



Pearson

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification

QAN: 603/0247/1

Title: **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation (1080 GLH)**

Overview

The forensic and criminology sector

The forensic and criminology sector is diverse and wide-ranging, including, for example, forensic science, forensic and criminal psychology, and forensic criminology. There is a wide range of occupations for graduate entry including forensic laboratories, the police force and the probation service.

Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation** is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 students wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education. The qualification is equivalent in size to 3 A levels, and it has been designed as a full two-year programme.

No prior study of the sector is needed, but students should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. The qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills that will prepare students for further study or training.

Everyone taking this qualification will study seven mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- principles and applications of science
- practical scientific procedures and techniques
- science investigation skills
- forensic investigation procedures in practice
- applications of criminology
- criminal investigation procedures in practice
- applications of criminal and forensic psychology.

Students choose six option units from a group, which has been designed to support progression to the range of sector-related courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas. The option units cover content areas such as:

- physiology of human body systems
- forensic genetics
- environmental forensics
- forensic fire investigation
- practical chemical analysis
- forensic anthropology and archaeology.

This qualification enables students to acquire substantial cross-sector scientific knowledge and practical scientific skills, as well as forensic evidence collection and analysis skills, an appreciation of the application of psychology in forensic profiling and an understanding of the criminal justice system.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?

In addition to the applied science, forensic science, criminology and criminal and forensic psychology sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean the student develops the transferable and higher order skills which are highly regarded by higher education and employers. For example, the study of applied and forensic science, criminology and criminal and forensic psychology particularly encourages development of skills such as evaluation, analysis and synthesis. These skills are developed through the variety of approaches to teaching and learning enabled by the specification. In particular, the synoptic unit: Applications of Forensic and Criminal Psychology allows students to demonstrate their ability to plan, research, address problems, assimilate data, and draw together and communicate their findings.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting the admission requirements to many relevant degree courses, including:

- BSc (Hons) Policing and Criminal Investigation
- BSc (Hons) Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation

- BSc (Hons) Forensic Science
- BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology
- BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology
- BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology and Criminal Investigation
- BA (Hons) Criminology
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Law.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific higher education providers.

Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at which level?

This qualification is designed primarily to support progression to employment following further study at university. However, it also supports students progressing directly to employment, as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give successful students an advantage when applying for a range of entry level industry training programmes and/or Higher Apprenticeships in areas such as laboratory technician or forensic technician.

Why do this size of qualification?

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should the student choose this one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation** is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and is typically the major qualification in a full two-year study programme. It is best suited to students who want to progress to higher education in these sectors.

The suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It typically makes up two-thirds of a 16–19 study programme, and is normally taken alongside other qualifications. The additional qualification(s) studied allow students either to give breadth to their study by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give their studies more focus by choosing a complementary subject.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forensic Investigation**, which is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels and is for students looking for a one-year course of full-time study, or for those wishing to study it alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements the qualification over a two-year full-time study programme.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Applied Science** includes a pathway called Applied Science (Analytical and Forensic Science), which focuses more on analytical science and includes a higher level of core science in the qualification.

For more detail about the other qualifications listed here, and the different progression opportunities they particularly support, please refer to their statements of purpose.

This qualification is supported by the following organisations

Higher Education

Kingston University

University of Chester

University of Huddersfield

University of Portsmouth