

# Our Higher National Qualifications from EDEXCEL are the highly regarded BTEC awards

You can obtain a **Higher National Diploma (HND)** from our college which is a higher education qualification delivered in the United Kingdom since the 1960's when it was developed as a vocational qualification. This qualification can be used to gain entry into many UK universities, and is considered equivalent to the first two years of a university course. Learn more about our HNDs and please read the following expert opinions:

## Expert from The UK Government

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/QualificationsExplained/DG\\_10039026](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/QualificationsExplained/DG_10039026)

HNCs (Higher National Certificates) and HNDs (Higher National Diplomas) are work-related (vocational) higher education qualifications. While bachelors degrees tend to focus on gaining knowledge, HNCs and HNDs are designed to give you the skills to put that knowledge to effective use in a particular job.

They are highly valued by employers both in the UK and overseas, and can also count towards membership of professional bodies and other employer organisations.

HNCs and HNDs are at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. The framework shows how different types of qualifications compare, in terms of the demands they place on learners.

## Expert from UK Government careers advisors

<http://careersadvice.direct.gov.uk/helpandadvice/whichcourse/vocqual.htm>

BTEC HNCs/Ds are higher education qualifications, like degrees. Unlike degrees they're only available in vocational subjects; they are closely linked to the world of work.

They're a mixture of theory and practice, and will prepare you for work at a technical, supervisory or management level.

HNDs are usually two years full-time, but there are a few part-time ones available, which will take longer. When you have finished an HNC or HND, you can top up your qualification to a degree by finding a university that offers a degree with a similar subject syllabus to your higher national qualification. You'll do an extra one or two years to top up to a degree, depending on how closely the syllabuses match.

You can find out more about BTECs on the Edexcel website.

## Expert from British Council

<http://www.britishcouncil.pl/infosheets/engineering.pdf>

Usually two years full time. The HND is a respected qualification in its own right and can lead to qualification as an Incorporated Engineer (IEng). With good marks you also have the option of transferring into the second or third year of a degree course.

## Expert from Wikipedia

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher\\_National\\_Diploma#cite\\_note-5](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_National_Diploma#cite_note-5)

Many universities will take students who have completed their HND onto either level 2 [2nd year] or level 3 [3rd year if a 4 year degree] of a degree course. [This is often called a 'top-up.]. Usually which of these years depends on the modules taken in the HND. It also means that after three years [or four if, say, a business placement year is taken] a student could have both the HND and an honours degree if studying in a UK university excluding Scotland. Scottish Honour Degrees are normally 4 year courses, and so an extra year of study is required. On graduation, students are permitted to use the postnominals 'HND' or 'HNDip' (and usually followed by the course name in brackets) after their name.

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