

# The BTEC Customised Framework – a tailor-made solution

advancing learning, changing lives

**BTEC**

Flexible short course solutions for learning providers and employers

## Introduction

The BTEC Customised Framework enables providers of education and training to design flexible short course programmes of study that meet the needs of local employers and industries. These programmes of study can comprise centre-devised or Edexcel-devised units, or a unique mix of both.

This BTEC Customised Framework provides a platform for accrediting 'bite-sized' learning, bespoke courses for employers and centre-devised professional development programmes.

### BTEC Short Courses Within the Framework and Their Practical Applications

There are many practical applications for short courses within the BTEC Customised Framework. You may be an employer looking to enhance the status of your company's in-house training programmes or be looking to devise qualifications that are industry-specific or applicable to a particular organisation.

Similarly, you may be a learning provider looking to offer specialised professional development opportunities, skills updating or simply developing provision offering a clear progression opportunity for further vocational study.

### Benefits

There are at least six key benefits for those developing short course programmes within the new BTEC Customised Framework:

- Flexibility, coherence and relevance across six levels
- Certification of small blocks of learning
- The opportunity to customise a qualification for a particular employment or industry need
- Potential for links to existing BTEC programmes or other programmes recognised by an organisation or centre
- Providing knowledge, skills and understanding to underpin the National Occupational Standards for a particular sector
- Progression to either a higher level qualification or to an extended programme of study at the same level.



## BTEC Qualification Structure

All short course qualifications within the BTEC Customised Framework are defined in the form of a number of units. Each unit in a qualification represents a distinct area of knowledge and understanding.

The maximum size of any one unit is 120 guided learning hours. Other unit sizes are any multiple of 10 to a minimum unit size of 10 guided learning hours.

	<b>Level &amp; Title</b>	<b>Award</b> 30 – 100 hours	<b>Certificate</b> 120 – 200 hours	<b>Diploma</b> 220 – 300 hours for Entry to Level 3 no upper limit for Levels 4 & 5
↑ <i>Increase in Qualification Level</i>	<b>Level 5</b> BTEC Advanced Professional	BTEC Advanced Professional Award	BTEC Advanced Professional Certificate	BTEC Advanced Professional Diploma
	<b>Level 4</b> BTEC Professional	BTEC Professional Award	BTEC Professional Certificate	BTEC Professional Diploma
	<b>Level 3</b> BTEC Advanced	BTEC Advanced Award	BTEC Advanced Certificate	BTEC Advanced Diploma
	<b>Level 2</b> BTEC Intermediate	BTEC Intermediate Award	BTEC Intermediate Certificate	BTEC Intermediate Diploma
	<b>Level 1</b> BTEC Foundation	BTEC Foundation Award	BTEC Foundation Certificate	BTEC Foundation Diploma
	<b>Entry Level</b> BTEC Entry	BTEC Entry Award	BTEC Entry Certificate	BTEC Entry Diploma
		→ <i>Increase in Qualification Size</i>		

As a centre you can devise or commission all or some of the unit(s) in your qualification or use units from existing BTEC qualifications and Edexcel NVQs. The qualifications will be internally assessed before being quality assured by

Edexcel through external verification. Each unit can be graded at pass/fail or pass/merit/distinction level to differentiate achievement. There is no overall qualification grade.

## Starting Out

The first step is to contact Edexcel to express your interest. If you are a new centre to Edexcel, you will need to seek centre approval. This procedure looks at the management and quality assurance processes that will support the delivery and assessment of BTEC qualifications. Edexcel offers a network of specialists who will be able to provide advice and support as you develop your qualification and prepare your submission for approval from Edexcel.

You will need to think carefully about the intended market for your qualification(s) and have a clear view about who the target learners are. It is important that qualifications are designed to meet an identified skill and/or industry need.

As you develop your qualifications, you may need support in writing them to the Edexcel format. Edexcel staff can provide guidance as you do this, or you may want to make use of our specialist unit writing service *Providing Solutions* (please see the *Further Information* section of this leaflet for contact details).

## Funding

With regard to public funding, courses developed within the Customised Framework do not fall under the auspices of sections 96 and 97 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000. When developing a customised qualification, you will need to consider how the programme will be funded. Some centres have chosen to run these programmes at full cost recovery - others by applying for local funding through their relevant funding body. How the programme is funded is entirely up to you.

## Developing a Larger Qualification

If your qualification aims require a longer course of study for your learners, you may wish to consider customised BTEC Higher Nationals, BTEC Nationals or BTEC Firsts. These qualifications exist at levels 4, 3 and 2 and have defined qualification sizes. The pre-defined qualification sizes allow you to develop a qualification that is in line with nationally recognised, standardised courses of study. Details of these longer programmes are in the BTEC Customised Framework Guidance.

## Customising Certificates

For added customisation, you may consider having personalised certificates for those completing your qualification. This can include a colour corporate logo and will incur a small additional fee.

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## Contact us

### Further Information

For more information on the BTEC Customised Framework, please contact Edexcel Customer Services on **0870 240 9800** or visit our website at [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

For details about the Providing Solutions service, please contact the Providing Solutions team on **020 7758 6875** or email [providingsolutions@edexcel.org.uk](mailto:providingsolutions@edexcel.org.uk)

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### About Edexcel

Edexcel is one of the UK's largest providers of qualifications, with the widest portfolio of academic and vocational qualifications.

Regulated by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to offer qualifications, Edexcel works with over 5,500 education partners in over 110 countries.

Further copies of this publication are available from Edexcel publications:

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