

Statement of Purpose

500/6755/2 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport (QCF)

Sport currently sits in the top 15 industrial 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 at 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 is part of a larger suite of sports qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the sport 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. It covers many aspects of the sport sector and has three pathways, in

- Development, Coaching and Fitness
- Performance and Excellence
- Outdoor Adventure.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport (720 GLH) has been designed to occupy two-thirds of a full-time curriculum, enabling learners to develop a significant common core of knowledge, including anatomy and physiology, fitness physiology, risk assessment, and fitness training and programming. It also includes specific mandatory units which are related to the available pathways such as sports coaching and sports development (Development Coaching and Fitness), technical and tactical skills (Performance and Excellence) and principles, practices, equipment and facilities for outdoor adventure (Outdoor Adventure). In addition it provides extensive opportunities to study in more depth a range of optional areas, such as:

- practical team and individual sports
- current sports issues
- sports injuries.

The Diploma allows time in the curriculum to study other qualifications alongside it, for example A Levels in Biology, Applied Business or Psychology. These may also include industry related qualifications including National Governing Body coaching qualifications, or qualifications for the fitness industry, such as fitness and exercise instruction, or personal training which can allow entry on to the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPS).

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport (Performance and Excellence) is also approved as a Technical Certificate by SkillsActive in Pathway One of the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE), or it 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 and

employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport. 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 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 Diploma in Sport fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.