEC programmes because they can specialise in areas of learning linked with work that they are interested in, like IT or the media sector. The BTEC National courses we offer 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.

Rewarding effort

BTEC National 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. Teachers monitor progress individually, and they 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.

Every year, Edexcel Pearson talks to BTEC learners across the UK who have completed their studies to find out how BTEC has changed their lives. In their most recent survey, they discovered:

- 85% of learners who progressed to further studies expect to derive **long-term, career-related benefits from their BTEC.**
- 79% of learners who progressed to work consider the **BTEC** one of the **stepping stones towards their dream job.**

BTEC Nationals at The Studio: Want to know more?

You can explore your son/daughters BTEC National options by contacting the following staff for further information:

Name	Position	Email
Jill Davies	Vice Principal	j.davies@thestudio-liverpool.co.uk
Michael Saint-Cricq	Leader for BTEC and Vocational Education/QN	m.saint-cricq@thestudio-liverpool.co.uk