

James Emmett,
Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Employers)
Pearson,
Regulatory Stakeholder Relations
Quality, Standards and Research Division
One90 High Holborn,
London, WC1V 7BH

14 August 2015

Letter of support for the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Art and Design

Dear James Emmett,

As an **employer** and **cultural organisation** working in close partnership with the formal education sector, and with strong ties to the design industries, the Design Museum recognises the following qualifications as being fit for purpose, particularly from the perspective of design education and professional practice:

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Art and Design
BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Art and Design
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Art and Design
BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Graphics
BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in 3D Design and Crafts
BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Fashion Design and Production
BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Photography

From the assessment we have made of the draft specifications for these qualifications, we believe they are apt to support learners to progress to employment in a range of job roles across the creative industries. For example, the mandatory units, and many optional ones, provide clear educational progression relevant to becoming an Industrial Product Designer or Graphics Designer, and a number of other possibilities in freelance or small-to-medium enterprise settings.

For such roles, we believe that these qualifications provide an appropriate level of knowledge and skill and broadly reflect current approaches to design method and creativity. They also address the needs of the client and the individual, ensuring that when candidates become employees in the sector, they are appropriately skilled for the job and able to deliver to the standard that the sector requires to be able to thrive.

The qualification will also support the individual, should they chose to progress into further training or Higher Education, particularly through the inclusion of a mandatory unit supporting the production of a portfolio.

We are happy for Pearson to use this letter in support of its work with government and its agencies, to ensure that this important qualification will continue to be recognised for college performance tables and 19+ funding by the Department for Education.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Ferguson
Head of Programme – Learning
Department of Learning and Research, Design Museum