

Statement of Purpose

601/0564/1 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Horse Management (QCF)

The Horse industry/sector is fragmented but a major employer of labour, through its identity and significance is sometimes overlooked. It is divided into three key parts; the racing industry, the non-thoroughbred industry and horse associated activities. There are more than 19,000 horse businesses and 41,200 employees. Equine businesses include riding schools, livery yards, competition yards, trekking centres, breeders, trainers, welfare charities and freelance services. Since this industry is so diverse, ambitious learners can now consider a broad list of possible horse careers. These include, but are not exclusive to:

- saddler
- competition rider
- yard supervisors
- lecturers
- stud/yard manager
- trainer
- horse dealer
- sales
- race track staff
- transporters.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma (540 GLH) in Horse Management is part of a larger suite of Horse Management qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the Horse Management 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 a Technical Level qualification, equivalent in size to one and a half A levels. It has been designed as a one-year course, enabling learners to develop knowledge from a range of option areas of their choice, including working horses from the ground, grassland management, horse preparation and transportation. 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 GCE Biology, GCE Chemistry or GCE Applied Business or British Horse Society (BHS) stage one or two.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, LANTRA. 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 Horse Management 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 Horse Management fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.