

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7198/4	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (1080 GLH)

Overview

The health and social care sector

The health and social care sector comprises two sub sectors, health care and social care. Health care encompasses all hospital activities, medical nursing homes and GP services, for example. The social care sector includes residential nursing care, residential nursing facilities, residential care facilities, domiciliary care and social work. Students are able to progress into work in the sector through degree programmes in nursing, midwifery, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy, for example. There are more than 300 distinct career paths in this sector.

The sector is a major employer, employing almost four million people across the UK.

Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care is intended as an Applied General qualification for post-16 students wanting to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education, and probably to employment in the health and social care sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to 3 A levels.

The qualification develops a deep common core of knowledge, understanding and skills in the sector through mandatory content, and allows students to focus on a particular aspect of the sector through a selection of option units, including a route that focuses specifically on health studies.

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 higher education to ensure it supports progression towards higher study. Employers and professional bodies have also been involved, in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for those interested in working in the sector.

In addition to the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin study of the health and social care sector, this qualification gives students experience of the breadth and depth that will prepare them for further study in the sector. This includes the opportunity for students to choose a health studies pathway with options reflecting the progression opportunities in health care.

Everyone taking this qualification will study eight mandatory units:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care
- Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care

- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care
- Promoting Public Health
- Work experience in Health and Social Care.

Students are required to undertake a minimum of 100 hours work experience as part of the course, to develop a better understanding of the demands of the sector and for students to demonstrate their commitment and interest in the sector when applying for further study.

Students are able to select five option units from their chosen pathway.

Option units in the general pathway include:

- Sociological Perspectives
- Psychological Perspectives
- Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs
- Nutritional Health
- Caring for Individuals with Dementia
- Assessing Children's Development Support Needs.

Option units from the health studies pathway include:

- Microbiology for Health Science
- Genetics
- Biochemistry for Health
- Health Psychology
- Psychological Disorders and their Care.

What could this qualification lead to?

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

Because the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care is the main focus of a two-year study programme of learning and is equivalent to 3 A levels, students will be fully prepared for a range of health and social care degree programmes.

In addition to the sector-specific content, the requirements of the qualification will mean students develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers.

For example, the study of contemporary issues in health and social care requires students to research and provide additional evidence to support an argument set out in technical journals. This activity requires the application of the higher-order skills of secondary research, evaluation and analysis.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as meeting admission requirements for many relevant courses, for example

- BSc (Hons) in Nursing

- BA (Hons) in Social Work
- BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy
- BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy
- BSc (Hons) in Speech Therapy
- BA (Hons) in Health and Social Care.

The health studies pathway within the qualification is more scientific in nature, and students will select from a wide range of health science units. This will support students when applying for degree programmes that expect larger amounts of prior science knowledge. This can include degree and training programmes in:

- radiography
- midwifery and nursing
- paramedic science
- podiatry
- healthcare science
- NHS Practitioner Training Programme.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific HE 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 via higher education. It also supports students choosing 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 roles, industry training programmes and Higher Apprenticeships.

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 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care** is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and is for students who know they want to progress to health or care degrees in higher education before entering employment.

The suite also includes the following qualifications:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Health and Social Care** is the smallest qualification in the suite of BTEC Nationals in Health and Social Care, it is equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A level. It is for students interested in learning about the sector, with a view to progressing to wide range of HE courses.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care** is equivalent in size to 1 A Level. It is for students interested in learning about the health and social care sector alongside other fields of study, probably with a view to progressing to a wide range of HE courses, not necessarily in the health or social care sector.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Health and Social Care** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels and is for students looking for a one-year course, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, or alternatively to study alongside another Foundation Diploma as part of a two-year programme.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care** is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels and is normally taken alongside a further qualification by students intending to study towards a degree, probably in the health and social care sector.

This qualification is supported by the following organisations

Higher education

University of Sheffield
The University of Manchester
University of Exeter
University of East Anglia
University of Huddersfield
University of Chichester
Kingston University
Southampton Solent University
University College Birmingham
University of the West of England

Professional and trade bodies

The British Association of Social Workers
Norfolk Independent Care Association

Employers

Sirona Care and Health
North Bristol NHS Trust
Graham Care Group
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Independence Matters