



Progression Routes and Qualifications



Level	Example of Qualifications at this level
Entry	Entry level certificates; CACHE Entry level certificates: <i>build a basic level of knowledge, understanding and skills. Usually lead to low skilled work, carrying out basic level work while supervised and to study at level 1.</i>
1: Foundation	GCSE grades D-G; Foundation Certificates; National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 1; OCR Nationals level 1; Diplomas level 1; BTEC Introductory Certificate/Diploma: <i>builds on the basic level of understanding to develop the ability to apply learning to everyday situations. Usually lead to semi-skilled work, carrying out routine work, needing a narrow range of specific skills and to study at level 2.</i>
2: Intermediate	GCSE grades A-C; Intermediate Apprenticeships; OCR Nationals level 2; NVQ level 2; Diploma level 2: <i>builds knowledge and skills and can lead to skilled work under supervision and study at level 3</i>
3: Advanced	AS and A levels; Advanced Apprenticeships; International Baccalaureate; NVQ level 3; National Diplomas; National Certificates; CACHE level 3; OCR Nationals level 3: <i>develops in-depth knowledge, understanding and skills. Often leads to technician level work – skilled in a wide range of activities and self motivated with possible supervisory responsibilities and to study at level 4 or 5.</i>
4: Higher Education – Certificate	Professional qualifications, National Diplomas; National Certificates; NVQ level 4; Higher Apprenticeships: <i>develops specialist knowledge in a specific area and can lead onto responsible and skilled jobs and to study at level 5.</i>
5: HE - Intermediate	Higher National Certificates and Diplomas, NVQ level 5, Degrees and Foundation Degrees, Professional qualifications: <i>develops specialist knowledge in a specific area and can lead onto responsible and skilled jobs and to study at level 6.</i>
6: HE - Honours	Honours Degree, Professional qualifications: <i>develops specialist learning that involving a high level of knowledge in the chosen subject area(s). Often leads to responsible and highly skilled jobs including managerial roles and to study al level 7.</i>
7: HE – Post Graduate - Masters	Masters degree; Post graduate diplomas and certificates; Professional qualifications: <i>develops specialist learning involving a high level of knowledge in a specific subject area. Usually leads to work of high technician level and status which is often very responsible; highly skilled; may involve managerial responsibilities; and to study at level 8.</i>
8: HE – Post Graduate - Doctorate	Doctorate: <i>specialist learning that needs a very high level of knowledge in a specific occupation or subject area. Usually leads to a high level professional job, often with managerial responsibility</i>

NB: Level 1-3 qualifications are usually delivered in schools, Further Education (FE) Colleges and Training providers

Level 4 qualifications and above are considered to be Higher Education ones and are usually delivered in universities (including the Open University), but may be delivered in FE Colleges, by employers and some Training Providers.

How do I know the right Progression route for me?

Ask yourself some or all of the following questions:

- What qualifications do you already have?
- Where do they fit into the qualifications levels chart above?
- What qualifications are you studying or thinking of studying know?
- What career are you thinking of?
- What qualifications do you need to get that career?
- Where can you get the qualifications you need to get the career you want?
- Are you thinking of going to university at some point?
 - Do any of the qualifications you already have scores points under the UCAS tariff and so count towards qualifying for a place on a university course?
 - Do any of the qualifications you are thinking of studying score points under the UCAS tariff and so count towards qualifying for a place on a university course?
 - Do you know what universities do the courses you need to follow to get the qualifications you need?
 - Do you have all the qualifications you need to access the courses at university you need to follow?

For more information on progression routes through the Growth areas see the respective Sector Skills Councils' websites ([see lists of useful websites](#))

For more information on the UCAS tariff see http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/ucas_tariff/

For more information on the types of qualifications universities may ask see http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/uploads/Informed-Choices-final_1.pdf

If you have trouble answering any of the above questions or want to check out your answers with someone impartial and professional trained to know about the labour market, qualifications frameworks and how to make the most of yourself when applying to opportunities speak to your Connexions Personal Adviser.

Call 0800 0126 606 for more information

