

Pearson Higher National Explained

The Pearson Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND) are nationally recognised qualifications and also highly valued by employers. These are well-established and reputable qualifications in their own right. These courses are structured around gaining and developing the hands-on skills needed in particular sectors.

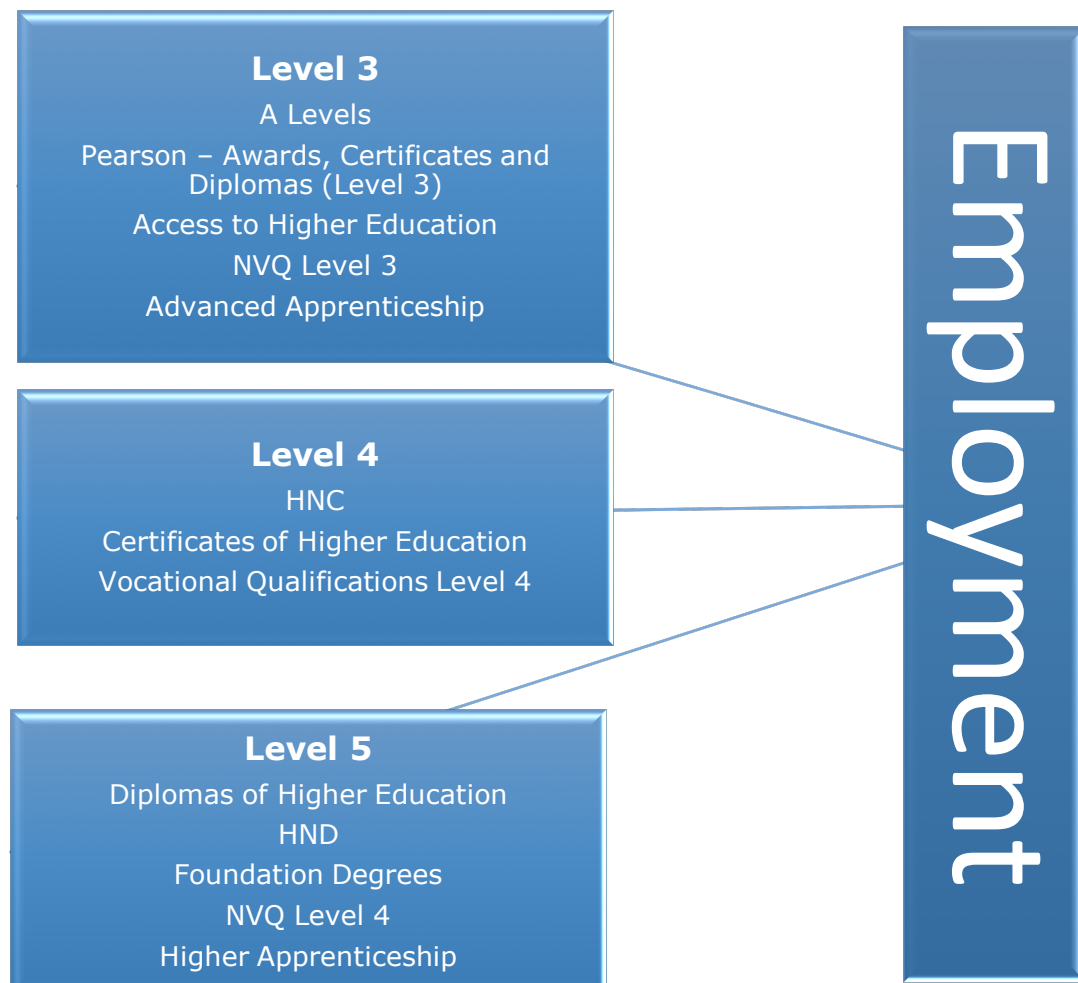
A university degree is normally a three-year course. The HNC (level 4) is equivalent to the first year of a university degree and the HND (level 5) is equivalent to the first two years of a full honours degree.

What are the benefits of a HNC or HND?

These qualifications are vocationally focused and practical which may suit both your learning style and what you want to do after you finish your studies. These are practical and work related courses that are designed to give specialist knowledge and work related skills which can lead straight on to a career. They are a great stepping stone, as you can choose to 'top up' a HND or HNC with extra studies, in order to convert it to a full bachelor's degree.

These qualifications are delivered in a holistic way which aims to develop confidence, time management, teamwork and other vocational skills.

Progression



Academic Progression Chart

Main Stages of Education / Employment	Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk		Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/fheq	
	Level		Level	
Professional or Postgraduate Education, or Employment	8	Vocational Qualifications Level 8	8	Doctoral Degrees
Higher Education Advanced Skills Training	7	NVQ Level 5 Vocational Qualifications Level 7	7	Master's Degrees Integrated Master's Degrees Postgraduate Diplomas Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Postgraduate Certificates
	6	Vocational Qualifications Level 6	6	Bachelor's Degrees with Honours Bachelor's Degrees Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Graduate Diplomas Graduate Certificates
Entry to Professional Graduate Employment	5	NVQ Level 4 Higher National Diplomas (HND) Higher National Certificates (HNC) Vocational Qualifications Level 5	5	Foundation Degrees Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE) Higher National Diplomas (HND) – Pearson
Specialised Education and Training				
Qualified/Skilled Worker Entry to Higher Education Completion of Secondary Education	4	Vocational Qualifications Level 4	4	Higher National Certificates (HNC) - Pearson Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)
	3	NVQ Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship Vocational Qualifications Level 3 Certificate/Diploma GCSE AS and A Level Advanced Diplomas		
Progression to Skilled Employment Continuation of Secondary Education	2	NVQ Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship Vocational Qualifications Level 2 Certificate/Diploma GCSEs at grade A* - C ESOL skills for life Higher Diplomas Functional Skills Level 2 (English, mathematics & ICT)		