



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/1904/5	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture

Overview

The forestry and arboriculture sector

In the UK, there are currently more than 4,500 arboriculture businesses, employing around 24,000 people, and more than 3,000 forestry businesses, employing almost 20,000 people. This sector contributes more than £286 million to the UK economy. The forestry industry is wide ranging and global in its influence and impact, from managing small community woodlands to dealing with issues of massive deforestation. The arboriculture industry is concerned with the care and maintenance of trees grown for amenity purposes, such as those growing in parks and gardens, streets and highways, and trees in special collections.

Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture**, which is 540 GLH, is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels and, as such, is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure, if you study it alongside level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). It is a one-year full-time course that provides a comprehensive introduction to the sector and is primarily for those intending to gain employment directly, or to progress to an apprenticeship or a higher-level forestry and arboriculture qualification.

No prior study of the sector is needed, but you should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, including English, mathematics and science.

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to ensure that it is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector.

In addition, higher education representatives have been involved to ensure that it fully supports entry to the relevant range of specialist degrees. The qualification develops the knowledge, understanding and skills that provide an excellent basis for employment or for further study or training.

There are five mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of forestry and arboriculture:

- professional working responsibilities
- plant and soil science
- work experience in land-based sectors
- woodland project
- tree felling activities.

You will be able to add one optional unit to the mandatory content. The optional units have been designed to support your progression to a range of employment opportunities in the forestry and arboriculture sector and cover areas such as:

- tree pests and diseases
- estate skills.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 150 hours of work experience with an employer in the sector, where you will be given opportunities to develop practical skills in preparation for employment.

What could this qualification lead to?

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

This qualification will prepare you for direct employment in the forestry and arboriculture sector, and is suitable if you wish to enter a particular specialist area of work, such as:

- assistant forestry groundsperson
- assistant arboriculture groundsperson
- trainee forester
- trainee estate worker.

If you take additional qualifications you could increase your professional industry skills and competencies, and have increased responsibilities in the above job roles. Additional qualifications include:

- ABC Level 2 Certificate in Forestry
- ABC Level 2 Certificate in Arboriculture
- Level 2 Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross-Cutting.

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

If you complete this qualification in a year, you may progress to further learning at level 3; for example, a second BTEC National Foundation Diploma in a complementary sector, or a larger size BTEC National in Forestry and Arboriculture.

When achieved alongside other level 3 qualifications as part of a two-year programme of study, you will be able to progress to a range of degree programmes in the forestry and

arboriculture sector. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. For example, if taken alongside AS/A levels in Biology and/or Chemistry, it could lead to a:

- BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture and Tree Management
- BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry
- BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture
- BSc (Hons) in Forestry
- FdSc in Arboriculture.

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

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 you take this particular one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels. It is ideal for you if you are looking for a one-year course, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, and are intending to gain employment directly, or to progress to an apprenticeship in forestry and arboriculture.

This suite also includes the following qualifications:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (Forestry)**, which is equivalent in size to 3 A levels. It is ideal for you if you know you want to work in the forestry sector, either directly or following a sector-related degree.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (Arboriculture)**, which is equivalent in size to 3 A levels. It is ideal for you if you know you want to work in the arboriculture sector, either directly or following a sector-related degree.

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

Who supports this qualification?

Professional body

Forestry Commission

Employer

Ground Control

Further and Higher Education

Myerscough College

University of Central Lancashire

University of the West of England