

Statement of Purpose

600/3931/0 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit 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 90-credit Diploma (540 GLH) in Sport 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 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 and physiology, fitness physiology, risk assessment, and either fitness testing or outdoor and adventurous activities. It also allows the opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas, such as:

- sports coaching
- sports development
- sports nutrition
- sports performance profiling.

The 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 A Levels in Psychology and Applied Business. These could also include industry related qualifications such as National Governing Body coaching qualifications, or qualifications for the fitness industry such as circuit training, which can allow entry on to the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPS). The Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Sport 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 (SSC) for the sector, SkillsActive. A range of professional organisations and employers 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 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 90-credit Diploma in Sport fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.