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Get Skilled to Succeed



BTEC National Certificate Level 3 – Health & Social Care / Management

With the introduction of the Points Based System (PBS) and Tier 4 (student category) on 31 March 2009, the requirements for courses accepted by the Home Office have been changed. Student visas are granted to overseas candidates for below degree level courses only, if the proposed course includes 15 hours class room sessions per week during term time and it is at a minimum entry level of National Qualification Framework (NQF) Level 3.

In order to continue to support overseas students who wish to gain theoretical knowledge about the UK Care Sector and practical skills under the new requirements of the Points Based System, Wave Training has developed 2 courses, depending on the relevant qualification of the candidates:

- 1. BTEC National Certificate Level 3 – Health & Social Care**
- 2. Dual Award: BTEC National Certificate Level 3 – Health & Social Care
BTEC National Certificate Level 3 – Management**

Both courses are 3 years long. They cover much of the knowledge areas previously included in the NVQ programmes, in addition to much more in depth and challenging material. Students will be offered an integral work-based placement. Some candidates may be offered the chance to complete and NVQ 2 as an extra curricula qualification in order to satisfy their work placement provider. No academic credits will be awarded for the course for completing your NVQ 2.



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Aims and characteristics of the BTEC National Certificate



This programme is designed to improve the international career prospects of overseas students by giving an internationally recognized qualification that will enable getting better jobs and enjoying better careers anywhere in the world.

The programme is not a method of gaining employment in the UK and the application process makes sure that only serious students who want to study hard and improve their career prospects with this qualification will join the programme.

The care sector in the UK is very complex and highly regulated with many laws and rules under the 'Care Standards Act' that take time to be learned and understood. Due to this, the course length differs from programmes given to experienced learners in the UK who are used to these rules, as extra time is given for overseas students to learn these new rules and adapt to a new working and living environment. This allows time to learn and practice new professional skills and for time to 'consolidate' the learned material by using these skills in a period of structured work experience.

The course provides an excellent background for a career in Health and Social Care and/or for progress to Higher Education and enables developing knowledge and skills through a wide range of units. It will be able to put these into practice in structured work placements within the Health and Social Care Sector which are provided to accompany the course throughout the programme. Mandatory units include Communication, Human Development, Anatomy and Physiology and Safeguarding Adults. The course has totally 15 hours per week classroom sessions which are split into 2 days of 7.5. These are complimented by the additional 15 hours of practical learning per week which will be completed in a relevant care service work placement.



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In addition to this, students are permitted to work 20 hours per week during term time. The duration of the course will be 7 months per year which is the term time of the course. For the remaining 5 months per year, the candidate is allowed to work full time.

The BTEC National Certificates are achieved through training and continuous assessments which are conducted through written assignments, practical activities and written tests. The addition of a "class room set-up" provides students with extra theoretical and practical knowledge to help them become better professionals. This process tests candidates' knowledge, understanding and practical learning performance to make sure they can demonstrate competence in their own respective areas of assignment.



When new candidates start a work placement, their teacher will help them to:

- Identify what they can do already
- Agree on the standard and level they are aiming for
- Analyse what they need to learn
- Choose and agree on activities that would allow them to learn what they need.

At this point, candidates might agree with their placement provider to do slightly different work to gain the evidence of competence they need.

Methodologies are classroom based, which will include assignments. The file attached outlines the marking criteria, for example P = Pass, M = Merit and D = Distinction which is different to a NVQ. It is therefore important the student is able to execute assignments in a time frame to ensure they achieve. The student will carry out assignments in and around their workplace, blending theory and practice. Assignments will be written exercises (between 500 and 2000 words), presentations to the class and questions and answers. All students will be required to participate in classroom activities.



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Career opportunities after the course

■ Further Educational Progression

Graduates can progress onto higher education qualifications such as a Foundation Degree or related degree programmes e.g. in social work or nursing. If they enrol onto degree courses they can apply for further visas to study in UK while the maximum length of student visas for sub degree courses is 3 years.

■ Join the labour market in UK (Under Tier 2 where applicable)



■ Join the labour market in another Western country

The certificate which graduates will hold and the work experience they will gain during the course currently makes them eligible for work permits (Tier 2) in the UK. If granted a work visa, they can develop a career in the state or private Health Care Sectors. In other words, the certificate and experience from UK are not only aiding graduates in gaining entry to other developed countries, but they will also enable obtaining better wages and a more secure financial future.

If the graduate wants to shift her/his student visa to a work visa and remain in UK as a worker, she/he needs to have a suitable job offer from an employer registered as sponsor with the UKBA.



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Benefits of the course

- The course is approved by the UK Border Agency and gives a fantastic opportunity for personal and professional development.
- The programme will give the professional skills to work all over the world with the prospects of better wages and a brighter future.
- The placement allows practicing the technical knowledge learned on the course professional skills and also provides the opportunity for personal assessment throughout the course.
- The earnings of a minimum of £10,000 a year, allow students to concentrate on their studies in the knowledge that they will earn enough money for their maintenance in UK.
- The course allows earning of better wages all over the world after its completion and candidates become also qualified to apply for work permits around the world.



What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to those students who:

- Enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- Want an opportunity to carry out practical work as well as class work
- Enjoy discovering about themselves in practical situations
- Want to find out more about the subject through personal investigation
- Are interested in the caring organisations and the clients they serve
- Want to move on to a related career or higher education course



SOLUTIONS