

## Statement of Purpose

### 500/7841/0 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering (QCF)

The engineering sector offers huge potential for learners interested in the sector. The UK is currently regarded as a world leader in sectors including renewable energy, space, low carbon, aerospace, creative industries, utilities, automotive, agri-food and bioscience. Between 2010 and 2020 Engineering enterprises are projected to have 2.74 million job openings, including over 400,000 technician roles where the predominantly ageing workforce is expected to retire over the next 10 years.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (360 GLH) in Engineering is part of a larger suite of BTEC Engineering qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the Engineering 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.

**The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering (360 GLH) is primarily a Technical Level qualification, equivalent in size to an A level**, which has been designed to occupy one third of the curriculum within a broader programme of study, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications. Its main purpose is to allow learners to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills, including Health and Safety in the Engineering Workplace and a choice of either Mechanical Principles and Applications or Electrical and Electronic Principles, required by the sector. It provides a basis for progression into a broad range of roles within the sector when supported by relevant qualifications at level 2, such as GCSE English and mathematics, and/or at level 3, such as Business, IT, Mathematics, English or Physics. Learners have some opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, including Properties and Applications of Engineering Materials and Engineering Drawing for Technicians.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the engineering sector, SEMTA. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering. 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector, 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.