

BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design



Exam Board: Edexcel

Type of qualification: BTEC

Level of Course: 3

Aim of Course:

The qualification is designed for post-16 learners who want to progress to higher education in an art and design related discipline. It is an opportunity for learners to understand more about the scope of art and design and develop knowledge of the creative process. The optional units allow learners to study areas such as fashion, textiles, photography, and fine art. In order to follow either an Art or Fashion pathway, the Foundation Diploma is offered in a single option block which is the equivalent of one and a half A levels. For over 30 years, the BTEC has seen more students progressing to higher education than ever before; in 2013, over three times more students started UK higher education courses with a mix of A levels and BTEC Nationals than in 2008. Employers also seek out BTEC-qualified students: 4 out of 5 BTEC students who progressed into employment considered BTEC as an important stepping stone towards their dream job.

Course Content:

BTEC Nationals require applied learning that brings together knowledge and understanding with practical and technical skills. This is achieved through learners performing vocational tasks that encourage the development of vocational and transferable skills. The BTEC is structured so individual interests and future plans can be incorporated into studies, allowing students to develop areas of expertise.

There are 4 mandatory units which all students study. These are:

- Visual Recording and Communication
- Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design
- The Creative Process
- Materials, Techniques and Processes in Art and Design

Within these units, there are opportunities to pursue your own individual interests.

After these compulsory units, you would choose to either pursue an Art and Design route or a Fashion route. There are 2 further units of study.

The Art and Design Route

- Photographic Materials, Techniques and Processes
- Fine Art Materials, Techniques and Processes

OR

The Fashion Route

- Textile Materials, Techniques and Processes
- Fashion Materials, Techniques and Processes

Mode of Assessment:

There are two externally assessed units which test students through a set research task and written submissions and a task set and marked by the exam board and taken under supervised conditions. The other 4 units are internally assessed portfolio units.