

Statement of Purpose

600/0320/0 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma 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 Extended Diploma (1080 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 Extended Diploma in Environmental Sustainability (1080 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to three A levels, which has been designed as a full two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a substantial common core of knowledge, including *Principles of Sustainable Development, Science for Environmental Technicians, Sustainable Communities and Understanding the Principles of Wildlife Population, Ecology and Conservation*. It also allows them the maximum opportunity to study in more depth a full range of option areas of their choice, such as:

- Energy Management
- Understanding Principles of Physical and Biological Environmental Processes
- Waste Management
- Pollution Control and Management
- Understanding Coastal Management
- Geospatial Technology and Sustainable Development.

It is mainly designed for those learners who know in which sector they would like to specialise. Learners can achieve breadth of study through the large core and extensive options, rather than by studying complementary qualifications alongside it. The qualification allows learners to develop the wide-ranging knowledge, understanding and skills required for direct progression into a broad range of roles within the industry they are going to be a part of. It also meets the needs of those who wish to progress first to further study.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental Sustainability sector, Cogent. A range of professional organisations and employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Environmental Sustainability. 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 Extended Diploma in Environmental Sustainability also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector and beyond, fully meeting entry requirements for most courses. 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 Extended Diploma in Environmental Sustainability fulfils their entry requirements, either on its own or when achieved alongside other qualifications.