

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7471/7	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Film and Television Visual Effects (720 GLH)

Overview

The creative industries

In 2014, the UK Government reported that the creative industries were worth £8 million an hour to UK economy. From *Doctor Who* to *Guardians of the Galaxy*, the UK holds the talent and resources that produce some of the most innovative and imaginative visual effects in the world. With internationally recognised studios and post-production facilities, and a reputation for developing some of the best talent in the business, this is one of the areas where the UK leads the rest of the world.

Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Film and Television Visual Effects is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels and is aimed at students looking to progress to employment in this sector. The qualification has been designed in consultation with employers as a two-year programme of study, normally in conjunction with one or more qualifications at Level 3. It is intended as a Tech Level, and as such is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure when studied alongside Level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

No prior study of the sector is needed, but students should normally have a range of achievement at Level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

What does this qualification cover?

From initial concept and storyboarding to digital animation and 3D environments, students learn to work together in teams, and also individually, to produce vocational projects in film and television visual effects. Students understand the various roles and responsibilities in the industry, from technical artists to composers and animators, and how these individuals work together to create visual effects for film and television.

The qualification includes five mandatory units, where students learn to write proposals and pitches for a commission, develop treatments outlining their ideas and concepts and develop their production skills. Through optional units, students develop their technical understanding in 3D animation, environments and lighting, and gain the skills to turn their concepts into a reality. As part of their course, students have to engage with employers from the sector; this could be through work experience or through employers contributing to teaching or assessment.

What could this qualification lead to?***Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at which level?***

The qualification has been designed in consultation with employers and will support application to entry-level roles in film and television visual effects, or to further training and Apprenticeships, where appropriate. The focus on technical skills allows students to apply for roles, such as:

- post production runner
- animation assistant.

Or Apprenticeships, such as:

- junior 2D Artist
- assistant technical director.

However, the majority of jobs in this industry are at graduate level and students are advised to apply for a degree in visual effects (or a related degree) to further develop their skills.

Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?

A significant proportion of recruitment in the media industries is at graduate level and students may wish to progress to further learning, which will support entry to a further range of careers in the sector. The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as meeting admission requirements to relevant Foundation Degree and BTEC Higher National courses, such as:

- FSc Visual Effects Production Technology
- FdA Digital Post Production
- HND in Creative Media Production.

When studied with other qualifications in the study programme, such as an A Level or BTEC Extended Certificate in a different complementing sector, such as art and design or computer science, students can progress to higher education on full degree courses, for example:

- BA (Hons) in Visual Effects Design and Production
- BSc (Hons) in Visual Effects for Film and Television
- BA (Hons) in Computer Visualisation and Animation.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific HE providers.

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should the student choose this one?

The **Pearson BTEC National Diploma in Film and Television Visual Effects** is a specialist technical qualification in film and television, equivalent in size to 2 A Levels. It will typically make up two-thirds of a study programme and can be taken alongside additional qualifications.

There are four further **Pearson BTEC National Diplomas** in:

- Digital Publishing
- Film and Television Production
- Digital Games Design and Development
- Sound Production.

These are specialist courses focused on particular areas of study in the media industries and are equivalent in size to 2 A Levels. They will typically make up two-thirds of a 16–19 study programme and can be taken alongside other qualifications. They are intended as Tech Level qualifications, and as such are designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure when studied with the EPQ and Level 3 mathematics. The additional qualification(s) studied allow students either to give breadth to their study by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give their studies more focus by choosing a complementary subject.

The BTEC National suite in Creative Digital Media Production also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production** is equivalent in size to 1 A Level. It is for students interested in learning about the sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of HE courses, but not necessarily media related.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A Levels and is for students looking for a one-year course of full-time study, or alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements the Foundation Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production over a two-year, full-time study programme.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production** is equivalent in size to 3 A Levels and is the largest qualification in the suite. It is intended primarily for students wishing to progress to further study of the sector in higher education.

This qualification is supported by the following organisations**Professional and trade bodies**

Creative Industries Federation

Employers

Milo Creative

@Voytek Production

Bear Hug TV

Team 360

Silversun Media Group

Yarrington

Higher education

University of East Anglia

University of Huddersfield

University of Chichester

Kingston University

Southampton Solent University

University of the West of England

Escape Studios