

# EDINBURGH GARDEN SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE



# ACCREDITED ONLINE TRAINING

Studying with Edinburgh Garden School allows you to fit learning around work and family commitments. Whether you're keen to pursue a new career or learning for pleasure, we have a course to suit your needs.

## STUDYING FOR QUALIFICATIONS

If you're interested in pursuing a career in this area, we can help you to prepare for internationally recognised horticulture qualifications from the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) that will get your new career off to a flying start.

We also offer specialist training in Garden Design, Healing Garden Design, Gardening for Schools, Horticultural Therapy, Botany and Botanical Illustration.

## STUDYING FOR PLEASURE

Our courses can show you how to create a more beautiful garden or grow fruit and vegetables more successfully.

## OUR TUTORS

Our team of enthusiastic, expert tutors is always available to offer advice, support and encouragement. Online tutor support is available between 9am and 9pm every day, including weekends, so that you can get the support you need as soon as you need it. No waiting for an email reply or grappling with a call centre.



## RHS CERTIFICATES

The RHS Level 2 Principles of Horticulture is the most popular RHS Certificate – a good entry level qualification and very popular with employers. The certificate gives you a strong, broad grounding in horticulture and is ideal if you are considering a career change, or considering going on to higher level study. It's also a popular choice among keen amateurs.

The RHS Level 3 Certificates are advanced level qualifications ideal for students already working in horticulture who would like to move to the next level. They are also a good choice for students who have a lot of experience or horticultural knowledge, but don't yet have a formal certificate.



“My tutor was a huge help in the run up to the exams - especially when I had a little wobble the day before. It's years since I took an exam, but thanks to all the preparation and my tutor's support, I passed first time.!”





## CAREERS IN HORTICULTURE

Horticulture offers a wide range of career opportunities, meaning that whatever your age or level of ambition, there's sure to be a job to suit you! Possibilities range from running your own gardening business or working as a gardener in a large public garden to running a plant nursery or training as a garden designer

There are opportunities in the following areas, among others:

- commercial horticulture
- amenity horticulture
- parks and gardens
- landscape design and architecture
- nursery/garden centre
- management
- plant propagation

- horticultural sciences
- research
- plant breeding
- sports turf management
- garden writing
- horticultural journalism and media.

Horticulture also offers plenty of opportunity for career progression, with the possibility of promotion to management positions or supervisory posts for those who are keen to take their career to the next level.

“There are 18.5 million gardeners in the UK spending more than £2,000 million a year on plants and gardening products.”

## THE HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY

Horticulture is a huge industry and the largest employer in the UK. There are a wide variety of jobs in the commercial and environmental sectors as well as in research and journalism.

It's estimated that there are around 13,000 production horticulture businesses, employing over 70,000 people. They range in size from small self-employed designers and private nurseries, to large international organisations employing hundreds of people in different locations.

You could find yourself growing and potting up seedlings or undertaking international marketing projects; you could be travelling in search of rare and unusual plants or creating CD-ROMs; you could be designing a back garden or creating a nature reserve; designing a golf course, managing glasshouses, selling pot plants at the nursery or garden centre, or moving grown trees.



vegetables, salads, fruit and flowers both outdoors and under protection of glass or plastic. Production, harvesting and storing of vegetables is often highly mechanised and merges into food technology. Plants are grown under strictly controlled conditions using sophisticated sensors and computers.

Marketing skills are in demand too, as commercial growers compete to supply garden centres and other large companies.

Horticulturists may also be employed by the major supermarkets as buyers.

## AMENITY HORTICULTURE

Amenity horticulture helps to improve the quality of everyone's life be it in public or private areas. Horticulturists may be called in to advise, design or maintain private gardens or may be involved in landscaping, managing or maintaining

“Once you have completed your horticultural education there are a number of routes available. People don't realise quite how vast the horticultural sector is. You can come in and be a journalist, a scientist, work in gardens, sports fields or arboriculture. It's very varied.”

~ Tim Hughes, RHS

## TRADE HORTICULTURE?

Trade, or commercial, horticulture covers the production of ornamental plants,



public parks, open spaces. roadside plantings or sports grounds.

#### PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Practical experience is invaluable if you are considering a career in horticulture. Informal experience in your own garden or allotment is an important starting point. You can also develop your horticultural skills by taking part in community projects, by organisations such as Britain in Bloom and Trees for Cities. These projects offer a great opportunity to learn from experienced gardeners and are a good way of getting hands-on experience.

In addition, many larger RHS and botanic gardens and stately homes offer volunteer schemes too.

#### WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

Recognised qualifications include BTECs, NVQs and SVQs, RHS certificates, diplomas and degrees.

At Edinburgh Garden School, we offer online courses leading to RHS certificates. These are accessible and easy to fit around work and family commitments. You don't need to attend college each

week, instead you can study at home in your own time.

We also offer in-house certificates in a range of subjects, including Botanical Illustration, Botany for Gardeners and Tropical Horticulture.

#### ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is the UK's leading gardening charity, respected around the world as the foremost authority on gardening and horticulture issues.

RHS qualifications are recognised by employers, universities and the general public. They are highly regarded for the quality and depth of knowledge that successful students attain.

Edinburgh Garden School offers both Level 2 and Level 3 RHS courses, allowing you to study for world-recognised qualifications and get your horticulture career off to a flying start.

The tutorial team at Edinburgh Garden School works with students right up to successful completion of their exams.



# EGS COURSES

## LEVEL 2 PRINCIPLES OF HORTICULTURE

This is the most popular Level 2 qualification, widely recognised across the horticulture industry as a strong entry-level qualification.

It is a good starting point for a career in gardening, propagation, fruit and vegetable growing, garden design and many other areas of the horticulture industry. It is also a popular option for keen, amateur gardeners eager to learn more about their hobby.

You can also choose to study just half of the Level 2 syllabus, earning a shorter certificate:

- Level 2 Plant Growth, Propagation and Development
- Level 2 Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance.

Study topics covered include: plant selection and garden planning; establishment and maintenance of garden plants and lawns; soils and growing media; pests and diseases; production of outdoor vegetables and fruit; managing protected environments; plant classification; plant structure and function; identification and nomenclature; plant nutrition and the root environment; maintaining plant health; and weeds, pests and diseases.

## LEVEL 3 PRINCIPLES OF PLANT GROWTH, HEALTH AND APPLIED PROPAGATION

This is an advanced course, ideal for those wishing to take their career in professional horticulture to the next level. It focuses on soil management, plant disease, pest control, and plant propagation.

The course is also a good choice for students wishing to launch a new career in horticulture at an advanced level, and provides a good foundation for higher education.

Study topics covered include: plant propagation; health and safety; growing media and plant nutrition; plant anatomy and physiology; plant health; pests, diseases and disorders; soil science; effective cultivation techniques; and the root environment.

## LEVEL 3 PRINCIPLES OF GARDEN PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND PLANTING.

This is an advanced qualification, ideal for students wishing to pursue a career in professional horticulture, with a focus on amenity planting, large-scale garden design, accessible and sustainable design, and urban planting. This is a good choice for students wishing to launch a new career in horticulture at an advanced level, or go on to degree level study.

Study topics covered include: garden survey techniques; design principles; selecting and understanding landscaping elements; setting out and construction of landscaping elements; specialist design.





## GARDEN DESIGN DIPLOMA

Edinburgh Garden School offer a comprehensive online course designed to give you the skills and knowledge you need to work professionally as a Garden Designer.

You'll work through carefully structured material to develop your understanding of design principles and learn how to apply them in practical situations. You'll also learn how to work with clients and market your garden design services effectively.

Throughout the course, you'll work with an expert tutor who is an experienced garden designer.

## DESIGNED TO MEET YOUR TRAINING NEEDS

In preparing this course we followed guidelines on preferred course content from the Society of Garden Designers (SGD) closely. As a result, the course has a strong emphasis on practical design work, but also covers essential garden design theory. Students can join the SGD as student members whilst studying the course and once they have completed they may work towards full designer membership.

## COURSE SUMMARY

Subjects covered include: practical garden planning and design; key design techniques; latest trends in garden design; selecting new materials and techniques; understanding soil; working with clients; harmony and cohesion; creating a sense of place; key styles – Minimalist, Mediterranean, Urban and Oriental; materials and styles; assessing the site; selecting and arranging plants.

