

Statement of Purpose

601/1100/8 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit 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 90-credit Diploma (540 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 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 a common core of knowledge, including plant and soil science, and allowing them the opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, such as:

soil water management
estate skills
arboriculture
nursery stock production.

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 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.

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 Horticulture 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 Horticulture fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.