Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

A guide to searching and applying for HTQs

Version 2: November 2024

This guide on searching and applying for HTQs is intended to support you as you take your next steps.

HTQs are new and existing level 4 and 5 qualifications such as HNCs, HNDs and Foundation Degrees that have been approved against employer developed standards for specific job roles. HTQs are developed against a rigorous set of occupational standards, ensuring that employers, and individual students, can access high quality training and have confidence that they are developing the skills that they need.

We are really pleased you are interested in undertaking an HTQ and wish you every success.

The Department for Education HTQ Team

Department for Education

HIGHER TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION

Contents

An introduction to HTQs	2
HTQ subjects and qualifications	3
Reaching the point of searching and applying	4
How to search for HTQs	5
What to consider when searching	6
HTQ application process	7
Useful resources and links	9

An introduction to HTQs

What are HTQs?

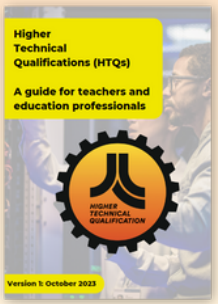
HTQs are new and existing qualifications that have been approved with the HTQ quality mark. They are a great way to continue your studies and get a good job, or to retrain or progress in your current career.

HTQs give you confidence that you are getting the skills that employers want. They offer a great deal of flexibility for a variety of learners, including the possibility to study full or part time.

HTQs give employers a voice at the heart of the skills system – developing the standards that qualifications are assessed against. With employers telling us what skills they need and what 'quality' means, students can have confidence that taking an HTQ will be an investment in themselves, and in the future.

Once approved, the HTQ can display the HTQ Quality Mark, meaning that it delivers the skills employers need. Look out for this logo to find an approved HTQ.

Other support available:



SCAN ME

A guide for teachers and education professionals:
https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/the-higher-technical-qualifications-guide/

SCAN ME

A quick guide to HTQs:
amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/the-higher-technical-qualifications-one-pager/

HTQ subjects and qualifications

Which qualifications are HTQs?

Only approved qualifications are allowed to display the HTQ logo, indicating a quality choice.

There are several different types of qualifications that could be approved as HTQs and the way they are structured depends on the length of the course, the provider, and which subject you are studying.

Some existing qualifications that have been approved as HTQs because they meet employers' needs include:

- Higher National Certificate* (HNC)
- Higher National Diploma* (HND)
- Foundation degrees*

Find out more about these qualifications here:

[What qualification levels mean: England, Wales and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)]

* Not all diplomas, certificates and foundation degrees are approved HTQs. Look out for the HTQ logo which will always show on approved qualifications.

Which approved HTQs are available?

Qualifications in **Digital, Construction and the Built Environment, Health & Science, Engineering & Manufacturing**, **Business Administration**, **Education & Early Years**, and **Legal, Finance & Accounting** are being taught now. From September 2025, qualifications in **Agriculture, Environment & Animal Care, Care Services, Catering & Hospitality, Creative & Design, Protective Services, and Sales, Marketing & Procurement** will also be available - with providers enrolling students on these courses now.

Examples of careers you could enter with HTQs:

