

## Statement of Purpose

### 501/1219/3 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma 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, which 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 Diploma (720 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 Diploma (720 GLH) 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 workshop practice and forge work. They also provide extensive opportunities to study in more depth a range of option areas, such as *Decorative Metalworking*. The Diploma allows time in the curriculum to study other qualifications alongside it, for example Physics or Art and Design. The Pearson BTEC Diploma in Blacksmithing and Metalworking 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, LANTRA. 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 Blacksmithing and Metalworking 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 Blacksmithing and Metalworking fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.