

Statement of Purpose

500/6872/6 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (QCF)

The Performing Arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. It is the second largest sector after Design. Overall, the industry contributes £3.5 billion to the UK economy. The Performing Arts industry employs 148,030 with actors and entertainers accounting for 23% of this total workforce. There are 5,480 businesses and 101,593 people working in the performing arts sector. The UK's creative industries have been identified as a strategic growth sector by the government.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (1080 GLH) in Performing Arts is part of a larger suite of Performing Arts qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the performing arts 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 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (1080 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to three A levels, which has been designed as a full two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a substantial common core of knowledge, including the processes involved in making performances, performing skills, the range of performing arts organisations, historical context of the performing arts, rehearsal methodologies, processes and techniques. It also allows them the maximum opportunity to study in more depth a full range of pathways of their choice: Unendorsed, Acting, Dance and Musical Theatre, supplemented by a range of optional units.

This qualification is designed for those learners who know in which sector they would like to specialise. Learners can achieve breadth of study through the large core and extensive options, rather than by studying complementary qualifications alongside it such as A Levels in English Language and Literature and History. The qualification allows learners to develop the wide-ranging knowledge; understanding and skills required for direct progression into a broad range of roles within the industry they are going to be a part of. It also meets the needs of those who wish to progress first to further study.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council for the Performing Arts sector, Creative and Cultural Skills. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts. 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 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector and beyond, fully meeting entry requirements for most courses. 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 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts fulfils their entry requirements, either on its own or when achieved alongside other qualifications.