Digital

- Cyber Security Engineer
- Software Developer

Construction and the Built Environment

- Assistant Quantity Surveyor
- Construction Site Supervisor

Health & Science

- Community Coach
- Nursing Associate

Engineering & Manufacturing

- Space Engineering Technician
- Engineering Manufacturing Technician

Business Administration

- Operations or Departmental Manager
- Coaching Professional

Education & Early Years

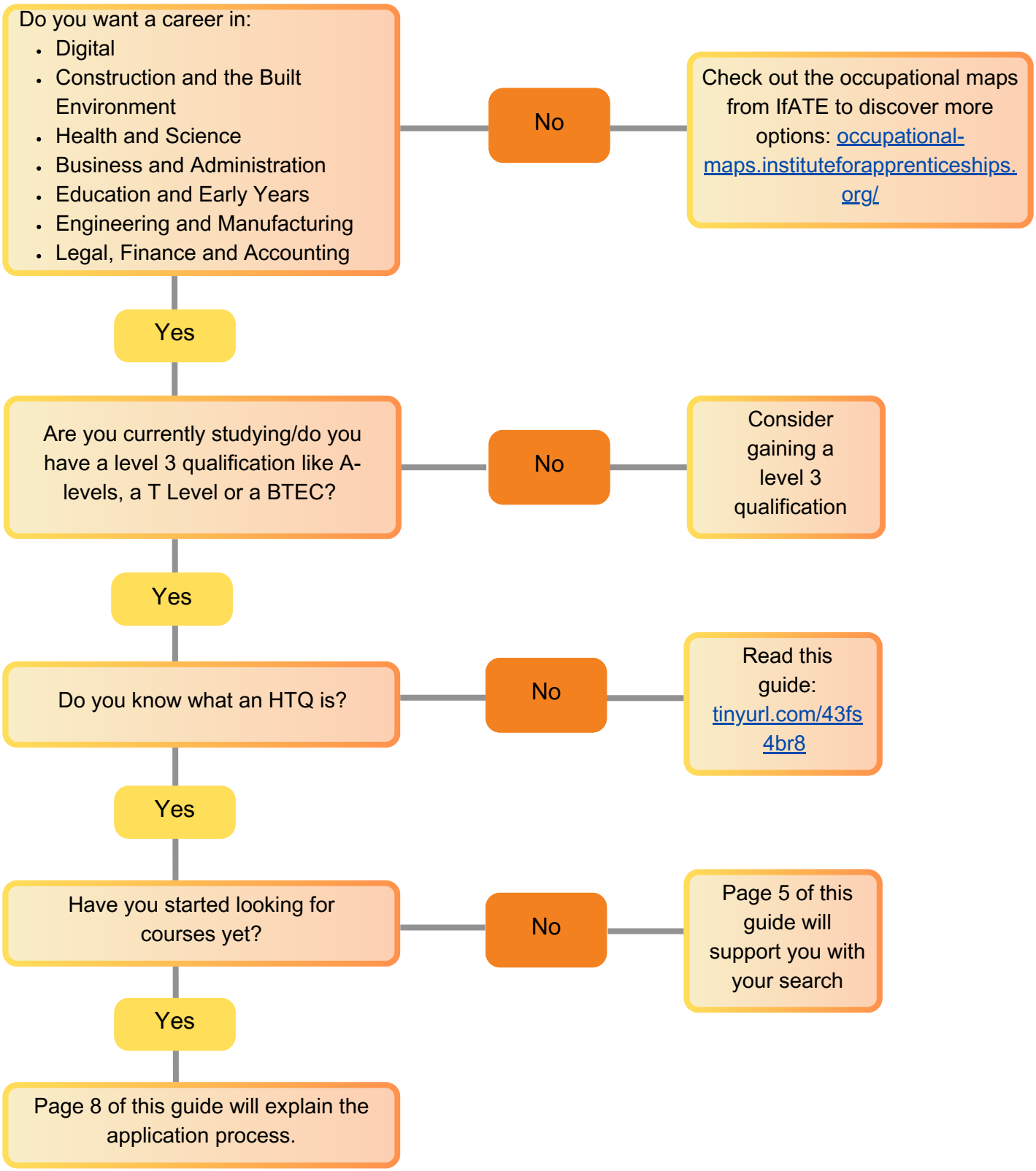
- Early Years Lead Practitioner

Legal, Finance & Accounting

- Payroll Assistant Manager

Reaching the point of searching and applying

Use this flowchart to help get to the point of searching and applying for HTQs.



How to search for HTQs

HTQs providers include:

- Universities
- FE Colleges
- Independent Training Providers
- Institutes of Technology

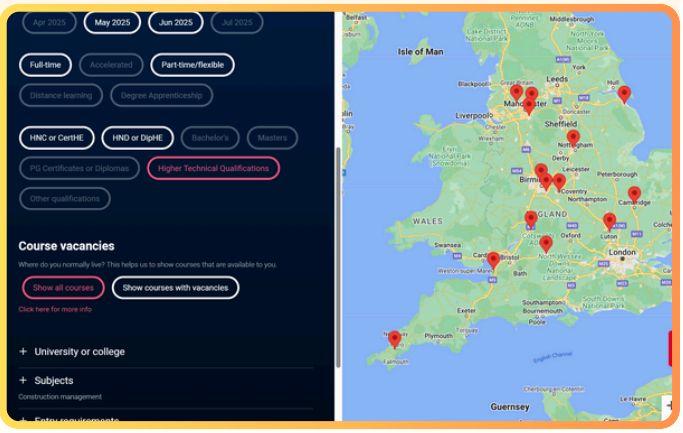
There are over 170 providers delivering HTQs across England.

