

★★★★★ 25,000+ five-star reviews on ★ Trustpilot

Online Degree Pathways

Higher Technical Qualifications, fully funded

Level 4 and Level 5 HTQs
100% online, Student Finance
England eligible, with no UCAS
application required.

AT A GLANCE

Levels	Level 4 to Level 5
Awarding body	Pearson BTEC
Duration	9 to 12 months per level
Study mode	100% online
Funding	100% Student Finance

TRUSTED BY 4.5 MILLION+ LEARNERS

IfATE approved

Pearson BTEC

Student Finance

Speak to a course advisor

Free advice, no obligation. Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 6:00pm.

CALL US ON

01202 006 464

In plain English

Q. What is an HTQ Online Degree Pathway?

A government-backed route to a full honours degree, fully online A Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ) Online Degree Pathway is a three-year route to a full UK honours degree. You complete a Pearson BTEC Higher National Certificate (Level 4) in year one, a Higher National Diploma (Level 5) in year two, and a degree top-up year (Level 6) with a partner university in year three. All three stages are funded by Student Finance and approved against employer-designed occupational standards.

Inside this guide

A 40-page guide to earning a UK degree through the HTQ pathway, funded by Student Finance.

- How the 3-year pathway delivers a full honours degree
- Student Finance repayment maths explained simply
- Partner universities and progression agreements
- Subject options and career outcomes for each pathway

The 3-year online degree pathway Three stages, three qualifications, one full honours degree. Every stage funded by Student Finance.

STEP 1 STEP 2 STEP 3

Year 1 – HNC (Level 4) Year 2 – HND (Level 5) Year 3 – Degree Top-Up Complete the Pearson BTEC Progress to the Higher (Level 6) Higher National Certificate. National Diploma. Another Complete a full honours 120 credits over 9 to 12 120 credits building on Level degree (BA or BSc) with one months. Build your 4. This is where you earn the of our partner universities in foundation in your chosen HTQ quality mark, approved just one year. Progression subject with a nationally by Skills England against agreements are already in recognised Level 4 occupational standards place, so admission is qualification. decided by employers. automatic for HND completers.

Why study Online Degree Pathways with

learndirect 100% online, fully flexible Study from anywhere, anytime. No commute, no classroom hours. Designed to fit around full-time work, parenting, and shift patterns.

Tutor support throughout

Dedicated subject specialists mark your assignments, answer your questions, and guide you from enrolment to certificate.

Pay monthly with 0% interest Spread your fees across 9, 12 or 24 months with no credit checks and no hidden charges. Start your course today, settle the rest later.

Trusted by 25,000+ Trustpilot reviewers learndirect is one of the UK's largest and most established online learning providers, with a five-star rating across thousands of independent reviews.

Recognised qualifications

Every course leads to a regulated certificate from a UK awarding body, ready to share with employers, universities, or professional bodies.

Courses in Online Degree Pathways

This faculty currently offers 7 regulated qualifications. Prices below are full one-off fees. All courses also offer 0% monthly payment plans spread across 9, 12 or 24 months.

Course Awarding body From

Psychology Online Degree Pathway Qualifi £3,495

Management for Health and Social Care Online Degree

ATHE £3,495

Pathway

Law Online Degree Pathway ATHE £3,495

Quantity Surveying Online Degree Pathway Skills & Education G... £3,495

Business and Management Online Degree Pathway ATHE £3,495

Computing Online Degree Pathway ATHE £3,495

Cyber Security Online Degree Pathway Qualifi £3,495

See the full live list at pathways.learndirect.com/faculties/online-degree-pathways.

How payment works

Option How it works Best for

Pay in full Single one-off payment when you enrol. Learners who want the simplest option.

9-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 9 months. 0% interest. Most popular. Lines up with course duration.

12-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 12 months. 0% interest. Lower monthly outlay.

24-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 24 months. 0% interest. Longest, smallest monthly cost.

No interest, no credit checks, no hidden fees. If you ever want to pay off your balance early, you can settle the remainder at any time at no extra cost.

Frequently asked questions

Q. Is an HTQ the same as a degree?

An HTQ on its own is a Level 4 or Level 5 qualification, not a full degree. To earn a full BA or BSc (Hons) you complete the three-year pathway: HNC (Level 4), HND (Level 5), then a one-year degree top-up (Level 6) with a partner university. The end result is identical to a three-year university degree.

Q. Is Student Finance available?

Yes. Every stage of the HTQ Online Degree Pathway is fully funded by Student Finance England. You pay nothing upfront. Repayment begins only once you earn above £25,000 per year, and any unpaid balance is written off after 40 years.

Q. Who awards the qualification?

The HNC (Level 4) and HND (Level 5) are awarded by Pearson BTEC. The Level 6 degree is awarded by the partner university you progress to. Both Pearson and the partner universities are UK-regulated awarding bodies.

Q. How long does it take to get the full degree?

Three years if studied at the standard pace, with one year per stage. Faster completion is possible for some learners. Most pathway learners complete in the standard three years to balance study with work commitments.

Q. What is the HTQ Quality Mark?

The HTQ Quality Mark is the government-backed badge applied by Skills England to qualifications approved against occupational standards decided by employers. It signals that the qualification has been designed to fill specific skills gaps in the UK economy.

Q. Can I start without prior qualifications?

Entry requirements vary by subject. The standard route is a Level 3 qualification (A-Levels, BTEC Level 3, Access to HE, T-Levels) plus GCSEs in English and Maths. Some pathways accept relevant work experience in place of formal Level 3 study.

Q. Will I get the same degree certificate as on-campus students?

Yes. The Level 6 top-up year is delivered by the partner university and produces a standard BA or BSc (Hons) certificate. Your degree certificate does not mention HTQ or distance learning. It is identical to one issued to on-campus students at the same university.

Earn a degree without going to uni Speak to an adviser about which pathway fits your career goals and how Student Finance covers everything upfront.

Speak to an advisor: 0800 101 901 | pathways.learndirect.com

This guide was prepared by content may change. For the latest details visit pathways.learndirect.com.