

Statement of Purpose

500/8365/X - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Animal Care (QCF)

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Certificate at level 2 designed for post-16 students working at that level. It has 360 guided learning hours.

It is designed for students who have chosen to focus their learning and career development within the animal care industry and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which supports transition directly into employment and/or into further study. It includes compulsory work experience and covers a range of specialisms within the world of animal management.

What does this qualification cover?

The qualification consists of a core of four mandatory units which makes up 50% of the qualification and a choice (from 12) of optional units making up the remainder. The mandatory units provide the underpinning knowledge and practical skills to support students' work with animals. Unit 1 – '*Undertake Work Related Experience in the Land-based Industries*' provides students with the opportunity to know and understand the industry from a practical and personal perspective, supported by Unit 2 – '*Maintain Animal Accommodation*', Unit 3 – '*Undertake Practical Animal Feeding*' and Unit 4 – '*Maintain Animal Health and Welfare*', which provide both essential practical skills and underpinning theoretical knowledge.

The optional units cover key areas relevant to those working within the animal care industry. They enable students to focus on specialisms within the industry and cover a range of principal disciplines that are associated with key areas for employment within the sector, including, for example, pet shop/retail, rescue centres, animal sanctuaries, zoo or wildlife parks, animal charities and animal boarding.

This qualification enables students to acquire a valuable range of practical, work-related skills in the animal care sector, requiring them to develop and apply their knowledge in specific industry-related contexts. Examples include looking after animals which become ill or distressed, preparing food rations for a variety of animals, ensuring that animal enclosures are maintained, grooming and keeping animals clean, exercising dogs in a yard, cleaning out kennels, pens and cages, changing bedding and answering queries from colleagues and visitors, working as part of a team. In work experience roles students will undertake a variety of other duties, for example, keeping records, taking bookings and advising owners on how to look after their animals.

Students will also enhance their broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be invaluable in support of progression to employment and/or to further level 3 studies. In addition, they will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication (working with colleagues, customers and clients), and research and project work (providing an opportunity to demonstrate reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem).

What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification provides a sound basis for students to progress further within the industry - to a level 3 Technical Level qualification in animal management, to an apprenticeship in animal care, or direct entry to employment. Ambitious students are well prepared for a wide spectrum of occupations within the industry, including animal boarding assistant, pet shop/retail assistant, rescue centre/animal sanctuary assistant, zoo or wildlife park worker, dog handler (uniformed forces), animal/dog groomer or an animal charity worker.

Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Animal Care has 360 guided learning hours (GLH).

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Animal Care is designed for post-16 students and provides a specialist work-related focus on the agricultural sector. This qualification prepares students for employment in the animal care sector. It includes a mandatory work-related experience unit not included within the smaller sizes.

Pearson also offers a BTEC Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Animal Care which has 180 GLH. This forms a broad introduction to the Animal Care sector and may form part of the student's study programme. For example, it could be taken alongside subjects such as English, mathematics, science, business, etc.

(Pearson also offers a BTEC First Certificate in Animal care, which has 90 GLH and is predominantly designed for pre-16 students.)

All sizes of the qualification provide progression to Level 3 study programmes, apprenticeships and entry into a specialist area of employment.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by the following employers and professional bodies:

- The National Association of Agricultural Contractors
- British Wildlife Centre
- Norfolk Dog Training
- Drusillas Park
- Heythrop Zoological Gardens Ltd
- Wroxham Barns

Support letters are available at the following link:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/animal-care-2010-qcf.html>.

Further information

Further information on the qualification can also be accessed at

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/animal-care-2010-qcf.html>.