# Statement of Purpose

## 500/7799/5 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (QCF)

The engineering sector offers huge potential for learners interested in the sector. The UK is currently regarded as a world leader in sectors including renewable energy, space, low carbon, aerospace, creative industries, utilities, automotive, agri-food and bioscience. Between 2010 and 2020 Engineering enterprises are projected to have 2.74 million job openings, including over 400,000 technician roles where the predominantly ageing workforce is expected to retire over the next 10 years.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma (720 GLH) in Aeronautical Engineering is part of a larger suite of BTEC Nationals in Engineering qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the engineering sector at the appropriate level. This can follow either directly after achieving the qualification, or via the stepping stone of Higher Education (HE) in university or college. By studying a BTEC National, learners develop knowledge, understanding and skills required by the sector, including essential employability skills, and apply them in real work contexts. Learners can operate at a standard that can reasonably be expected of an 18 year old in full-time education.

**Within this suite, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma (720 GLH) in Aeronautical Engineering is primarily a Technical Level qualification, equivalent in size to two A levels**, which has been designed to occupy two-thirds of a full-time curriculum, enabling learners to develop a significant common core of knowledge, including an Engineering Project, Mathematics for Engineering Technicians, Theory of Flight and Principles and Applications of Aircraft Mechanical Science, and providing extensive opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, such as Principles and Applications of Aircraft Physical Science and Aircraft Workshop Principles and Practice. The Diploma allows time in the curriculum to study other qualifications alongside it, for example Maths, English or Physics. The Pearson BTEC Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering is also approved as a Technical Certificate by SEMTA in a range of advanced apprenticeship frameworks, or it can be studied part time by learners in schools, colleges and other training provider organisations. Its size makes it appropriate as the core component of a Technical Baccalaureate programme, allowing time in the curriculum for the study and completion of the other mandatory components.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector SEMTA. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering. This means it is a highly respected route for those who wish to move into employment in the sector, either directly or following further study.

A significant proportion of recruitment in this sector is at graduate level. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector and beyond when taken alongside other qualifications appropriate for the desired course of study. UCAS has reviewed the qualification to assess its value for access to higher education, and has allocated UCAS points. See details published on the Pearson website here:

http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/results/Pages/BTEC-equivalence.aspx

In addition, a number of universities have individually confirmed that this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.