

Statement of Purpose

500/8351/X – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma 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 Subsidiary Diploma (360 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.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (360 GLH) is primarily a Technical Level qualification, equivalent in size to an A level, which has been designed to occupy one third of the curriculum within a broader programme of study, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications. Its main purpose is to allow learners to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills, including plant and soil science, required by the sector. It provides a basis for progression into a broad range of roles within the sector when supported by relevant qualifications at level 2, such as GCSE English and mathematics, and/or at level 3, 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. Learners have some opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, including estate skills, arboriculture and nursery stock production.

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 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture. 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector, 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.