

Statement of Purpose

500/7380/1 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Production Arts (QCF)

The Production Arts are a key part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. There are over 9,500 businesses and approximately 130,000 people working in the production arts sector of which 57% are self employed. In England, there are approximately 1000 venues including arts centres, circuses and theatres that use production arts related skills. The UK's creative industries have been identified as a strategic growth sector by the government.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Production Arts (360 GLH) is part of a larger suite of Production 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Production Arts (360 GLH) is primarily a technical level qualification, equivalent in size to an A level, which has been designed to occupy one third of the curriculum within a broader programme of study, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications.

Its main purpose is to allow learners to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills in production arts, required by the sector. The qualification provides learners with an element of sector specialism as part of their wider programme by developing a primary core of knowledge in the sector through distinctive mandatory content in each pathway. It also offers some opportunity for learners to focus their study on the aspects that will be of greatest value to them through a limited choice of optional units related to each pathway, such as production arts planning, mask making or scenic painting.

The qualification consists of the following pathways:

- Costume
- Make-up
- Set Design and Construction
- Stage Management
- Arts Management
- Theatre Technology.

These introduce and underpin the knowledge and skills that are regarded as most important by employers in each pathway within the sector. Each pathway has its own distinctive mandatory unit covering:

- costumed design skills
- make-up application
- stage design
- assistant stage management
- arts administration
- technical stage operations.

This qualification provides a basis for progression into a broad range of roles within the sector when supported by relevant qualifications at level 2, such as GCSE English and Mathematics, and/or at level 3, such as A level Theatre and Drama Studies or Media Studies.

The qualification was designed in collaboration with industry, so has the specific support of the Sector Skills Councils (SSC) for the sector, Skillset and Creative and Cultural Skills. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Production Arts supports entry to a variety of HE courses in this sector and beyond, when taken in conjunction with other qualifications. This is confirmed by the specific support of a range of universities. In addition, the qualification carries 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 Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Production Arts (360 GLH) fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.