

Siomha McStay

BTEC Level 3 in TV and Film Production



Progression pathway



BTEC L3 in TV and Film
Production at Belfast
Metropolitan College



Working towards a
Speech and Drama
ATCL Diploma with
Trinity College London

1 How do you think BTEC helped get you where you are now?

BTEC helped me gain skills across a wide variety of areas in the TV and Film industry. I learnt skills that are helping me today with my writing and with my teaching.

The BTEC course I completed a few years ago made it possible for me to experience many areas of the industry and fueled me to reach outside of my comfort zone and provide me with the skills I needed in order to continue to pursue my creative passions.

2 What was your BTEC experience like?

I feel like I entered this course when I felt prepared for it - I was ready to come back to my 'studies' and do things my own way. I was eager to learn more about the industry and get a chance to experience as much as I possibly could.

I honestly miss this course and am grateful for how much I got out of it. At times it was challenging, but it made me confident in my ability to complete what I needed to do and to trust my decisions. It was a very interesting and exciting course and I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in the TV and Film Industry.

3 How is studying BTEC preparing you for your future career?

I would love a creative job - I am a bit of a writer, actor, director etc, so this course was right up my street.

It made me aware of all the factors that go into a project both in front and behind the camera. It gave me a taster for jobs within the industry and what is out there and available at the moment.

I am confident from my experiences during the course and what I learnt and achieved, that I feel like I could apply for jobs within the industry and use all that I learnt to my advantage.

This course allows you to research all areas that you might not have considered before and understand the requirements and experience that is needed for those jobs.

Our tutors were constantly informing us about different opportunities for growth and encouraging us to apply and reach out to network with other creatives.

This course allowed me to build skills that I am still using to this day - because my tutors taught me how to format my ideas and produce a product, I now believe in my ability to make my dreams a reality.



This course got me started off on the right path, and I am grateful that I was given the chance to explore so many areas and gain skills and experience which have boosted my confidence and ability within myself.



4 What did you like most about taking a BTEC?

I liked the structure of the classes, the end of year projects and the experience opportunities that were given to us. I liked how the tutors taught us what we needed to do but gave us the creative freedom to apply all those skills into our projects. Our tutors were always there to help if we needed it but they trusted us and our abilities and it was so nice to see how supportive they were of our work.

The creative freedom to me was also one of my favourite parts - nothing was ever 'wrong', instead they gave us guidance and advice on how to make our work stronger. We were very much supported and encouraged throughout the course.