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Defunding of Creative BTECs

London Higher is the membership organisation for universities and higher education colleges across the capital. As the largest representative body of its kind in England, London Higher represents the full diversity of the capital's higher vibrant education sector, from small, specialist conservatoires and research institutes to large, multi-faculty universities.

London's universities and higher education colleges are powerful engines of economic growth, collectively educating over 507,000 students, employing over 223,000 people across all sectors of the UK economy and generating over £27bn in economic impact.

At London Higher, we are the place where London's higher education institutions come together to unleash the collective power of London's higher education (HE) sector for the benefit of our capital and country.

Many of our members have recruited BTEC students for decades. These qualifications are known for supporting students to progress to HE, particularly students from widening participation backgrounds.

Creative Digital Media Production

We understand that the qualifications listed below are intended to aid progression into HE, and we are writing to confirm that we support the qualifications listed below for continued funding:

- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production (QN 601/7469/9)
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Film and Television Production (QN 601/7470/5)
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Digital Film and Video Production (QN 603/1910/0)

As detailed on their online prospectuses, many of our members accept these qualifications for entry onto related degree programmes, for example:

- Ravensbourne University – BA (Hons) Digital Film Production; BA (Hons) Digital Television Production; BA (Hons) Editing and Post Production.
- London South Bank University – BA (Hons) Media Production; HNC/HND Creative Media Production (Film/Television).

Chief Executive Officer Dr Diana Beech

- University of Greenwich – Film and Television Production BA Hons; Media Communications BA Hons.

Having consulted our member Higher Education Institutions, several have expressed serious concern about the planned defunding of this BTEC, citing the pressing skills shortage in the British Film and Television industry (see the [BFI's 2022 Skills Review](#)).

Chris Lane, Dean of the School of Computing and Digital Media at London Metropolitan University has written:

"I understand 11 creative BTEC qualifications are currently under review for funding. All of these qualifications serve as suitable for entry onto creative technology degrees at London Metropolitan University and as such they represent a powerful driver of much needed skills into the creative industries. It would be damaging to this economic sector if the awards were to be defunded."

The creative and cultural industries sector employs up to a million people in London alone and contributes over £100bn to the UK Economy. It is one of the Prime Minister's 'priority sectors for economic growth' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ambitious-plans-to-grow-the-economy-and-boost-creative-industries>).

The BTEC qualifications that the DFE are considering defunding put young people on a professional track and are vital for its sustainability and growth.

Dr Martin Murray, Head of Creative Technologies at London Metropolitan University, has commented:

"The specific areas that the awards are offered in - Film and Media - are particularly well-developed in Britain and British professionals and businesses in them contribute a disproportionate amount to the burgeoning sub-sectors of global creative industries that they represent."

Music and Media also increasingly contribute to the Games industry, one of the fastest growing sectors in the world. For all of these reasons, it would be extremely educationally, culturally and economically counter-productive to de-fund the teaching and training of professional in the BTEC awards concerned. I would strongly urge the DFE to think carefully before making an unwise decision in this case."

We are happy for this letter to be used as part of an appeal for these qualifications not to be defunded. I confirm that I have authority to sign for this organisation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Richard Boffey
Head of AccessHE, London Higher