

Statement of Purpose

500/6671/7 - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Applied Science (QCF)

Who is the qualification for?

This level 2 qualification is designed for post-16 students who are working at this level and who want to progress to further study in applied science or related areas at level 3, either in FE or within an apprenticeship. It is 360 guided learning hours, equivalent in size to three GCSEs.

This qualification is also a requirement of the Intermediate Apprenticeship for Laboratory and Science Technicians. The qualification is available to study outside the apprenticeship for learners who:

- Need to build confidence when returning to education after a break and/or,
- Work part-time and/or,
- Work on a voluntary basis and/or
- Only require development of their skills in the area this qualification offers and don't require the full apprenticeship framework in order to progress to work or other higher vocational learning.

What does this qualification cover?

All of the content of the qualification, including both mandatory and optional units, provides the underpinning requirements for progression to further study in applied science. This qualification enables students to acquire a valuable range of practical scientific skills, including carrying out practical laboratory tasks, planning investigations, collecting, analysing and presenting data, and reviewing and refining the methodology of practical and laboratory based work. They will develop and apply their knowledge of biology, chemistry and physics in a range of vocational contexts, leading to an understanding of how scientific knowledge is applied in practice.

All students will cover three mandatory areas of content which provide underpinning knowledge of scientific principles and concepts and the scientific and practical skills needed to support students' progress.

- Unit 1: 'Chemistry and Our Earth'
- Unit 2: 'Energy and Our Universe'
- Unit 3: 'Biology and Our Environment'

Students will then choose a number of optional units (either 5 or 10 credits in size) drawn from 19 options. The optional units enable students to extend and apply their knowledge and scientific skills within the following specialist areas: health, biotechnology, chemical and physical sciences, forensic science, and environmental science.

What could this qualification lead to?

Achievement of this qualification would mean that students are prepared to progress directly to further study of the subject at level 3 such as a BTEC National in Applied Science, or a range of Access to HE courses (nursing, midwifery pharmacy, health, medical science), or into further learning through an apprenticeship in the science industry. Students should check what additional qualifications, such as GCSE mathematics or English, may be needed to support progression to further study.

Pearson has developed an additional suite of BTEC Applied Science qualifications - the BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science, the BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Applications of Science, the BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Applied Science, and the BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma in Applied Science. These science qualifications were designed for 14-16 year olds and they meet the current statutory requirements of the key stage 4 programme of study.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by Further Education colleges including:

- Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College
- Central College Nottingham
- Wirral Metropolitan College
- Kirklees College
- South Essex College
- South and City College Birmingham
- City of Westminster College
- City and Islington College
- Leeds City College

Further information

Further information on the qualification can be accessed at
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/applied-science-2010-qcf.html>.