

Statement of Purpose

500/6801/5 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended 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 Extended Diploma (1080 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 Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences (1080 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to three A levels, which has been designed as a full two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a substantial common core of knowledge, including anatomy, exercise physiology and psychology, research methods and a research project, and fitness testing allowing them the maximum opportunity to study in more depth a full range of option areas. These include:

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

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 Council for the Sport sector, SkillsActive. A range of professional organisations in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercises 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 Extended 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, fully meeting entry requirements for most courses. 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 Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences fulfils their entry requirements, either on its own or when achieved alongside other qualifications.