

Statement of Purpose

500/9934/6 - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture (QCF)

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is 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 horticulture, landscaping and sports turf industries and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which prepares them for progression directly into employment and/or into further study. It includes compulsory work experience and covers a range of specialisms within the world of horticulture and plant management.

What does this qualification cover?

The qualification consists of a core of two mandatory units plus one unit chosen from a group of three. These make up 42% of the qualification, and a further choice (from 14) of optional units which make up the remainder. The mandatory units provide the underpinning knowledge and practical skills to prepare students to work with cultivated plants. Unit 4 – *'Undertake Work Related Experience in the Land-based Industries'* provides students with the opportunity to know and understand the industry from a practical perspective, supported by Unit 5 – *'Establish and Maintain Plants outdoors'* and either Unit 1 - *'Understand the Basic Principles of Plant Science'*, Unit 2 – *'Understand the Basic Principles of Soil Science'* or Unit 3 - *'Setting Out from a Plan'* which provide essential practical skills and underpinning theoretical knowledge.

The optional units cover key areas relevant to those working within any of the three sub-sectors within horticulture: nurseries and horticultural plant providers; landscaping and estate management; and sports and amenity turf management. They enable students to focus on a specialism within the industry and cover a wide range of the principal disciplines that are associated with key areas for employment within the sector, including, for example, land-based business, plant biology, soil science, growth and propagation of horticultural plants and crops, nursery stock production, retail management, the maintenance of sports and amenity turf, working with land-based machinery and estate maintenance.

This qualification enables students to acquire a valuable range of practical, work-related skills in the plant management and amenity sectors, requiring them to develop and apply their knowledge in specific industry-related contexts. Examples include selecting, planting out, watering and caring for plants, preparing the ground and landscape for planting, preparing and maintaining turf, setting out plant display areas, advising customers, using horticultural tools and machinery and maintaining estate boundaries.

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, students 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 in the plant management and amenity industries - to a level 3 Technical Level qualification in Horticulture,

to an apprenticeship, for example in greenkeeping, or direct entry to employment. Ambitious students are well prepared for a wide spectrum of occupations within the industry, including landscape supervisor, gardener, horticultural customer advisor, sports groundsman technician, horticultural consultant, park ranger and fencing manager.

This qualification is part of a larger suite of BTEC Horticulture qualifications

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

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Horticulture is designed for post-16 students and provides a specialist work-related focus on the horticulture sector. This qualification prepares students for employment in the horticulture 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 Horticulture which has 180 GLH. This forms a broad introduction to the horticulture 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 Horticulture, 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 Chartered Institute of Horticulture
- Institute of Groundsmanship
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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

Further information

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