

Statement of Purpose

600/0319/4 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Environmental Sustainability (QCF)

Climate change will impact every aspect of the UK's economy, society and environment. The latest UK climate projections show that the UK faces hotter, drier summers, warmer wetter winters, sea level rises and an increase in extreme weather events such as heavy rains and heat waves. Companies are being tasked to reduce their carbon footprint, and as a result the number of people working in corporate sustainability is expanding fast. Many organisations now have large, diverse teams who are delivering the practical responses to some of the most challenging circumstances ever to face business; from responding to resource depletion and supply chain sustainability to driving consumer behaviour change and realising energy efficiency savings. As the scope of sustainability within organisations expands, employers are increasingly looking for individuals with all-round business experience and skills to lead the charge. Professionals from marketing, engineering, IT and manufacturing are all joining sustainability teams and bringing with them a range of different business skills.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate (180 GLH) in Environmental Sustainability is part of a larger suite of Environmental Sustainability qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment at the appropriate level in the sustainability sector, or in a corporate sustainability role. 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 Environmental Sustainability (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 principles of sustainable development, knowledge and understanding of which is regarded as most important by employers. It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in a sustainability-related field, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as GCE A/AS Level Biology, or a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Agriculture. 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, Cogent. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Environmental Sustainability 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>