"I completed the Garden Design Diploma after my RHS Level 2 Certificate. Really enjoyed it and found it an excellent way of building on my horticultural knowledge.

The tutors were knowledgeable and patient. They offered honest, but always constructive advice that helped me to progress very quickly. Fantastic course!"

~ Libby Davies, student



## BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

Perfect for beginners, this course assumes no prior knowledge, guiding students through the development of their illustration skills with help from an experience illustrator.

Subjects covered include: equipment; a place to work; pencil drawing; planning your composition; accurate drawing; tones and shadows; forms in nature – leaves, roots, fruit; using pen and ink; using watercolours; watercolour over pencil; texture and pattern; adding detail and highlights; complex forms; depth and perspective.



## BOTANY FOR GARDENERS

Botany can be described as the scientific study of plants. It includes the study of their physiology, structure, ecology, genetics, and classification.

Botany is sometimes called plant science, plant biology or phytology. This course provides an in-depth exploration of botany from the gardener's point of view. It is an ideal choice if you would like to learn more about how your plants grow and reproduce (and why they sometimes fail). The course is also a useful supplementary course for students studying horticulture or gardening, and wishing to learn more about the science behind it all.

## HERITAGE HORTICULTURE

This 6-module home study course provides an in-depth exploration of historical garden design, showing you how to create a garden that is both authentic and entirely in-keeping with an historical home. The course covers every step in the process, from first research to selecting and sourcing authentic hard landscaping materials and plant varieties.

Subjects covered include: history of garden design; historical homes in context; planning and design of the historical garden; planting plans; key species of each period; hard landscaping materials in historical context; sourcing authentic materials; selecting appropriate alternatives; historical horticultural techniques.



Whether your goal is to learn how to renovate a period garden, recreate a garden, or complement your general garden design skills, this course is ideal. Our course is composed of 6 easy-to-follow modules. There are 6 tutor-marked assignments. It involves approximately 36 hours of study time. The course is packed with practical tips and ideas. It includes advice from horticulture and garden design experts. In addition, the course explores the latest research in this field.

spirit and rebuild our social, spiritual, physical and emotional well-being. In the garden, we are connected to the world around us - the soil, plants, animals, water and wind. Whether a rolling rural expanse or a small urban oasis, the garden can be a place of personal rejuvenation and an escape from the stress of everyday life.

Subjects covered include: planning and design of the healing garden; the multi-sensory garden; creating a sensory trail; healing through colour; herbs and their healing properties; creating a herb garden; using healing plants indoors; harmony and healing in garden design; aromatherapy in the garden; essential oils and plant extracts.

“Loved this course! I've found myself increasingly working on period gardens and this seemed an ideal choice. A supportive tutor and well-informed online advisers made all the difference.”

Shirley Wise

#### HEALING GARDEN DESIGN

This accredited online course provides a comprehensive introduction to healing garden design. It looks at ways in which a garden can be designed to create healing and harmony in our lives, contributing to emotional, mental, physical and spiritual well-being.

The healing garden offers a link with the natural world that can soothe a flagging





#### INTRODUCTION TO HORTICULTURAL THERAPY

This 6 module course provides a comprehensive introduction to the theory and practice of horticultural therapy, including many practical ideas and suggestions. The course explores the social and emotional aspects of gardening, and the design of healing and sensory outdoor spaces.

Subjects covered include: principles of horticultural therapy; treatment planning; designing a horticultural therapy space; sensory garden design; the healing garden, managing therapy sessions;

finding resources and support; and understanding mental health.

The course includes all required study material and full tutorial support from your expert personal tutor. The course is an ideal introduction to horticultural therapy techniques for students who would like to use them in their day-to-day work, as well as a good foundation for further study in this area.

#### ORGANIC GARDENING

This 6 module course explores the theory and practice of organic gardening, providing a comprehensive introduction.

Study topics include: history of the organic movement; organic gardening and the environment; soil cultivation and management; organic cultivation of fruit and vegetable crops; the herb garden; an organic diet; accreditation of organic crops; greenhouse gardening; controlling pests and diseases; weed control; conservation and the gardener; encouraging wildlife; the garden pond; planning your organic garden.





