

Statement of Purpose

500/7138/5 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate 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 Certificate (180 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 Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment (QCF) (180 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to an AS level, which is designed to be taken alongside one or more substantial qualifications within a 16–19 study programme. The qualification provides learners with an element of sector specialism as part of their wider programme by developing a primary common core of knowledge in the sector through mandatory content. This common core covers the content, such as Health, Safety and Welfare in the construction and the built environment, that is regarded as most important by employers. Learners also have some opportunity to study in more depth an optional unit of their choice including Building Technology in Construction. It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in a construction-related field, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as IT, Business, maths and engineering. 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, CITB. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment (QCF) 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>