



Department
for Education

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www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus/df

Hi,

My name is Katie Holl and I am writing to current Year 12/13 students to share my experience of studying for a Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ) in Health Play Specialism. Not long ago, I was in your situation and deciding what I wanted to do after Year 13. I wanted to keep learning and developing skills, but the only options I had heard of were apprenticeships and degrees. I wanted an option that would suit my learning style better, with a blend of classroom learning and practical application that would prepare me for a job, so I felt relieved when I found out about HTQs.

You may not know much about HTQs yet. They are qualifications you can do that allow you to build on your T-Level and develop your skills further. HTQs are similar in level to some apprenticeships and have been designed in partnership with employers, but they are taught in a classroom. They are shorter than degrees and blend theoretical learning with practical experience. I thought I would enjoy the balance of theory and practice. HTQs are offered in a wide range of subjects, from IT to healthcare services.

You can find out all you need to know about HTQs through Skills for Careers:

[Higher technical qualifications \(HTQs\) | Skills for Careers \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.education.gov.uk/skills-for-careers/higher-technical-qualifications-htqs)

Before I started the course, I was nervous because my friends and family had not heard about HTQs, so I couldn't go to them for advice.

In reality, the course is even more than what I expected; it is challenging me and giving me the skills I need for my future career, but it is also a lot of fun. The course has a practical element as I get to use the latest equipment and technology. I knew I didn't want to sit in lectures five days a week. Instead, this blend of theory and practical approaches really suits my learning style, as I'm able to apply what I learn in the classroom within my placement and vice versa. I also feel reassured by the fact that I'm learning the skills employers want me to have, which makes me feel ready to get a job. Being able to develop more specialist skills should mean I am able to move more quickly into higher-paid jobs within my field.

Based on how much I'm enjoying my course, and because it is a qualification that is designed to lead to a job, I really recommend that you check out HTQs. Find out more about HTQs and other options available to you here: [Higher technical qualifications \(HTQs\) | Skills for Careers \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.education.gov.uk/skills-for-careers/higher-technical-qualifications-htqs)

Yours sincerely,

Katie Holl