Next Steps South West

QUALIFICATION CHART

Higher Education

Level 8

Doctorate/PhD

Level 7

Integrated Masters Degree

Masters Degree & Postgraduate Certificates & Diplomas

Masters Degree & Postgraduate Certificates & Diplomas

Higher Apprentice-ship

Degree Apprentice-ship

NVQ Level 5

Level 6

Honours Degree (2-year degrees also available)

Top-up Honours Degree

Top-up Honours Degree

Higher Apprentice-ship

Level 5

Dip HE

Dip HE

Foundation Degree

HND

Higher Apprentice-ship

Degree Apprenticeship

National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 4

Level 4

Cert HE

Cert HE

HNC

Higher Apprentice-ship

Secondary/Further Education

Level 3

A and AS-levels

Level 1-3 qualifications such as:

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

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

Advanced Apprenticeship

NVQ Level 3

Level 2

GCSE (grades 4-9)

Intermediate Apprenticeship

NVQ Level 2

Level 1

GCSE (grades 1-3)

NVQ Level 1

Academic | **Vocational** | **Work-based**

Next Steps South West

QUALIFICATION CHART

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 catagories of study - Academic, Vocational and Work-based, some qualifications may sit in more than one catagory. 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 onto qualifications that are in different catagories, 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 qualifcations' for information about BTECs, HNCs, HNDs, NVQs and Foundation Degrees.

discoveruni.org.uk
The official higher education course comparision site, with information about Degrees, Apprenticeships, HNCs, and HNDs.

cityandguilds.com
This site explains the flexibility of NVQs and other vocational qualifcations.

tlevels.gov.uk
Comprehensive guidance about T-levels, designed for students.

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

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