

Statement of Purpose

500/8350/8 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Horticulture (QCF)

The Horticultural industry consists of 7,700 businesses, with 95,000 people and is worth an estimated £3 billion. The industry largely splits into the areas of ornamental plant, flower and tree production (including retail nursery outlets) and food production, also included are fruit, vegetable, salad, herb and potato production. There are a wide range of businesses within the sector, such as:

- machinery operator
- fruit/vegetable farm manager
- fruit/vegetable grower
- green keeping
- grounds maintenance.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate (180 GLH) in Horticulture is part of a larger suite of Horticultural qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the Land-based 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 Certificate in Horticulture (180 GLH) is a vocational qualification, equivalent in size to an AS level, which is designed to be taken alongside one or more substantial qualifications within a 16–19 study programme. The qualification provides learners with an element of sector specialism as part of their wider programme by developing a primary core of knowledge in the sector through mandatory content. The units cover content, such as soil and plant science, estate skills, garden design and plant displays, that is regarded as most important by employers. It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in a horticultural-related field, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as GCE Biology, GCE Chemistry or GCE Applied Business or level 2 certificates of competence in the operation of mowers and powered machines or specialist chainsaw certificates at level 2 or additional work placement time within another area of the sector. It is also appropriate for those aged 16 who are ready to start an element of level 3 vocational study while completing aspects of their level 2 programme.

The qualification was designed in collaboration with industry, so has the specific support of the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, LANTRA. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Horticulture supports entry to a variety of HE courses in this sector and beyond, when taken in conjunction with other qualifications. This is confirmed by the specific support of a range of universities. In addition, the qualification carries UCAS points – see details published on the Pearson website here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/results/Pages/BTEC-equivalence.aspx>