To search for HTQs through UCAS, go to: tinyurl.com/2s44vaby

You can filter by subject, mode of delivery and use the interactive map to browse locations.

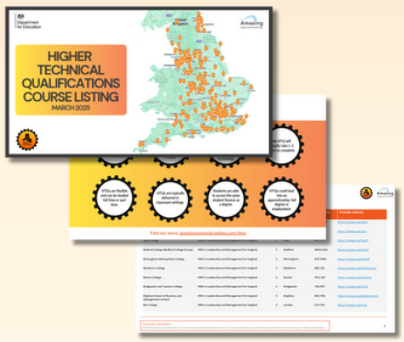
Not all organisations are labelling courses as HTQs yet, so some courses may not appear when you search on UCAS. You could look at the HTQ listing here and then search by course name on UCAS.

Go to page 7 to find out how to apply via UCAS.



The other way you can search for HTQs is by contacting providers directly.

You may already know where you would like to study, but if not, you can find a listing of HTQ courses here: amapps.uk/htq-listing



Once you have found a provider, find out more about them by:

- Visiting their website
- Contacting them by email or telephone
- Attending open events for prospective students

Go to page 8 to find out more about applying via a provider.

What to consider when searching

Career
What job do you want?

HTQ approved
Check that the course has the HTQ logo so you know it is approved

Employers
What links does the college or university have with employers?

Post-course options
Look into what your next steps could be after your HTQ

Entry requirements
Check carefully what each provider requires

Finances
How much are the fees and can you access loans* or other funding?

Location
Do you want to move away or stay local?

Insights
What do other students say about the course?

Facilities
What does the provider offer in terms of facilities and equipment?

*HTQs are eligible for the same student finance as degrees.

Applying via UCAS

Applying through UCAS

Many students aim to apply by the end of January in line with degree courses. The earlier an application is made, the better the chances of securing the preferred course. Applications can be made after this date as more courses become available and some courses have a January rather than September start, allowing further flexibility. HTQs are also available through Clearing in August.

Application process

Applying for HTQs is just like applying for any other course on UCAS.

Register with UCAS

Complete your details

Add your education history

Complete your employment history

Select your course choices (your 5 course choices can be a mix of HTQs and other courses)

Write a personal statement

Submit your application (from September)

Get a reference, pay your application fee and send your application

Receive offers (from May)

You can find out more about each step here: ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/filling-your-ucas-undergraduate-application

For 2025 entry, the application fee is £28.50 for up to five choices.

It would be a good idea to make sure the person who writes your reference knows about HTQs - you could share the guides on page 4 with them.

Applying via a provider

Applying directly to training providers

The application process will vary between different providers, but is likely to include some or all of the following things:

Online application form

This will probably take around 15-20 minutes to complete and will include things like:

- Personal details
- Education history (including qualifications and exam results)
- Any employment history
- Support and welfare information
- Personal statement
- Reference

Before you complete the form make sure you have ready:

- A list of your qualifications and exam results
- A list of any jobs or work experience you have
- Any ID or documents you might need, such as a passport
- Personal information like your full address, including postcode

Before you submit the form, make sure you:

- Read through your answers
- Check the spelling and grammar
- Keep a copy of your answers to use for future applications or to refer to if you go for an interview

Skills tests

- You may be asked to complete some skills tests, but you should be told about these in advance and have time to practise.

Interview

- The provider will likely contact you within a couple of weeks of receiving your application and invite you for an interview. If you don't hear from them, it is a good idea to contact them to find out why.
- The interview could be in person or online and could be one-to-one or in a group.
- You could ask at the end of the interview when you will find out if you have a place on the course.

Offer

- You will be contacted to be told if you have an offer. Again, if you don't hear from them, it is a good idea to contact them.
- Once you receive an offer, the next step will probably be enrolment and this will also vary between different providers.

If you are at school or college, you can ask them for support when applying directly to a provider. It's not just UCAS applications they will be willing to help with.

Useful resources and links

About HTQs

Skills for Careers HTQ information:
skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/training-choice/htq-higher-technical-qualification

National Careers Service Find a course - HTQs:
tinyurl.com/43ff35y6

Find Amazing Apprenticeships' HTQ resources here:
amazingapprenticeships.com/htqs/

UCAS HTQs information:
ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/choosing-course/higher-technical-qualifications

UCAS HTQ search:
tinyurl.com/2s44vaby

Application support

UCAS
ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/filling-your-ucas-undergraduate-application

General support

National Careers Service
nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/