

## Statement of Purpose

### 600/0321/2 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary 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 Subsidiary Diploma (360 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.

**The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Environmental Sustainability (360 GLH) is primarily an Applied General 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 the *principles of sustainable development and science for environmental technicians*, 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 GCE A Level Statistics, or a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science. Learners have some opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, including:

- Unit 4: Energy Management
- Unit 8: Understanding Principles of Physical and Biological Environmental Processes
- Unit 14: Waste Management.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Cogent. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Environmental Sustainability 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 Environmental Sustainability fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.