

JANUARY 2022

Appeals guidance for BTEC students

The U-TAG awarding process for students who were due to be assessed in 2020/21

As you'll remember, there were alternative assessment arrangements in place for Summer 2021 because of the impact of Covid-19 on teaching and learning. BTEC students that were 'mid-flight' in 2020/21 (those who were registered on a qualification for academic year 20/21, and who are due to certificate during academic year 2021/22), were not permitted a Qualification-level Teacher Assessed Grade (Q-TAG). In addition, those that went on to 'top-up' to a larger BTEC qualification, did not always have unitised results (results for each unit completed), as colleges and schools were asked to submit Q-TAGs only.

The government confirmed in August 2021 what **the policy** would be for mid-flight and top-up students. This policy stated that those BTEC students who did not have unitised results (for assessment that was due but did not take place in full from 1 August 2020 – 31 August 2021) were permitted to have results using teacher judgements; Unit-level Teacher Assessed Grades (U-TAGs).

Since this policy was confirmed, we have worked with colleges and schools to request that they retrospectively submit these unitised grades. Teachers and tutors were advised that these grades were to be based only on the evidence available. This evidence needed to be generated from 1 August 2020 – 31 August 2021. The deadline for colleges and schools to submit these unitised grades was November 2021.

We're aware that many of you will have faced disruption in the 2020/21 academic year. However, we are confident that by permitting the same awarding principles which were applied to learners who certificated in August 2021 to U-TAGs, all BTEC students will be able to progress confidently into the second and subsequent years. We want to reassure you that U-TAGs have been awarded in line with our guidance and have been quality assured by us. In addition, schools and colleges have been required to show evidence of their judgements, with examples of actual learner performance.

Topping-up: If you have topped up to a larger sized qualification it is expected that the appeals process will not be required, as your unit grades will be awarded in line with the grade you achieved last academic year, and using the same evidence. However, you are still able to appeal should you want to.

Mid-flight: Your teachers will be using the same principles that were in place to award students that certificated last academic year. Teachers are well placed to make these judgements, and must only use evidence that was available during the period of eligibility.

Due to the nature of the Teacher Assessed Grade process, and that many teachers and tutors now are very confident in the application of the procedures for awarding these grades, it is not expected that students will need to access the appeals process. However, should you wish to, the grounds and process of making an appeal is outlined below.

Results Day

Results for eligible units will be released on 13 January

Once you have received your results, you may want to discuss them with your teacher or tutor. If you are worried or concerned, your school or college are there to support you, and will be best placed to advise on your options and next steps. This might include explaining the evidence used to reach the judgement, explaining options for resits (if you are 'topping up' to a larger sized BTEC next year) and finally the possibility of requesting a centre review.

Before considering requesting a centre review, you should discuss this with your teacher or tutor. As part of the appeals process you will be asked to confirm your understanding that **grades are not protected, meaning a grade could go down, stay the same, or increase.**



Process for making an appeal

In Summer 2021 the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) released guidance relating to the **grounds for appeals** which applies to BTEC qualifications. You can find a supplementary document for BTEC [here](#). **The same grounds for appeal will apply to the Autumn 2021 series.**

As in the Summer, there is a two-stage appeals process which we've illustrated on page 3 of this document. The Stage 1 centre review needs to be completed before Stage 2 can be undertaken. In addition, all appeals need to be submitted by your school or college, students cannot appeal directly to Pearson.

Your qualification results in 2021/22

It is expected that all assessments planned for this academic year will take place. This means our 'normal' qualification process will be in place ie that your qualification result is based on the aggregation of the unit grades you achieve. By using our normal process, we are able to release unit-level results and certificates which will support students to progress with confidence.

Need help?

We are aware that you may need extra support and there are several ways you can keep up to date or contact us. You can follow [@BTECStudents](#) or check our [student webpage](#) which are both updated regularly with the latest information. If you have any specific questions for us, you can [contact us](#), where live chat is also available, or phone us on 0345 618 0440. Phone lines will open at 8:30am on Results Days.

Timelines and deadlines for Centre Reviews and Appeals

Dates	Stage 1 Centre Review <i>It is recommended that Learners should raise with their centre by</i>	Stage 2 Awarding Organisation Review <i>If the request progressed to Stage 2, the Centre should raise with the Awarding Organisations by</i>
All cases for Level 2 & 3	27 January 2022	14 February 2022



Appeals process

Appeals will happen in two stages; Stage One - Centre Review (this step must happen first) and Stage Two - Awarding Organisation review can be requested, only on completion of Stage One:

