

Statement of Purpose

500/7719/3 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Law (QCF)

The UK's legal services sector generates £23 billion a year – accounting for 1.8% of the UK's economy and employing nearly 350,000 people. The Legal Services Act 2007 allowed non-legal enterprises to offer legal services to individuals and business clients, which is bringing significant disruption to established legal services providers as new businesses compete with them on price, technology and breadth of service. Covering diverse niches, from property offences and consumer law to employment and family law, employers have identified skills shortages in leadership and management, technology and commercial acumen.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (360 GLH) in Applied Law is part of a larger suite of Applied Law qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the legal 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.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Law (360 GLH) is primarily a Technical Level qualification, equivalent in size to an A level, which has been designed to occupy one third of the curriculum within a broader programme of study, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications. Its main purpose is to allow learners to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills, including dispute solving in the legal system and aspects of legal liability, required by the sector. It provides a basis for progression into a broad range of roles within the sector when supported by relevant qualifications at level 2, such as GCSE English and mathematics, and/or at level 3, such as GCE A Level Government and Politics or History, and/or a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Business. Learners have some opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, including Unit 4: Unlawful Homicide and Police Powers, Unit 6: Contract Law and Unit 10: Aspect of Family Law.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Skills for Justice. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Law. 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Law also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector, 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Law fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.