

Statement of Purpose

500/6873/8 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 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 over 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 Diploma (720 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 Diploma (720 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to two A levels, which has been designed to occupy two-thirds of a full-time curriculum, enabling learners to develop a significant common core of knowledge such as the processes involved in creating performances, performing skills and techniques and the different types of organisations and employment opportunities in the performing arts sector. The qualification also consists of pathways; each pathway has its own additional distinctive mandatory unit supplemented by optional units providing extensive opportunity to study in more depth a range of pathways of their choice: Unendorsed, Acting, Dance and Musical theatre supplemented by optional units.

The Diploma allows time in the curriculum to study other qualifications alongside it, for example A Level in History and Applied Business. Its size makes it appropriate as the core component of a Technical Baccalaureate programme, allowing time in the curriculum for the study and completion of the other mandatory components.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the 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 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 Diploma in Performing Arts 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 Diploma in Performing Arts fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.