

Purpose Statement

| Name of regulated qualification | |
|--|--|
| QAN: 601/7576/X | Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Information Technology (510 GLH) |

Overview**Information Technology**

Information Technology (IT) involves the use of computers in industry, commerce, the arts and elsewhere. IT includes aspects of IT systems architecture, human factors, project management and the general ability to use computers. Increasingly businesses are implementing IT strategies to manage and process data both to support many business processes and to deliver new opportunities.

IT is a high growth area of the service sector, estimated in the Technology Insights 2012 report to contribute to 8 per cent (£75 billion) of the UK economy GVA (gross value added), and predicted to generate an additional £47 billion over the next 7 years.

Ongoing developments in the sector include the Government Digital Inclusion strategy (2014) to increase SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) transactions online, with the aim of reaching 1.6 million businesses by 2018.

Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Information Technology** is intended as an Applied General qualification and is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels. It is designed for students interested in studying a range of information technology topics that will enhance their progression to a range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

Students wishing to take this qualification should have successfully completed a level 2 programme of learning, with GCSE or Vocational qualifications.

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it incorporates the most up-to-date knowledge and skills to enable progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been consulted on the content development to confirm its relevance to current industry practice used in IT and related occupational disciplines.

Students study the relationship between hardware and software, managing and communicating information and data, and the principles of designing and developing computer programs across four mandatory units:

- Information Technology Systems
- Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Using Social Media in Business
- Programming.

Students select two additional units of study from the following: data modelling, website development, mobile apps development and computer games development.

What could this qualification lead to?***Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?***

Students who have completed this qualification in a year may progress to further learning at level 3; for example, a second BTEC Foundation Diploma in a complementary sector.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to the admission requirements to many relevant courses. When studied with other level 3 qualifications in complementary or contrasting subjects, such as Mathematics, Physics, Science, Arts or Technology, the qualification provides an opportunity for students to progress into higher education on a wide range of full degree courses, depending on the other subjects studied. Opportunities include:

- HNC in Interactive Media, when taken alongside A Level Art and Design
- HND in Engineering, when taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Engineering
- BSc (Hons) Information Management for Business, when taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Business
- BA (Hons) in Accounting and Finance, when taken alongside A/AS Levels in Mathematics and Accounting.

Some university courses may require the achievement of specific units and 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?

The qualification, when studied with other level 3 qualifications, is aimed at progression to higher education. However, it also enables students to develop the knowledge and skills needed for entry level roles related to IT, including vocational apprenticeship roles and trainee/entry level roles in software development web/content development, mobile apps design, games design, programming and IT/business analysis support.

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 Foundation Diploma in Information Technology** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels. It is aimed at students looking for a one-year course of full-time study, or for those wishing to study it alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements this Foundation Diploma, as part of a two-year full-time study programme.

The suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Information Technology** is the smallest qualification in the suite and is equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A level. It is intended to be studied by students who have chosen a study programme that may not be focused on IT, but for whom an element of software and computing systems knowledge would be complementary.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology** is equivalent in size to one A level. It is for students interested in learning about the sector

alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of HE courses, but not necessarily in IT.

For more detail of the other qualifications listed here, and the different progression opportunities they particularly support, please refer to their statements of purpose.

This qualification is supported by the following organisations**Higher education**

- University of Sheffield
- University of Exeter
- University of East Anglia
- University of Huddersfield
- University of Chichester
- Kingston University
- Southampton Solent University
- University of the West of England