



English Schools Foundation Applied Learning Programmes

► Hong Kong schools, a world of opportunity

Student success depends on the extent to which they are engaged in, and motivated by the courses they study. As an organisation, ESF has been involved in some curriculum change at all levels over the past six years. Our provision in senior secondary has moved to the IB curriculum and we have successfully seen cohorts of graduates through this. Concurrently, we have been developing another pathway for students in this age range. We are pleased that all of our secondary schools are now engaged with the Applied Learning pathway at the post 16 level. This is an alternative to the IB pathway and does not exclude students who could achieve in that programme. This booklet will explain the learning style, the assessment structure and the courses that will be offered for the 2011-12 school year. We are encouraging students to look at this opportunity and find out more about the possibilities of studying in an engaging and exciting way.

Progression into these courses can be through the traditional General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) or Middle Years Programme (MYP) routes or through some of the Level 2 BTEC courses on offer at some of our schools. Alternately, we welcome applicants from outside ESF who have specialist skills and talents in these areas.

The learning in these courses will be distinctly different from the learning in earlier years and will require a commitment from students to developing independent work skills, communication skills with people outside of the classroom especially in the world of work and mature relationships between students across our schools.

We hope that you find this booklet useful. If you have further questions, please contact the Applied / Advanced Learning Coordinator in the secondary school you or your child attends. The list of contacts is included inside the back cover.

Post 16 Consultant
Diane Bohm
English Schools Foundation



...► What is Applied Learning?

Applied Learning is focused on experiential learning and is for students who prefer a more practically oriented style of learning. It is suitable for students who have a clear idea of their future career and who want to specialise and focus on one or two subject areas. The type of student we are encouraging to consider the applied courses may have strong aspirations in specialist disciplines such as Art, Sport, Performing Arts, Engineering and Business. The courses are career orientated and are designed to allow students to follow an alternative pathway to university entry, and in some cases, to employment.



Applied learning is a process of integrating one or more topic areas into authentic learning experiences. It provides opportunities in the problem solving process, the manipulative use of tools, equipment, materials and related techniques, and in personal skills, occupational awareness and safety, and employment literacy.

Included in the learning are skills that will be transferable to the next stage of education:

- **Creative problem solving**
- **Planning and scheduling work**
- **Working alone and with a team**
- **Applying theory to work-related challenges**
- **Handling world related situation**
- **Managing other people**
- **Multi-tasking different projects**



Applied Learning provides learners with tasks and situations that require higher-order thinking, and include applications of knowledge, elements of career awareness, career exploration, and the integration of industrial knowledge and practices into their work, and provides multiple ways for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.

One of the key attractions of this type of learning is that students are given the opportunity to apply their learning in context and draw from all aspects of their life.

“Doing a BTEC qualification enables the students to be more independent learners and take more responsibility for their own learning. They are more aware of their strengths and weaknesses and set their own targets for improvement on a regular basis. The course give them more confidence, are more hands on, and keep the students focused on learning throughout.”

Overview of the qualifications



BTEC means Business And Technology Education Council, a form of educational qualification in the United Kingdom and is delivered by the Edexcel Examination Board who also delivers many of the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSEs) and General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSEs) that our schools use. It is also one of the major A Level examination boards in the UK.

BTEC qualifications come in different levels, from BTEC Level 2 Firsts (14 – 16 yrs) up to BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diplomas (HND) (18 +). The band of courses we are offering in our post 16 provision is the Level 3 qualification. These are equivalent to GCE A Levels, and carry the same UCAS points for students applying to UK universities.

The examination board

Edexcel (www.edexcel.com/international) is an innovator in effective education for employment.

Edexcel provides inspiring education solutions that meet the training and workforce development needs of 21st-century business.

As the UK's largest awarding body and a part of Pearson, the world's largest education services company, Edexcel can offer employability-enhancing qualifications that ensure workforces have the skills, knowledge and behaviours to perform to their highest ability and remain competitive in today's global environment.



"In applied learning I can have more one-on-one opportunities with my teachers. I can get direct feedback which is extremely helpful."

*Hadar Shabat
South Island School*

...► Applied Learning courses to suit your personal needs

There are a variety of specific courses on offer across the ESF schools (see page 8) which will offer a range of opportunity for our students. These can be brought together as a package or personalised according to the students' needs. Three of the packages on offer are:

BTEC Extended National Diploma Courses

The courses described are designed to provide a qualification and to cover a wide range of sectors. As described, they are equivalent to three A levels and have UCAS points. These courses take two years to complete. Students working on these courses tend to prefer the style of continued assessment through practical work. Formal, final examinations are not part of this qualification as this structure is not seen as mirroring the world of work. Schools on the Kowloon side: King George V School (KGV) and Sha Tin College (STC) are offering this as the core of their BTEC qualification.

