

## Are you studying for a BTEC National Diploma? What next?



Did you know that you could study a subject at higher education which is different from your National Diploma?

Here are just a few examples of possible routes into higher education.

- > National Diploma Business to BSc Health, Community and Social Care.
- > National Diploma Travel and Tourism to BA Hons Performing Arts.
- > National Diploma Engineering to BA Hons Business Enterprise.

By successfully completing your National Diploma, you have demonstrated a wide range of skills at an advanced level. Some of these will be subject based, but many will be transferable to a different subject area:

- > Independent study skills (research, organisation, meeting deadlines)
- > Interpersonal skills (communication, team work etc)
- > IT skills
- > Numeracy skills
- > Written skills

These transferable skills will be useful whatever subject you decide to study at higher education.

“It’s been a great course, stimulating, enjoyable and I’ve learned loads.”

*National Diploma student at Weston College.*

“At college I’ve learnt to be much more independent about studying. I’ve gained lots of research and writing skills. I’m now applying to study Forensic Biomolecular Science at University.”

*National Diploma student at Wiltshire College.*

“The group work skills that I learnt on my national diploma course are proving to be really valuable here at University. Obviously a lot of drama is about working in groups, and from that I learnt how sometimes it’s best to take a step back. It’s about knowing when to listen to people and that it’s not always your voice that needs to be heard. I definitely learnt that studying performing arts.

At college I also got a lot of practice of working to deadlines. . . if we didn’t get our stuff in on time it really affected our grades. The course was made up of modules and it’s all continually assessed: you need to keep a regular learning journal which you have to submit along with a write up. The discipline of working to regular deadlines like this is a useful skill to bring to HE level study.”

*National Diploma student who previously studied at City of Bath College and is now a student at the University of Bath.*

## Tips for applying to university from your National Diploma course.

- > Get some advice from your college careers adviser about completing your UCAS form
- > Check the details of the course content to make sure it is really what you want to do – courses at different universities with the same name may have very different approaches
- > Check the required grades and skills on the course entry profiles via the UCAS website
- > Check whether the course requires particular A Levels in addition to your BTEC National Diploma due to the specific course content (e.g. A Level Chemistry and Maths for Chemical Engineering)
- > Be sure to check the course requirements for GCSE and Level 2 equivalents
- > Include a list of which National Diploma units you have already taken (and the grades gained) and which ones you plan to take
- > Make the most of your National Diploma placement experience when writing your personal statement. Maybe what you learnt through experience on your placement relates to your decision to study a particular subject? The admissions tutor will be interested to hear about this
- > If you enjoyed particular units in your National Diploma, and they relate to the content of the course you are applying for, this is useful information for the admissions tutor

And finally...

- > If you are planning to apply for a higher education course in a different subject from your National Diploma, make sure you explain why you have come to this decision. Admission tutors want to know that students have a genuine interest in their subject area.

Universities in the Western Vocational Lifelong Learning Network\* will consider applications from learners onto these HE level subjects from the National Diploma subjects listed below.

*Check University entry profiles for details of entry requirements as policies vary between institutions, and may change in the future.*

National Diplomas	HE Level Subjects
Business Health & Social Care Creative Industries Engineering Construction Public Services Travel & Tourism IT Beauty Therapy Science Hospitality & Catering	<b>Business</b>
Art & Design Media, Music & Performing Arts Business Construction Engineering IT & Computing Retail Travel & Tourism	<b>Creative Industries</b>
Engineering Construction IT & Computing Land-based Media Production Music Technology Science	<b>Engineering</b> <i>(Some university courses may ask for an A level Maths in addition to these National Diplomas)</i>
Health & Social Care Business Early Years Hair & Beauty Hospitality & Catering Public Services Science Sport	<b>Health &amp; Social Care</b>

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Western Vocational Lifelong Learning Network

*The Western Vocational Lifelong Learning Network aims to widen participation and facilitate the progression of vocational learners into higher education.*

*All information and details provided in this leaflet were correct at time of printing (September 2010)*

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