

Statement of Purpose

600/6439/0 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Aviation Operations (QCF)

The UK Aviation sector contributes over £17bn annually to the economy from overseas visitors alone. Over 120,000 staff is employed by 2,000 organisations, providing a vital transportation link for individuals and trade. With roles including Flight Crews, Grounds Staff, Flight Engineers as well as Air Traffic Control, the Aviation industry offers individuals an interesting career with many progression opportunities.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (1179 GLH) in Aviation Operations (QCF) is part of a larger suite of aviation/travel and tourism qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the aviation/travel and tourism 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 Extended Diploma, 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 or employment.

Within this suite, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Aviation Operations (QCF) (1179 GLH) is a Technical Level qualification, equivalent in size to three A levels, which has been designed as a full two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a substantial common core of knowledge, including security in the aviation industry and inter-relationships in the aviation industry allowing them the maximum opportunity to study in more depth a full range of option areas of their choice, such as aircraft take-off and landing performance, handling air passengers and passenger terminal management within the aviation industry. It is mainly designed for those learners who know in which sector they would like to specialise. Learners can achieve breadth of study through the large core and extensive options, rather than by studying complementary qualifications alongside it. The qualification allows learners to develop the wide-ranging knowledge; understanding and skills required for direct progression into a broad range of roles within the industry they are going to be a part of. It also meets the needs of those who wish to progress first to further study.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, People 1st. As a leading professional body, the Royal Aeronautical Society has also confirmed its support for this Pearson BTEC level 3 Extended Diploma in Aviation Operations (QCF). 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 Extended Diploma in Aviation Operations (QCF) also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector and beyond, fully meeting entry requirements for most courses. 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>