

## Statement of Purpose

### 600/0324/8 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 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 Diploma (720 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 Diploma (720 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to two A levels**, which has been designed to occupy two-thirds of a full-time curriculum, enabling learners to develop a significant common core of knowledge, including principles of sustainable development, science for environmental technicians, and sustainable communities, providing extensive opportunity to study in more depth a 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.

The Diploma allows time in the curriculum to study other qualifications alongside it, for example GCE A Level in Geography or a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Countryside Management. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Environmental Sustainability can be studied part time by learners in schools, colleges and other training provider organisations. Its size makes it appropriate as the core component of a Technical Baccalaureate programme, allowing time in the curriculum for the study and completion of the other mandatory components.

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 and employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for the Pearson BTEC Level 3 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 Diploma in Environmental Sustainability also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector and beyond 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 Diploma in Environmental Sustainability fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.