

Statement of Purpose

501/1217/X – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Blacksmithing and Metalworking (QCF)

The environmental and land-based sector provides a diverse cross-section of employment opportunities regarding the production and use of renewable and/or recyclable natural resources. Blacksmithing and metalworking are important traditional rural crafts that have undergone a revival in recent years, and metalworking is a profession that attracts a significant number of female entrants.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate (180 GLH) in Blacksmithing and Metalworking is part of a larger suite of Environmental and Land-based qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the Environmental and Land-based 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 Certificate in Blacksmithing and Metalworking (180 GLH) is a vocational qualification, equivalent in size to an AS level, which is designed to be taken alongside one or more substantial qualifications within a 16 to 19 study programme. The qualification provides learners with an element of sector specialism as part of their wider programme of study by developing a primary core of knowledge in the sector, such as understanding forging techniques and undertaking drawing and workshop practice. It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in a metalworking-related field, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as a Level 3 Art and Design or Engineering qualification. It is also appropriate for those aged 16 who are ready to start an element of level 3 vocational study while completing aspects of their level 2 programme.

The qualification was designed in collaboration with industry, so has the specific support of the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, LANTRA. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Blacksmithing and Metalworking supports entry to a variety of HE courses in this sector and beyond, when taken in conjunction with other qualifications. This is confirmed by the specific support of a range of universities. In addition, the qualification carries UCAS points – see details published on the Pearson website here:

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