

BTEC Higher Nationals: HN Online - Delivering the Blended Learning Way

Steve Smith, Online Learning Consultant



What is Blended Learning?

- Blended learning provides a **combination of face-to-face learning and dynamic digital activities and content** that facilitate anytime/anyplace learning. (Jisc, 2018)
- Blended approaches **use multiple methods to deliver learning by combining face-to-face interactions with online activities.** (HE academy, 2018)



The Benefits of Blended Learning

Centre

Flexibility – supports a more flexible approach to timetabling and staff utilisation.

Inclusiveness – allows for widening participation and increases student enrolments.

Increases capacity – enables centres to deal with larger numbers.

Cost savings – saves money on additional resourcing e.g. staff and supplies.

Tutor

Time-saving – saves time on preparation photocopying, printing resources.

Dynamic delivery – promotes collaboration, interaction and student engagement.

Enhanced tracking and monitoring of students – provides data and analytics to support personalised learning.

Improved efficiency – students are more prepared prior to the lesson.

Support personalised learning and differentiation – enables tutors to create and adapt appropriate materials.

Students

Improves access – enables the student to access materials from anywhere at any time.

Promotes students' self-advocacy and ownership – enables them to track their own progress and gives them ownership of their learning.

Digital literacy – develops crucial skills in digital literacy and other soft skills e.g. self-direction, decision-making.

HN Online - introduction

- HN Online is online content that learners can use at home or at college, to learn at their own pace. This enables tutors to focus face-to-face teaching on high-value activities, such as questioning around tricky concepts, or preparing learners for their assignments.
- The HN Online course has been designed to support blended course delivery, with 30 guided learning hours online for each unit.



Why HN Online?

- Attract students who want a flexible course to fit around work or family.
- Improve student engagement with a range of interactive learning tools.
- Use face to face teaching time to question, debate and help students where they need it most.
- Track student interaction.
- Save time and money creating online resources in-house.



Suite of Products available

1. Available across 8 HNC units for RQF Business qualification including 6 core units
2. Available across 9 HND units for RQF Business qualification
3. Content being produced for 4 Core units of RQF HN Engineering for release in autumn 2020:
 - 1. Engineering Design (15 credits, level 4)
 - 2. Engineering Maths (15 credits, level 4)
 - 3. Engineering Science (15 credits, level 4)
 - 4. Managing a professional engineering project (Pearson set, 15 credits, level 4).

Co-creation for engineering content

1. We decided to develop HN Online for HNs in Engineering as it is a very popular and versatile qualification, highly recognised by the industry. This presented an opportunity for us to co-create with both centres and employers to develop engaging and informative content for HN Online.
2. Northern Regional College, which has experience in delivering our Engineering qualifications are involved in our authoring and development process to co-create one unit with us.
3. We are also collaborating with centres who will support in the validation of material, by reviewing the HN Online content and its application within blended learning context.
4. Employers such as Siemens have added expert comments to form part of the content.

Training and support offer

- [Webinars](#)
- Support provided to complete LMS integration
- On-boarding training
- Ongoing technical support
- Schemes of work
- Blended learning guides
- HN Online tutor community
- Digital Advocate Group



HN Online and Classroom activities

Activities	Classroom (on site)	HN Online (off site)
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question and answer sessions • Problem-solving activities • Group discussion and debate • Contextualising learning through the use of real-life case studies • Extending and updating research through the use of journals, news articles, industry and governing bodies resources • Peer review • Role-plays • Engaging with employers e.g. guest speaker/visits • Sharing work experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Online discussion forums • Poll activities • Watching videos • Completing tests to check learning • Listening to audio • Completing exercises & calculations • Answering questions • Examining case studies • Accessing further supporting resources if required.
Tutors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise activities (group discussion, role plays, peer review, work experience feedback) • Contextualising learning through the use of real-life case studies • Extending and updating research through the use of journals, news articles, industry and governing bodies resources. • Organise guest speakers (employer engagement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing online discussion forums • Posting up questions to engage students in discussion • Setting up polls • Generating discussion topics • Answering questions on the forum • Monitoring student activity.

Adopting HN Online- Roles of key stakeholders

Senior leadership team

- Approval and support provided by the SLT
- Communicating the decision to adopt HN Online with the teaching and learning technology teams will ensure timely start and benefit tutors & students from the beginning of their course.

Learning technology team

- Learning technology teams will play a crucial role in completing the integration of HN Online with the existing LMS (Learning Management System) using the information provided by teaching teams in terms of course dates and student numbers.
- Detailed user guide to enable seamless integration, and ongoing technical support is provided by our teams.

Teaching team

- Teaching teams need to access HN Online and familiarise themselves with the content before the term begins and embed it in the SOW/lesson plans.
- Teaching teams will need to provide information about class sizes and start dates to help learning technology teams begin the integration.

Students

- Students need to be informed at the beginning of the course/term (ideally during induction) about HN Online and its use in the classroom (onsite) and outside the classroom (offsite) to support learning.
- They need to engage with the tutor and other students via HN Online on a regular basis.
- They need to complete learning goals as identified by tutors and come prepared for their lessons.

City of Sunderland College – Case Study

Adopting HN Online to deliver BTEC Higher Nationals at Sunderland College



Find out more

Find out more about HN Online:

HN Online is a great option for colleges looking to:

1. Widen access to the qualification by making learning available to students who can't attend a full-time face-to-face course.
2. Save time by reducing face-to-face teaching time.
3. Gain more insight into their learner's progress, with the tools provided in HN Online.

If you'd like to know more about HN Online, blended learning or you'd like to help design content for HN Online please email highernationals@pearson.com

The logo features a large white circle centered on a dark blue background. The background is decorated with a repeating pattern of light blue, stylized, curved lines that resemble a globe or a series of concentric arcs. The text "HN Global" is centered within the white circle in a bold, teal-colored font.

HN Global

WELCOME to HN GLOBAL

<https://hnglobal.highernationals.com/>

Dedicated free online learning platform for all BTEC Higher Nationals students and centres.

- **Global community** of tutors and students.
- Access to **Core Textbooks** for RQF qualifications
- **Careers Centre**, with CV building, job search, interview preparation
- **Study Skills Modules** providing students with additional support for learning key transferable skills
- **Forum** for tutors and other Higher National students from around the world and discuss common themes.
- **Teaching resources:** Unit descriptions, Schemes of Work, Example Assessment Briefs and Pearson Set Units.



HN students who use HN Global are even more satisfied with their course

72%

have positive feelings towards the use of HN Global

69%

find HN Global useful in supporting their studies

44%

state that HN Global is most useful in developing skills that help with their studies



ALWAYS LEARNING