

HEALTH & SOCIAL DIPLOMA



EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL COURSE DURATION: 2 YEARS

The BTEC National Diploma in Health and Social Care is a Level 3 qualification designed to provide a highly specialist work-related qualification in the health, social care and early years sectors. It gives students the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to prepare for higher education programmes, apprenticeships or employment.

The BTEC National Diploma qualification has been developed in collaboration with employers and representatives from higher education and professional bodies to ensure students have the knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes relevant to Health and Social Care. Within this qualification, two examination units are studied. The first, Human Lifespan and Development (Unit 1) allows students to learn about factors which can influence human growth, development and human health. Some of these factors are inherited, whilst others are acquired through environmental factors. Within this unit, students will also learn a number of theories and models to explain and interpret behaviour through the lifespan. The second examination is entitled Working in Health and Social Care (Unit 2). Within this unit, students will learn about how to promote equality and diversity within the industry and will look at the skills and attributes required for developing relationships with service users as well as examining ethical issues and studying the legislation that underpins care environments. Coursework units are also undertaken.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

Students will develop their critical thinking skills, resilience and interpersonal skills and learn how to research actively and independently and become an effective writer. As 46% of the course is assessed through an external examination, students will also develop exam-based skills.

ASSESSMENT

The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma is equivalent to two A-levels and includes eight units, three of which are externally assessed (two through written examinations and one by examination of pre-released material). The other five units are internally assessed through coursework. Qualifications are graded using a scale of Pass-Distinction* and are recognised by UCAS with a tariff of 112 points for a Distinction*, the same tariff as an A* for an A-level.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

The BTEC National Diploma in Health and Social Care works well with a wide range of subjects, since throughout this course students will learn a broad base of transferable skills. Those students who are interested in NHS pathways may wish to consider other science subjects such as Medical Science or Biology. Students interested in primary education may wish to consider a National Curriculum subject covered at primary level.

CAREERS / UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

This course provides a route for students who wish to take a vocational qualification alongside one or two A-levels and is a route to higher education for careers such as social work, nursing, counselling, occupational therapy, nutrition, primary teaching and working in a nursery.