

Statement of Purpose

600/6178/9 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)

The health and social care 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 90-credit Diploma in Health and Social Care (540 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 90-credit Diploma (540 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to one and a half A levels. It has been designed as a one-year course, enabling learners to develop a common core of knowledge, including communication skills, equality and diversity, health, safety and security, human lifespan development, and allowing them the opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, such as:

- personal and professional development in health and social care which requires a minimum of 100 hours of placement in health and social care settings
- anatomy and physiology
- safeguarding adults and promoting independence
- values and planning in social care
- biochemistry for health.

This Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma could either be for learners starting their final year of education, for example after taking a level 2 qualification post-16 and wishing to follow a coherent one-year course at level 3, or for learners who wish to complete their course after one year and move into an apprenticeship or training with an employer. The qualification supports progression to a wide range of roles within the sector, usually when accompanied by other qualifications achieved at level 2 or level 3, such as in first aid, food hygiene, GCSEs in English and maths.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Skills for Health. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC level 3 90-credit Diploma. 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 90-credit 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 when taken alongside other qualifications appropriate for the desired course of study. 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 90-credit Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.