



Pearson

## Purpose Statement

### Name of regulated qualification

**QAN: 603/0251/3**

**Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forensic Investigation (510 GLH)**

### Overview

#### The forensic and criminology sector

The forensic and criminology sector is diverse and wide-ranging including, for example, forensic science, forensic 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 Foundation Diploma in Forensic 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, probably in a range of related degree courses, and ultimately to employment. The qualification is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels, and it has been designed as a one-year full-time study programme, or a full two-year programme when studied alongside further level 3 qualifications.

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 four 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.

Students choose two option units from a group. The option units have 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:

- forensic traffic collision investigation
- forensic genetics
- environmental forensics
- forensic fire investigation.

This qualification enables students to acquire substantial cross-sector scientific knowledge and practical scientific skills, as well as forensic evidence collection and analysis skills.

## **What could this qualification lead to?**

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

Students who have completed this qualification in a year may progress to further learning at level 3; for example, a second Foundation Diploma in a complementary sector, or to a larger size BTEC National in the forensic and criminal investigation sector.

In addition to the sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean that students develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both higher education and employers; for example, carrying out practical laboratory tasks and planning forensic investigations.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements to many relevant courses. Taken alongside other qualifications, it will prepare students to progress to a wider range of degree programmes. For example, if taken alongside:

- A/AS levels in Psychology and Sociology, to progress to criminal psychology or criminology degree courses
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Computing, to progress to criminology degree courses with a focus on cybercrime.
- A/AS levels in Chemistry and Biology, to progress to forensic science degree courses.

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 primarily designed to support progression to employment following further study at university. However, it also supports students who choose to progress 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 apprenticeships in areas such as laboratory technician or forensic technician.

### Why choose 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 Foundation Diploma in Forensic Investigation** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels and is for students looking for a one-year course of full time study, or alongside another area of study, which contrasts or complements the qualification over a two-year full time study programme.

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 Extended Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation**, which is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and is typically the major qualification in a full two-year 16–19 study programme. It is best suited to students who want to progress to higher education in these sectors.

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