

Let Us Help You  
Choose The Right Course

# Welcome to the first step to your future!

Wondering where to start? With so many options and so much choice, it is sometimes difficult to know which way to turn. Choosing the right course can be a very difficult process, and at Tower Hamlets College we aim to help you every step of the way, making sure you get on the right course from the start. This booklet offers you some useful information, and answers some of your frequently asked questions. However, you should never choose your course alone, make sure you have spoken to either:

- **Your Head of Year**
- **Your School Careers Coordinator**
- **Your local Connexions Adviser**
- **Advice Solutions**

If you attend a school in Tower Hamlets, Advice Solutions may be visiting your school. If not, you can contact Advice Solutions by:

- **Logging onto [www.tower.ac.uk/advice](http://www.tower.ac.uk/advice)**
- **Calling our advice line 0207 510 7777**
- **Emailing: [advice@tower.ac.uk](mailto:advice@tower.ac.uk)**
- **Visiting us at one of the College's Open Evenings – next one is the 9th February 2010**
- **Visiting us at a Tuesday evening advice session, at the Poplar site where you will be given advice by trained advisers as well as teaching staff. (Please check dates and time at [www.tower.ac.uk](http://www.tower.ac.uk))**

We look forward to seeing you soon and hope you find this information useful

## Terry Davy John

Head of Advice Solutions

## Meet The Team!



**Terry Davy John**

Head of Advice Solutions



**Dan Cotterill**

Advice Solutions  
Coordinator 14-19



**Mohon Miah**

Course Adviser



**Rukeya Ali**

Course Adviser

To get you thinking about your future, try asking yourself these questions, maybe discuss them with an adviser or your teacher.

- What would I like to study in the future?
- Do I have a career in mind yet?
- What are my strong subjects?
- What am I likely to get at GCSE?
- What are the different levels of study?
- Do I want to study new subjects?
- Should I choose AS/A levels or vocational subjects?
- Can I re-take any GCSEs?

Moving onto 6th Form College can be a big step, and often a worrying time. We have lots of support and events to make sure your move into College life goes as smoothly as possible.

To find out what life is really like at Tower Hamlets College go to [www.airthc.co.uk](http://www.airthc.co.uk) or follow us on any of the following sites: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Digg](#), [Delicious](#), [Flickr](#)



