

The revised National Qualifications Framework

The table below indicates the position of BTEC Professional and Advanced Professional Qualifications in the revised National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

NQF		Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
Original levels	Revised levels #	
5 Level 5 BTEC Advanced Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	8 No current BTEC qualifications	D (doctoral) doctorates
	7 Level 7 BTEC Advanced Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	M (masters) masters degrees, postgraduate certificates and diplomas
4 Level 4 BTEC Higher National Diplomas and Certificates Level 4 BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	6 BTEC qualifications to be developed	H (honours) bachelors degrees, graduate certificates and diplomas
	5 Level 5 BTEC Higher National Diplomas and Certificates Level 5 BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	I (intermediate) diplomas of higher education and further education, foundation degrees, higher national diplomas
	4 Level 4 BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	C (certificate) certificates of higher education
3 <i>There is no change to Level 3 in the revised NQF</i> Level 3 BTEC National Diplomas, Certificates and Awards Level 3 BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards Advanced GCE		
2 <i>There is no change to Level 2 in the revised NQF</i> Level 2 BTEC First Diplomas and Certificates Level 2 BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards GCSEs grades A*-C		
1 <i>There is no change to Level 1 in the revised NQF</i> Level 1 BTEC Introductory Diplomas and Certificates Level 1 BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards GCSEs grades D-G		
Entry <i>There is no change to Entry Level in the revised NQF</i> Entry Level BTEC Certificates in Skills for Working Life and Life Skills		

The revised NQF applies from 1 September 2004 and will be fully implemented from 1 January 2006.

The revision is designed to recognise more precisely the academic levels at the higher levels of the framework: the actual content and other attributes of the respective qualifications are not altered or diminished.

The revision also provides better alignment with the FHEQ used in universities and higher education institutions.