

Statement of Purpose

600/3953/X – Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit 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 90-credit Diploma (540 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 90-credit Diploma (540 GLH) is primarily an Applied General 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 the processes involved in making performances (Unit 1: Performance Workshop) and performance skills (Unit 7: Performing to an Audience). The qualification consists of the following pathways:

- Unendorsed
- Acting
- Dance
- Musical Theatre.

Each pathway has two common mandatory units and its own distinctive mandatory unit, which cover the fundamentals identified by employers for each pathway and allowing them the opportunity to study in more depth from a range of optional units of their choice such as acting styles, choreographing dance, classical and contemporary theatre performances.

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 a GCE in Drama and Theatre Studies and GCE Applied Performing Arts.

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 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 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 90-credit Diploma in Performing Arts fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.