

Statement of Purpose

500/9501/8 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)

The health and social sector is a major employer of almost 4 million people in the UK, many of which are highly skilled. Almost 1.7 million job openings are expected over the period to 2020. It also makes a vital contribution to all other aspects of the economy and society by creating a healthy and productive workforce and by caring for the ageing and the vulnerable. Services provided by the sector will touch every individual and family in the UK.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) (1080 GLH) is part of a larger suite of health and social care qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the health and social care 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 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) (1080 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to three A levels, which has been designed as a full two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a substantial common core of knowledge, including communication skills, equality and diversity, health, safety and security, human lifespan development, anatomy and physiology, sociological and psychological perspectives. Learners are required to study personal and professional development, which requires a minimum of 100 hours in placement within health and social care settings. This qualification allows learners the maximum opportunity to study in more depth a full range of option areas of their choice, such as:

- research methodology
- academic literacy in health and social care
- social policy for health and social care
- vocational experience in health and social care services (which requires an additional 100 hours of placement)
- public health
- caring for young children and adults.

Learners could choose to specialise in a pathway, for example social care, health studies or health sciences, which have additional mandatory pathway-specific units. For example:

- in the social care pathway, learners are required to study values and planning in social care and sociological perspectives
- in the health studies pathway, learners need to know and understand physiological disorders and the physiology of fluid balance
- in the health sciences pathway, learners are required to study science and biochemistry for health

It is mainly designed for those learners who know in which sector they would like to specialise. Learners can achieve breadth of study through the large core and extensive options, rather than by studying complementary qualifications alongside it. The qualification allows learners to develop the wide-ranging knowledge, understanding and skills required for direct progression into a broad range of roles within the industry they are going to be a part of. It also meets the needs of those who wish to progress first to further study.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council for the health and social care sector, Skills for Health. A range of

professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF). 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 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector and beyond, fully meeting entry requirements for most courses. 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 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) fulfils their entry requirements, either on its own or when achieved alongside other qualifications.