del.icio.us

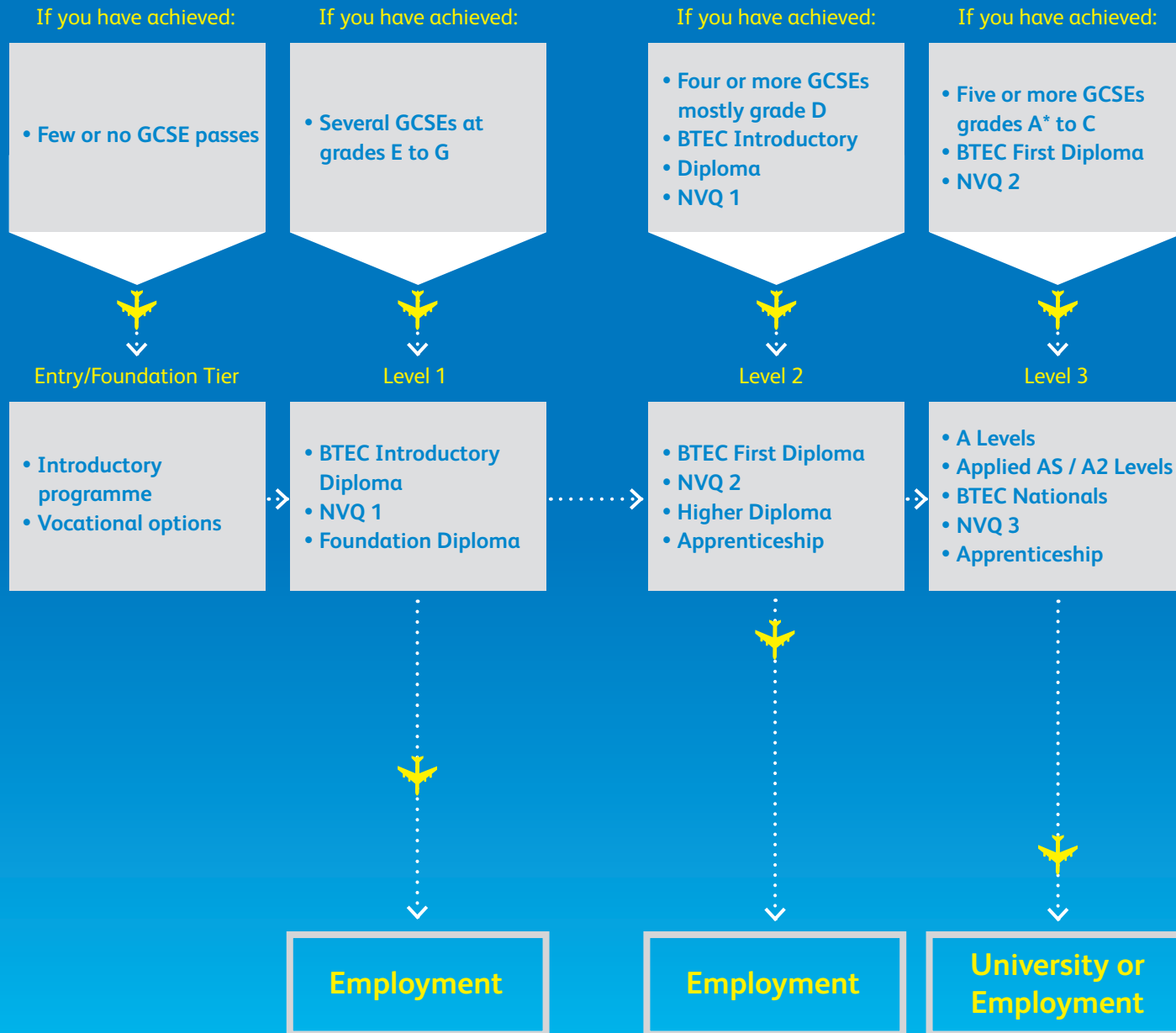


# Choosing the right course

We offer courses at all levels:

- **Entry/Foundation Tier**
- **Foundation (Level 1)**
- **Intermediate (Level 2)**
- **Advanced (Level 3)**

This chart should help you work out where you are now, the level of course you should apply for, what qualifications you require to start a course and what successfully completing your course could lead to.



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# Frequently asked Questions

Here are loads of questions and answers that should help you to make the right decision. However if you feel that there is anything we have not answered here, or you have more questions to ask, then let us know!

## **I'm likely to get really good GCSE's. What can I study?**

If you get 5 A\* - C grades you can do a level 3 qualification

## **What is a level 3 qualification?**

A Levels, BTEC Nationals, NVQ level 3

## **What is the difference?**

**AS/A Levels:** Most students on the A level programme take four AS subjects in the first year, then drop one and take three at A2 level in the second. You can choose from a wide range of subjects, some of which you may have already studied, but there are also new subjects that you can study.

**BTEC Nationals:** are in one vocational area such as Business and Finance, Media or Art and Design. Students may go straight into employment after these courses and progress to Higher Education.

**NVQs:** are in areas such as Hairdressing or Childcare and give students the skills and training to hopefully secure employment in the industry or improve the skills of students who are already working in these specialist areas.

## **What does vocational mean?**

Vocational Qualifications give you a hands on and practical learning experience in many subject areas such as Business, Finance, Hair, Beauty and Social Work. They don't just prepare you for the world of work, but also for university.

## **I may not get 5 A\* - C grades at GCSE, what can I do?**

There are courses at Entry, Level 1 and Level 2 (see diagram on previous page). We are able to offer courses for applicants at all these levels.

## **I failed my Maths and English GCSE's is this going to hold me back?**

No, if you achieved a grade D you will be allowed to re-sit Maths and English alongside your new course.

## **I have no idea what I want to study.**

If you are still at school, you should see your Head of Year or Connexions adviser to discuss your options. Representatives from the College may also visit your school. You can also attend our Open Days, Tuesday evening advice sessions, email us, call us or drop into Advice Solutions for an interview with a course adviser.

## **I started A-levels at another College - Can I continue my course at THC?**

You can continue your course as long as the modules you have already completed match

up with the courses here at the College and a tutor agrees to take you on.

### **I have no idea what level of course I should be studying?**

A tutor will help you choose the correct level of course at your interview.

### **I have no GCSE's can I still get on a course at THC?**

Yes, we may need you to sit an assessment but we have courses for all levels at the College.

### **When can I get an interview with a tutor for the course I am interested in?**

You may get an interview when you are still at school, however everybody that applies by application will automatically be booked an interview slot.

### **Will my age at the start date of course affect my options?**

Yes, the age you are at the start of the course will determine whether you should be studying as part of the Sixth Form College or the adult College. You must be under 19 for the Sixth Form.

**What fees will I have to pay?** If you are under 19 years old then generally there will be no fees to pay. Once you are an adult, fees may apply. Each case is different so it is important you speak to a student adviser to get an accurate fee assessment.

### **Do I need a reference from my previous school?**

Yes, unless you are applying to the adult College.

### **What is acceptable as a reference?**

Either the reference request form (supplied by the College) or a reference written on headed school paper and signed by a member of staff.

### **Which site will I be studying at?**

This will depend upon which course you choose. The location of your classes will be indicated in the prospectus. Sixth form classes will almost always be at Poplar Centre.

### **Where can I go to get advice on my options?**

You can get professional impartial advice from Advice Solutions at the Poplar Centre.

### **When is the deadline for the College receiving application forms?**

The deadline for applications is 1st April 2010, be careful not to leave it too late!

### **What happens if I miss the application deadline?**

If you miss the application deadline don't panic! You can still submit an application at any time or attend Open Enrolment to secure a place on the course of your choice. However places can go quickly so the sooner you apply the better.

### **Does THC accept international students on its courses?**

Yes, although it is important to apply early.

The information in this leaflet is accurate at time of print. However, as it is occasionally subject to change, students are asked to seek further advice from Advice Solutions.

This publication is also available in large print and other alternative formats. Please contact the Marketing Department on 020 7510 7563 if you require this service.

 Advice Solutions, Poplar High Street, London. E14 0AF

 020 7510 7777

 [advice@tower.ac.uk](mailto:advice@tower.ac.uk)

 [www.tower.ac.uk](http://www.tower.ac.uk)