

Statement of Purpose

500/7137/3 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment (QCF)

The construction sector offers huge potential for learners interested in the sector. Construction contributes nearly £90bn to the UK economy, 6.7% of the total. There are 2.9 million jobs filled in the Construction Industry, circa 10% of all jobs (in over 280,000 businesses). The global construction output is forecast to increase from around \$8.5 trillion today to \$12 trillion in 2025. The UK has the sixth largest green construction sector in the world and around 60,000 jobs are expected to be supported by the insulation sector alone by 2015.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma (720 GLH) in Construction and the Built Environment (QCF) is part of a larger suite of construction qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the construction 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 a unit requiring learners to have a knowledge and understanding of construction materials and the performance criteria applicable to them and also how their deterioration can be prevented, and providing extensive opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, such as Surveying in Construction and Civil Engineering. The Diploma allows time in the curriculum to study other qualifications alongside it, for example Engineering, IT, Business or Physics. The Pearson BTEC Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment (QCF) is also approved as a Technical Certificate by CITB in a range of advanced apprenticeship frameworks, or it 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 CITB. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment (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 Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment (QCF) 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 Construction and the Built Environment (QCF) fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.