

## Statement of Purpose

### 500/7381/3 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended 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 Extended Diploma (1080 GLH) in Production Arts 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 production 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 (1080 GLH) is primarily a Technical Level qualification.** It covers many aspects of the production arts sector and has an unendorsed pathway, and two endorsed pathways: Design and Technical.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Production Arts (1080 GLH) has been designed as a full two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a substantial common core of knowledge, including: a production arts workshop, planning and production for theatre performance, the performing arts business, and the historical context of performance. In addition it provides extensive opportunities to study in more depth a range of optional areas, appropriate for the pathway (although some optional units are available across the pathways). Examples of optional areas at this size include:

- community arts
- stage management
- stage lighting
- costume making
- arts administration
- lighting design
- legal aspects
- puppet construction.

It is mainly 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. 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 Councils (SSC) for the sector, Skillset and Creative and Cultural Skills. A range of professional organisations and employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Production 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 Production 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 the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Production Arts fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.