

## The UK Education System

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
GCSE (below grade c)	GCSE (grade c and above)	AS & A Level Access	Degree Foundation Degree	Higher Degree
GNVQ Foundation	BTEC First Diploma GNVQ Intermediate	Advanced GNVQ BTEC National Diploma Advanced VCE	BTEC Higher National Diploma (HND)	
NVQ 1	NVQ 2 City & Guilds	NVQ 3 City & Guilds	NVQ 4	NVQ 5

### Qualifications

#### Foundation Year – Level 1 & 2

A Foundation Year course bridges the gap between qualifications taken in another country and the entry requirements for Higher Education (HE). They normally include English language and study skills support, with a possible vocational qualification. They take 1 year to complete.

#### A Levels – Level 3

'A' Levels are qualifications which students who want to go to University often take. They usually take 2 years to complete. At the end of the first year students receive an Advanced Subsidiary (AS) qualification.

#### BTEC National Diploma – Level 3

A BTEC National Diploma is a 2 year course equal to A level standard. After 1 year is completed you receive a BTEC NATIONAL AWARD qualification. These courses are focused on specialist knowledge needed for a particular career; they are highly practical and give real work-based skills that can be used in your chosen career or as a basis for entry to Higher Education.

#### Higher National Diplomas/Foundation Degrees – Level 4

Higher National Diplomas/Foundation Degrees are university level courses, usually equivalent to the first 2 years of a degree courses. They are more vocational with a strong practical focus and work related projects. It is possible in most cases to continue for a further 1 or 2 years at university to obtain a full degree.