



QUALIFICATION CHART

Higher Education

Level 8

Doctorate/PhD

Level 7

Masters Degree & Postgraduate Certificates & Diplomas

Masters Degree & Postgraduate Certificates & Diplomas

Higher Apprenticeship

Degree Apprenticeship

NVQ Level 5

Level 6

Integrated Masters Degree

Honours Degree (2-year degrees also available)

Top-up Honours Degree

Top-up Honours Degree

Higher Apprenticeship

Degree Apprenticeship

National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 4

Level 5

Dip HE

Dip HE

Foundation Degree

HND

Higher Apprenticeship

Degree Apprenticeship

National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 4

Level 4

Cert HE

Cert HE

Foundation Degree

HNC

Higher Apprenticeship

Degree Apprenticeship

National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 4

Secondary/Further Education

Level 3

A and AS-levels

Level 1-3 qualifications such as:

Advanced Apprenticeship

NVQ Level 3

Level 2

GCSE (grades 4-9)

T-levels, BTEC, Certificate or Diploma, OCR and City & Guilds

Intermediate Apprenticeship

NVQ Level 2

Level 1

GCSE (grades 1-3)

(Some of these qualifications can lead all the way to Level 7/8)

NVQ Level 1

Academic

Vocational

Work-based



As you can see, there are a variety of different qualifications and possible routes specifically designed to cater for individual learning styles.

Although there are three broad categories of study (Academic, Vocational and Work-based), some qualifications may sit in more than one category. The Cert/Dip HE, for example, appears in the vocational column as they can lead to specific careers, but are usually considered academic qualifications.

It is possible (although there are some exceptions) to progress on to qualifications that are in different categories, as long as you have completed the previous level of study, e.g. from A-levels to an HNC, or from BTECs to a degree.

For more information on specific types of qualification, we recommend the following sites:

gov.uk

This is the official site providing essential guidance on apprenticeships of all levels, including how to find and apply for them.

studential.com

Search 'vocational qualifications' for information about BTECs, HNCs, HNDs, NVQs, and foundation degrees.

discoveruni.org.uk

The official higher education course comparison site with information about degrees, apprenticeships, HNCs, and HNDs.

cityandguilds.com

This site explains the flexibility of NVQs and other vocational qualifications.

tlevels.gov.uk

Comprehensive guidance about T-levels, designed for students.

Go online to view our interactive qualification chart with comprehensive explanations of all the qualifications.  nextstepssw.ac.uk/qualifications



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