Many students will take the BTEC National Diploma and enrich it to achieve the:

International Diploma

- i. A range of subjects including Art & Design, Business can be added to and students will achieve this new qualification. It is composed of three additional courses.
- ii. Additional courses:
 - These additional courses complement and enrich the curriculum programme for our students, and universities and employers will recognise that students do more than just study one area.
 - Students will be certified for each of these individual components. They will collect an impressive portfolio of certificates identifying our students as well-rounded individuals who are, amongst other things, knowledgeable, skilled in communications and independent learners. They will also develop skills of project management, presentation, and critical thinking and will develop attributes such as global awareness, cultural sensitivity and self-motivation.

The additional courses can also be studied as stand-alone qualifications.

- **Extended Project Qualification**

The Extended Project is a course designed to reward independent study. Students can study any topic and produce a detailed project in a format appropriate to the questions set. Usually this will be a full written report (5,000 words) or another form of media with support written report (1,000 words). The project must also be supported with a Production Log and presentation. It will "provide opportunities for the development of critical, reflective, problem solving and independent learning skills through the planning, research and evaluation of a self-selected project."

- **WorkSkills Plus**

This qualification prepares students for the rigours of the application and interview process required for their university education as well as a realistic insight into the world of employment. This is Level 3 BTEC course.

- **Global Development**

Students taking the new Edexcel AS Level course in Global Development will be able to explore what it means to be a "global citizen" in the 21st century by considering issues such as global identity, meeting the climate change, dealing with conflict and resolution and related areas.

International Diploma Career Certificate (IBCC)

Edexcel is now working with the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer a suite of vocational qualifications, the BTEC Level 3 National Diplomas, which can be combined with the International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate (IBCC) to form a full-time course of study. West Island School has been one of the world pilot schools for this qualification and in 2012 it will be open to all schools. Students will need to qualify in a second language, as well as one other IB subject alongside their BTEC courses, and do an Extended Project to achieve this qualification. This programme has a core that includes community and service activities, a reflective project based on the BTEC subjects, an approach to learning course that emphasises skills development.

"I think the applied learning programmes provide me with more specific and detailed learning experiences. We don't just stay in the classroom but go out to the real world. There are so many exciting opportunities, like hotels, sports companies or event management."

*Madeline Chu
South Island School*



"I decided to choose the Level 3 BTEC Engineering Certificate Course. I have always enjoyed working with tools and machinery from a young age."

In the course we do case studies and assignments that are assessed. There are no examinations and I do not feel the pressure of studying and sitting for an exam at the end of Year 13.

There are lots of opportunities to work in the workshop using the Arc, TIG and MIG welders, lathes, milling machines and Drill presses, as well as portable power tools. I also work in the workshops on my own projects in my study lessons. This has really helped me develop my knowledge and skills in Engineering. I work closely with the Design and Technology staff and they are always willing to help and offer advice. My confidence and ability have grown and I really enjoy the interactions that we have.

Engineering is the most useful course that I have ever studied."

*Chris Foreman
West Island School*

►►► How BTECs are delivered and assessed

- Each BTEC is made up of a number of units. The number of units in a qualification is dependent on the level and size of the BTEC being taken.
- Each BTEC qualification is credit-based. Credits are based on the amount of learning time a student needs to complete the qualification, with 1 credit equating to 10 hours of learning time.
- The time taken to complete each BTEC also depends on the level and size of the qualification. Many BTECs will generally take one to two years to complete, depending on whether the student is studying full or part-time, and others considerably less.
- To complete each unit, students must submit realistic work-based assignment, which are delivered by the teacher. As BTECs are designed to develop practical skills, answers to assignments may be delivered in a variety of formats – such as film clips, project proposals, business plans and structured databases. Students are always given clear guidelines as to what they have to achieve and how to do this.
- Students' work is assessed by the teacher along the way, pulling together skills, knowledge and understanding. This ongoing assessment allows students to analyse and improve their own performance through their course in much the same ways they would in the workplace.
- Internal Verifiers are appointed within the school to moderate assessed work and check that the standards set by the exam board are being met.
- External Verifiers chosen by the examination board (Edexcel) will visit schools to ensure they feel comfortable with the assessment process and check the school's assessment decisions and quality assurance procedures are being met. This procedure ensures that BTEC standards are consistent internationally.
- Unit results are graded as either Pass, Merit or Distinction. These marks add up to the final grade in each subject. There is no final examination as assessment is continual and progressive.



