

Foundation degree in Sustainable Horticulture Management

Validated by Greenwich University

Starting September 2023

Across the Horticulture and agricultural sector there are changes in place which significantly impact on the skills needed by the workforce. Technology is progressing rapidly and will change the skills needed by the workforce over the next decade. In addition, adapting to climate change, improving biodiversity and resource use will require new approaches and strategies for management of horticultural sites. This foundation degree will enable graduates to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of the theoretical aspects of the subject areas as well as the current and future proofed skills needed to progress to a career in horticulture.

During this course students will learn key business and financial management techniques, application of technological advancements and sustainable practices in horticultural enterprises. The diverse learning journey will be theoretical, practical and academic. Learners be able to apply the knowledge and skills learned to real life situations, evaluate contemporary approaches and address industry challenges. Students will interact with a wide range of national bodies and industry links and facilities including One Garden Brighton, Plumpton Farm and Campus giving them a broad base of real-life experience and quality resources to draw upon in their future careers.

Entry requirements:

- 5 GCSE's at Grade C or 4 including English Language and Maths
- 2 A Levels including a science
- Or an equivalent level 3 qualification such as a BTEC Extended Diploma
- Or International Baccalaureate
- Or Access to Higher Education diploma
- UCAS points 56

The course is designed for learners working in industry looking to upskill or new entrants. It is applicable to the diversity of the horticulture sub-sectors: production horticulture (both nursery stock and outdoors), amenity and sports turf, greenkeeping, public gardens and landscaping.

Course structure:

Full time- 2 days/week at college, 2 years

Part time- 1 day at college, 4 years

Modules include:

Year 1- Level 4

- Understanding soils and plants for effective management (30 credits)
- Industry investigation (15 credits)
- Management of Practical Horticultural Operations (30 credits)
- Introduction to Business Management (15 credits)
- Data Driven Decision Making (15 credits)
- Study and Research Skills (15 credits)

Year 2- Level 5

- Work Experience (30 credits)
- Growing Systems, Optional Module (15 credits)
- Natural Resource Management (15 credits)
- Technological Integration in Horticulture, Optional Module (15 credits)
- Applied Business and Marketing (15 credits)
- Independent Enquiry (30 credits)
- Horticultural Site Management (15 credits)

Assessment:

Assessment methods are largely based on case studies and analysis of real-life situations, reports of workplace practices and presentations of evaluations of sustainable strategies.

Future Careers:

A Plumpton graduate will demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attributes to be successful in employment with the drive and enthusiasm for developing their professional role. Following the course graduates will be able to find employment or progress in exiting employment as managers of departments and enterprises and consultants in the horticulture sector. In addition, graduates will be able to progress to further academic studies.