

## Statement of Purpose

### 600/3930/9 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit 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 90-credit Diploma (540 GLH) in Sport and Exercise Sciences is part of a larger suite of 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 90-credit Diploma (540 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to one and a half A levels.** It has been designed as a one-year course, enabling learners to develop a common core of knowledge, including anatomy, sport and exercise physiology and psychology, and research methods for sport and exercise sciences. It also allows them the opportunity 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.

This Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma could either be for learners starting their final year of education, for example after taking a level 2 qualification post-16 and wishing to follow a coherent one-year course at level 3, or for learners who wish to complete their course after one year and move into an apprenticeship or training with an employer. The qualification supports progression to a wide range of roles within the sector, usually when accompanied by other qualifications achieved at level 2 or level 3, such as an A Level in Human Biology, Psychology or Business.

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 in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC level 3 90-credit Diploma. 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 90-credit 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 90-credit Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.