

Statement of Purpose

500/6766/7 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma 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 Diploma (720 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 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, including anatomy, sport and exercise physiology and psychology, research methods and a research project. It also provides extensive opportunities to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, such as:

- biomechanics
- sport and exercise massage
- sports injuries
- exercise, health and lifestyle
- instructing physical activity and exercise
- laboratory and experimental methods
- sports performance profiling.

The Diploma allows time in the curriculum to study other qualifications alongside it, for example A levels in Human Biology or Business, or Level 2 and Level 3 industry related qualifications such as sports strapping and taping, sports massage therapy or circuit training and gym instruction (qualifications which can allow entry on to the Register of Exercise Professionals). The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences can be studied part time by learners in schools, colleges and other training provider organisations. 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, SkillsActive. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences. 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 Sport and Exercise Sciences 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 Sport and Exercise Sciences fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.