

Statement of Purpose

500/9930/9 - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Countryside and Environment (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 countryside and environment 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 for students who are passionate about wanting to contribute to managing and shaping the future of the countryside and the wider environment.

What does this qualification cover?

The qualification consists of a core of two mandatory units which makes up one third of the qualification and a choice (from 23) of optional units making up the remainder. The compulsory units provide the underpinning knowledge and practical skills to support students' work within the sector. 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 – '*Environmental and Land-based Business*' which provides both important practical skills and knowledge of business and its applications in environmental and land-based contexts.

The optional units cover a range of the principal themes associated with key areas for employment within the sector, including, for example, urban and forest habitat ecology, forestry skills, conservation, coastal zone management, arboriculture and estate maintenance.

This qualification requires students to develop and apply their knowledge in specific industry-related contexts, while enabling them to acquire a valuable range of practical, work related skills. Students may conduct soil and micro climate investigations, identify the ecological characteristics of a variety of habitats and maintain and improve these to benefit wildlife. Further examples of specialist areas include the servicing and repair of land-based machines/equipment, undertaking terrestrial and aquatic animal/plant surveys, understanding annual crop production cycles and the factors affecting growth and yield (agricultural output) with associated impacts on conservation, and animal health and the factors that contribute to it.

Students will also enhance their broader skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT. The core units require them to use IT software to perform business operations, carry out basic accounting and administrative tasks, and use data to draw evidence-based conclusions. This 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), 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 in the industry - to a level 3 Technical Level qualification in countryside and environment, countryside management or forestry, to an environmental conservation apprenticeship, direct entry to employment or working as a volunteer with environmental charities. Ambitious students are well prepared for a

diverse range of occupations within the industry, including conservation charity worker, maintenance worker for rivers, coasts and waterways, tree surveyors assistant, timber extractor/processor, crops and agroforestry worker or projects concerned with creating public access to the countryside, rebuilding natural habitats and urban regeneration.

This qualification is part of a larger suite of BTEC Countryside and Environment qualifications

Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Countryside and Environment has 360 guided learning hours (GLH).

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Countryside and Environment is designed for post-16 students and provides a specialist work-related focus on the countryside and environment sector. This qualification prepares students for employment in this 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 Countryside and Environment which has 180 GLH. This forms a broad introduction to the Countryside and Environment 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 Countryside and Environment, 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
- The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside
- Ambios
- The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Support letters from these organisations are available at the following link:
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/countryside-and-environment-2010-qcf.html>.

Further information

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