

Statement of Purpose

500/8353/3 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Fish Management (QCF)

The environmental and land-based sector provides a diverse cross-section of employment opportunities regarding the production and use of renewable and/or recyclable natural resources. Angling is one of the most popular leisure activities in the UK, generating over £3.5bn for the UK economy, and with over 4 million participants. In addition to angling, the qualification caters for the ornamental fish and fish farming industries. Level 3 Fish Management qualifications provide the background science, business management, husbandry and estate skills required for entering a career in any section of the fish industry.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma (720 GLH) in Fish Management is part of a larger suite of Environmental and Land-based qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the environmental and land-based 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.

Within this suite, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma (720 GLH) is primarily a Technical Level 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 fish biology, and providing extensive opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, such as water quality. The Diploma allows time in the curriculum to study other qualifications alongside it, for example mathematics, geography or biology. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Fish Management 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, LANTRA. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector have also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Fish Management. 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 Fish Management 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 Fish Management fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.