



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification

QN: 603/2678/5

Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended 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 Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture**, which is 1080 GLH, is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 3 A levels, and is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure when studied alongside level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Outside the Tech Bacc, it will normally be the only qualification in a two-year study programme. It is ideal for you if you are looking for a full-time course specialising in the forestry and arboriculture sector, and you have a firm intention of progressing to employment in one of the wide variety of roles available.

As well as direct entry to employment, this qualification will prepare you for higher study of a specialist degree or a BTEC Higher National Diploma. This route provides the opportunity to enter the sector at a higher level, or in a more specialist role.

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 has two pathways to allow you to focus more on forestry or more on arboriculture.

There are 10 mandatory units that are common to both pathways. The content of these units is designed to give a general grounding that is relevant to all. They cover the following aspects of forestry and arboriculture:

- professional working responsibilities
- plant and soil science
- contemporary issues in the land-based sectors
- work experience in the land-based sectors
- estate skills
- identification, planting and care of trees
- tree and shrub pruning and maintenance
- tree pests and diseases
- tree felling activities
- forestry and arboricultural machinery operations.

Each pathway has a further two mandatory units, the content of which is designed to enable you to begin to specialise in one area, where there are more specific job roles or further training opportunities. The particular pathways covered are:

- **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (Forestry)**
 - timber conversion and utilisation
 - forestry and silviculture.
- **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (Arboriculture)**
 - aerial arboriculture skills
 - trees in urban environments.

You will be able to add three optional units to the mandatory content. These have been designed to support your progression to a range of employment opportunities in the forestry and arboriculture sector, and to a range of higher education courses. Optional units will introduce you to a sector-specialist area of your choice, including working in particular environments, and link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover areas such as the following.

Forestry pathway:

- woodland management
- wildlife ecology and conservation management
- forest recreation.

Arboriculture pathway:

- surveying, inspecting and measuring trees
- developing a land-based enterprise
- woodland management.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 300 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?

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

- working arborist
- forest worker.

Studying any one pathway does not restrict your progression, but it does help employers to understand areas that you have studied.

If you have taken additional level 3 qualifications, you could increase your professional industry skills and competencies, and have increased responsibilities in the above job roles. Additional qualifications include:

- Level 3 Award in Felling Large Trees and Crown Breakdown
- Level 3 Award in Felling and Processing Trees Over 380 mm
- Level 3 Certificate in Silviculture.

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

There are many roles in this sector where recruitment is at graduate level. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements for many relevant courses. This qualification could lead to degree courses, such as 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 Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture** is equivalent in size to 3 A levels. It is ideal for you if you know you want to work in the forestry and arboriculture sector, either directly or following a sector-related degree.

The suite also includes the following qualification:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture**, which 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.

For more detail about the other qualification listed here, and the different progression opportunities it particularly supports, please refer to the statement 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