

Statement of Purpose

500/6764/3 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended 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 Extended Diploma in Sport (1080 GLH) is part of a larger suite of sport 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 Extended Diploma in Sport (1080 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to three 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 Extended Diploma in Sport (1080 GLH) has been designed as a full two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a substantial common core of knowledge, including anatomy and physiology, fitness physiology, risk assessment and fitness training and programming. It includes specific mandatory units which are related to the available pathways such as sports coaching, sports development and fitness testing (Development Coaching and Fitness), technical and tactical skills and the athlete's lifestyle (Performance and Excellence) and principles, practices, equipment, facilities for outdoor adventure and leadership (Outdoor Adventure). It also allows them the maximum opportunity to study in more depth a full range of optional areas of their choice, such as:

- practical team and individual sports
- current sports issues
- sports injuries
- organising sports events
- sport as a business
- work experience in sport
- sports legacy development
- rules and regulations in sport.

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. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended 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).

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/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended 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 Extended Diploma in Sport 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 fulfils their entry requirements, either on its own or when achieved alongside other qualifications.