Progression and Higher Education

ESF secondary schools have Career Centres where Higher Education Counsellors support all students in preparation for Higher and Further Education. Events are organized throughout the year to support understanding about opportunities and both students and parents are given a range of opportunities to learn more. Information evenings throughout Years 12 and 13 offer information about the application process, financial implications and best choices. All of our schools have visits from a range of university representatives including the USA, Hong Kong, Canada and the UK. We have the ESF University Fair at the end of January each year and a specific event for BTEC students in March.



Edexcel's Progression and Recognition team is working with universities in Canada, the USA and Australia to help them understand the BTEC National Diploma qualification as an equivalent to an A Level standard.



Our founder school for BTECs is West Island School who started the BTEC programme in 2006/07. Progression into university has been excellent. Following is the type of course students studied in 2009-10 at WIS and their university acceptances:

West Island School (WIS) Destinations 2010

BTEC course (and IB certificates) studied by student at WIS	University applied to	University location	University course applied	University course offer
BTEC National Certificate – Business + BTEC National Award - Engineering	Kingston University	UK	Marketing	280 UCAS points
BTEC National Certificate – Business + BTEC National Award - Sports	Kingston University	UK	Sports Analysis & Coaching	220 UCAS points
BTEC National Certificate - Business	Sheffield Hallam University	UK	Business Studies	240 UCAS points
BTEC National Certificate - Business	Sheffield Hallam	UK	Marketing	240 UCAS points
BTEC National Certificate – Art & Design + IB Design & Technology and Film Studies	Bournemouth University	UK	Computer Animation	160 UCAS points
BTEC National Certificate - Art & Design + Business Management Studies + Film Studies	London College of Fashion	UK	Fashion Design	BTEC National Certificate – Pass/Pass
BTEC National Certificate - Art & Design + IB French	London College of Fashion	UK	Fashion Design	BTEC National Certificate – Pass/Pass
BTEC National Certificate – Business + IB Biology	University of Dundee	UK	Environmental Sustainability	BTEC National Certificate – Distinction/Distinction
BTEC National Certificate – Art & Design + IB Mandarin and Business & Management Studies	University of the Arts	UK	Art & Design	BTEC National Certificate – Pass/Pass
BTEC National Certificate - Art & Design	University for Creative Arts	UK	Art & Design	BTEC National Certificate – Pass/Pass

► What we are offering for 2011 -12 across ESF

Note: King George V School (KGV), Sha Tin College (STC) and Renaissance College Hong Kong (RCHK) (2011-12) are working in a cross-school consortium in order to extend the range of subjects for students. Where you see two school names – that is consortium teaching.

School	Courses & Levels	Subject
King George V School	BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (ID) BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (ID) BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (ID) BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (ID) AS level L3 BTEC module BTEC L3 level	Art & Design with Media optional units Business with ICT optional units Sports & Exercise Performing Arts Global Perspectives Work Skills Extended Diploma
Sha Tin College	BTEC L3 Diploma & Extended Diploma	Business with Product Design optional units
Sha Tin College / King George V School	BTEC L3 Extended Diploma BTEC L3 Extended Diploma BTEC L3 Extended Diploma BTEC L3 Extended Diploma	Business: Shared teaching Sport: Shared teaching Art: Shared teaching Performing Art: Shared teaching
South Island School	BTEC L3 Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma AS level AS level L3 BTEC module AS level AS level	Product Design Business Fashion Sport Media Extended Project Global Perspectives Work Skills English Art
West Island School	BTEC L3 Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Subsidiary Diploma AS Level L3 BTEC BTEC L2 BTEC L2	Art Business Engineering Sport Global Perspectives Work Skills Science Engineering
Island School	BTEC L3 Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Subsidiary Diploma BTEC L3 Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma GCE A Level L3 BTEC L2 BTEC	Digital Media Performing Arts Travel and Tourism Sport Business Food Technology Work Skills Travel and Tourism

Full details of these courses will be found in individual school brochures and on school websites.

Students in the senior section of ESF schools may move to schools outside of their catchment zone in order to access courses suitable for them.

In each of our schools there is a contact for further information on the Applied Learning Programmes:



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South Island School
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West Island School
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King George V School
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Sha Tin College
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Renaissance College Hong Kong
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