

Statement of Purpose

600/1870/7 – Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Extended Diploma in Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering (QCF)

The engineering sector offers huge potential for learners interested in the sector. The UK is currently regarded as a world leader in sectors including renewable energy, space, low carbon, aerospace, creative industries, utilities, automotive, agri-food and bioscience. Between 2010 and 2020 Engineering enterprises are projected to have 2.74 million job openings, including over 400,000 technician roles where the predominantly ageing workforce is expected to retire over the next 10 years.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Extended Diploma in Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering (QCF) is part of a larger suite of engineering qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the engineering sector at the appropriate level. This can follow either directly after achieving the qualification, or via the stepping stone of Higher Apprenticeships and in to Higher Education (HE) in university or college. By studying a Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Extended Diploma, 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 or employment.

Within this suite, the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Extended Diploma in Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering (QCF) (439 GLH) is a vocational qualification, a little bigger than one A level, which has been designed to contribute getting on for half of a two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a common core of knowledge, including using and interpreting engineering data and documentation, and allowing them some opportunity to study in more depth a wide range of option areas of their choice, such as:

- CNC Machining
- Composite manufacture engineering
- photonics engineering.

It is mainly designed for those learners who know in which sector they would like to specialise, but who wish to study other complementary qualifications along side, in addition to the breadth of study available through the core and options. When studied alongside other qualifications it 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.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council for the engineering sector, SEMTA. The sector has also confirmed its support for this through the National Forum for Engineering Centres (NFCE). 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.