

sport

BTEC National Extended Certificate and National Diploma

Head of department: Alan Reed

Email: areed@esher.ac.uk

Teacher in charge: Victoria Corp

Email: vcorp@esher.ac.uk

Exam board: Pearson



What is this subject about?

BTEC Sport is a stimulating and challenging, and nationally recognised, vocational qualification for students wishing to progress to higher education or pursue a career in sport and recreation. The BTEC National Diploma or the Extended Certificate in Sport are an ideal platform to start building the foundations to a career in the sports industry e.g. sport scientist, sports psychologist, sports coaching and sports development. The National Diploma in Sport is a two year course and the equivalent to two full A Levels. The Extended Certificate is a two year course equivalent to one A Level.

What will I study?

Both courses are designed to develop knowledge and practical skills in the broad field of sport, leisure and fitness. Examples of the units studied over the two years include:

BTEC National Diploma: fitness training and programming, sports leadership, professional development in the sports industry, anatomy and physiology and skill acquisition in sport. Learning is largely theory based, linking subject areas to current and relevant practical sporting settings. BTEC National Diploma students also complete a one-week work experience placement in a sports related organisation and complete coursework alongside the placement for Unit 18 'Work Experience in Active Leisure' which contributes to overall achievement in the qualification.

BTEC National Extended Certificate: Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Training and Programming, Professional Development in the Sports Industry and Practical Sports Performance. Learning is largely theory-based, linking the teaching and study to current and relevant practical sporting settings. Students will acquire knowledge and skills through

teacher-delivered lessons and tutorials, practical lessons, individual and group research projects, visiting speakers and personal experience.

How is the course assessed?

BTEC National Diploma: Assessment over the two years consists of 9 units of study, 6 internally assessed coursework based units and 3 externally assessed units in the form of written exams and externally assessed assignments.

BTEC Extended Certificate: The assessment is based on 40% coursework, comprising written assignments, presentations and practical assessments, and 60% written exams comprising exams for unit 1 Anatomy and Physiology and unit 2 Fitness Training and Programming. In the unit 2 exam students are given a case study to research and prepare answers for over 2 weeks before they sit the written paper.

What skills will I need and develop in this course?

Students feel that this course provides them with a wealth of skills for life and builds the confidence needed to pursue employment or higher education. You will be encouraged to develop a range of skills including research methods, delivering a presentation, portfolio building, time management and various practical skills.

What can the course lead to in terms of higher education and future careers?

Many students progress to study sport-related degrees at university, including sports science, sports psychology, sports studies and sports coaching. Equally, students may choose to go straight on to employment within the broad spectrum of sport-related jobs.

What are the formal entry requirements for this course?

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, practical sporting ability is required and Grade 4 or above in GCSE PE and/or GCSE Science.

What extra support/enrichment activities are on offer?

The department runs a wide range of visits directly related to the core content of the units studied. These will include local leisure facilities such as St Mary's University Twickenham, Wimbledon Tennis Club, Chelsea FC, Twickenham Rugby Stadium amongst others.

Subject combination advice:

BTEC Sport combines well with most subjects, including IT, Business Studies and Psychology due to the various units studied. It is recommended that BTEC Sport is not taken in combination with A Level PE as there is a close link with the units covered in the A Level Physical Education specification; this is particularly relevant in the case of students who opt for the National Diploma.