

# Higher Technical Qualifications: A Guide for Parents

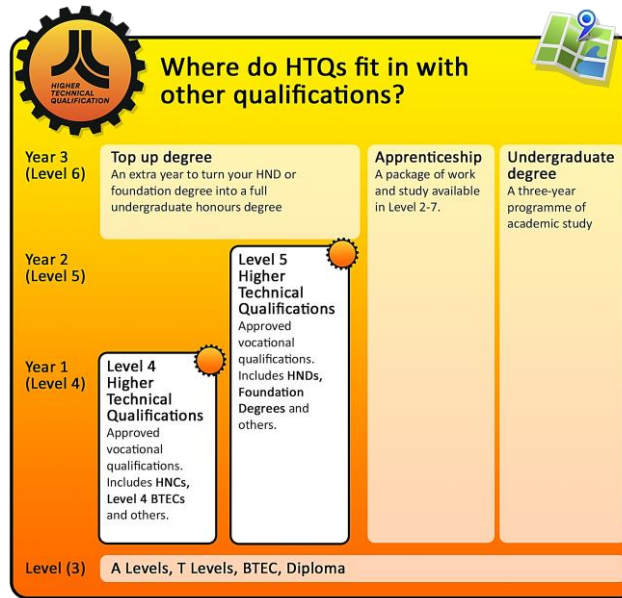
## What are HTQs?

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) are a **great way for your child to get the skills employers want**. They are alternatives to apprenticeships and degrees that offer a route to well-paid, secure and sustainable jobs at higher technical levels, such as **Nursing Associate, Sports Coach or Network Engineer**.

HTQs have been developed with employers, to give your child the **right training, knowledge and skills to succeed in the workplace**. For students, this means taking an HTQ will be an investment in themselves, and in the future.

HTQs may be a great option for your child, and a pathway they may not be aware of yet. **Read on to learn more about HTQs, to see if HTQs are the right route for them and how you can support their journey.**

## Where do HTQs fit?



HTQs are **Level 4 and 5 qualifications**, that sit **between A-Levels or T-Levels and degrees**. They have been approved by the Institute of Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

HTQs may be particularly relevant for students looking for a **practical, employer-based programme** with a job focus, but who **prefer classroom-based learning** to work-based learning.



## Where can HTQs take your child?

HTQs are offered in a range of subject areas. More and more qualifications are being approved as HTQs each year!



Here are some **jobs HTQs can lead to:**

- Network Engineer
- Software Developer
- Data Analyst
- Construction Site Supervisor
- Quantity Surveying Technician
- Nursing Associate
- Assistant Practitioner (Health)
- Sports Coach
- **and many more!**

Where can HTQs can take you?



**Use this QR code to explore the pathways available!**



Because many HTQs start in **September or January\***, your child doesn't have to rush to make a decision after exam results for a September start! Encourage them to take their time and **consider ALL options**.

\*For January entry dates, check the application deadline with the HTQ provider.

## Decide and apply to HTQs

As application season approaches, having careers conversations with your child can help them to explore options, like HTQs, with greater confidence.



Use these milestones, and question prompts, to help your child find out if HTQs are the right path for them and how they can apply:

### STAGE 1: EARLY MAY (IN Y12 / Y1) All course listings are released

**Step 1:** Search UCAS.com, or scan this QR code, to find out what HTQs courses are available



**Step 2:** Discuss what your child's interests are and see if any of the available courses align

- ? What subjects are you most enjoying?
- ? Which HTQs align with the subjects you're enjoying?



If your child isn't sure at this stage, try out these '[Conversation Cards](#)' to explore their interests. Then, use this [Family Action Plan](#) to kickstart their career planning!

**Step 3:** Explore the routes available to them

- ? Are there any careers you feel passionate about?
- ? Which HTQs would help you pursue these careers?

Stage 1: Early May  
All course listings  
are released

Stage 2: Mid-May  
Start adding choices  
to UCAS (up to 5)

Stage 3: Sept - Jan  
Submit UCAS  
applications

Stage 4: May  
Receive offers

### STAGE 2: MID MAY (IN Y12 / Y1) Start adding choices on UCAS, applicants can add up to 5 choices including HTQs

**Step 1:** Understand their skillset and how this could be developed through HTQs

- ? What skills do you have now that would be useful in a future career?
- ? What skills do you want to build?
- ? Which HTQ pathways could help you build and develop the skills you need?

**Step 2:** Explore the different HTQ course options and what their criteria is for selecting a course

- ? What do you hope to gain from doing a further education / training course?
- ? Would a practical-based study approach, like HTQs, help you achieve this goal?



HTQs **offer flexibility**, with the option to study full or part time. After completing an HTQ, students can look for **a job in their chosen career**, or **go on to further study**, such as getting a degree.

### STAGE 3: SEPTEMBER - JANUARY (IN Y13 / Y2) Applicants can start submitting their applications when ready

**Step 1:** Learn about the process of making a UCAS application using the [Parent, guardian and carer guide](#)

- ? How can I best support you when submitting your UCAS application?
- ? What do you need to apply to an HTQ?
- ? Would it be useful to speak to a local provider before making your application?

Use this QR code to find out which HTQs are available near you!



**Step 2:** Now they have submitted their application, click [here](#) to see where their application is headed



### STAGE 4: MAY (IN Y13 / Y2) Receive offers!



Check out the resources below for more ways to support your child in making careers choices:

- [Pathway options for 16+](#)
- [Tips for navigating a career conversation](#)
- [Career Pilot – Parent Zone](#)
- [SkillsBuilder – build your child's skills at home](#)