

## Statement of Purpose

### 500/6679/1 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Sport and Exercise Sciences (QCF)

Sport and Exercise Science is the application of scientific principles to sport and exercise. The key scientific strands within the sector are biomechanics, physiology and psychology.

Sport and Exercise Sciences has become a key industry within the sport sector which currently sits in the top 15 industry sectors in England, contributing £20.3 billion to the economy in 2010, 1.9% of the total. The number of sport related jobs in the UK is estimated at over 400,000. The sector also has a large number of volunteers, with the estimated economic value of sport-related volunteering estimated as c£2.7 billion. Additionally participation in sport brings health benefits to the nation, which is currently estimated at c£11.2 billion.

The sector workforce is expected to grow by approximately 11% to 2020, meaning vocational qualifications for the sport sector are vital.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate (180 GLH) in Sport and Exercise Sciences is part of a larger suite of sport and exercise sciences qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the 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 Certificate in Sport and Exercise Sciences (180 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to an AS level,** which is designed to be taken alongside one or more substantial qualifications within a 16–19 study programme. The qualification provides learners with an element of sector specialism as part of their wider programme by developing a primary common core of knowledge in the sector through mandatory content. This common core covers the content, such as anatomy for sport and exercise, that is regarded as most important by employers. It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in a sport and exercise science related field, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as A Level Biology. It is also appropriate for those aged 16 who are ready to start an element of level 3 vocational study while completing aspects of their level 2 programme.

The qualification was designed in collaboration with industry, so has the specific support of the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, SkillsActive. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Sport and Exercise Sciences (180 GLH) 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>