## GARDENING IN SCHOOLS

This course provides an in-depth introduction to the development of a school garden and the integration of gardening into the curriculum, with many practical ideas and suggestions. It also explores social and emotional aspects of gardening, and considers the planning, design and maintenance issues.

Subjects covered include: planning and creating a school garden; gardening and the curriculum; choosing plants for a children's garden; growing food with children; garden activities and projects. Our course is composed of 6 easy-to-follow modules. There are 6 tutor-marked assignments. It involves approximately 36 hours of study time. The course is packed with practical tips and ideas. It includes advice from horticulture and garden design experts. In addition, the course explores the latest research in this field.

## WILDLIFE GARDENING

Turn your garden into a wildlife haven with our comprehensive course!

This 6-module course is for the keen wildlife gardener who would like to learn

how to plan and maintain a garden that is a haven for wildlife.

The course is packed with practical tips and ideas. It includes advice from wildlife experts and botanists as well as successful wildlife gardeners. In addition, the course explores the latest research in this field.

Subjects covered include: Creating a balanced and abundant wildlife garden; creating a healthy soil; the role of hard landscaping; key design elements; choosing the right plants for your wildlife garden; a complete planting plan; understanding planting elements; borders and beds; creating a wetland area; populating your pond; attracting new species into your garden; supplementary food sources for wildlife; effective assessment of a site; wildlife potential; understanding the hedgerow habitat; selecting the right species; hedgerows as wildlife highways.

## ARBORICULTURE

This 6 module course provides a comprehensive introduction to arboriculture, tree health, and woodland management. It is an ideal foundation for further study as well as a useful guide for keen amateur gardeners who would like to know more about this specialist area.

Study topics covered include: soil formation, structure and physical characteristics; soil water; the history of woodland/forestry cover in Great Britain



from 1600 A.D.; ecology and woodland ecosystems; tree structure and physiology, causes of ill health and treatment; propagation, selection, planting and aftercare of woody plants; health and safety issues; equipment maintenance; trees and the law.

#### GARDEN WRITING

Train as a garden writer with this unique course from the School for Writers, created in collaboration with the expert gardeners at Edinburgh Garden School.

Subjects covered include: understanding the work of garden writers; core writing and editing skills; your development as a writer; working with publishers and editors; writing for magazines; writing for gardening and horticultural education; writing for online audiences; working successfully as a freelance; marketing your services; building a portfolio.

To learn more about working as a garden writer or a horticultural journalist, see:

[www.horticulturaljournalism.com](http://www.horticulturaljournalism.com)





# HOW OUR COURSES WORK

With online learning, you can begin studying within hours!

Online learning means that we deliver the course material to your in-box and you can then save it to your computer or print it off for reading at your leisure. You do not need to be online to work through your course material.

Our courses allow you to study in your own time and at your own pace, from anywhere in the world. You have one-to-one access to an expert personal tutor throughout the course.

## STUDYING YOUR COURSE

You work through course materials written by expert horticulturists and send your assignments to a qualified personal tutor for feedback on your work. You can also contact your tutor at any stage if you need additional help or advice. If you're completing an exam course your tutor will work with you right up to exam day, answering questions during revision, and if you wish, completing past exam papers as extra assignments.

Each course has been designed to be easy to follow and includes a set number of assignments. The course materials give full guidance on how to prepare and complete each one.

## HOW MUCH TIME WILL I NEED?

This will depend partly on the course you choose, but it also depends on how much time you can spend on your studies. The advantage of our courses is that you can work at your own pace.

## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COURSE FEE?

The course fee includes everything you need to complete your course: full study material, supplementary reading, and full tutorial support. If there is an exam at the end of your course, we'll also provide past exam papers and your tutor will continue to work with you right up to the day of your exam.



## HOW MUCH TUTOR SUPPORT IS INCLUDED?

When you become a student, you're assigned an expert personal tutor who you can contact at any time by email and who will work with you throughout your course. A member of our team is also

available by instant chat between 9 am and 9 pm, 7 days a week, to answer any questions you might have at time to suit you.

If you choose an exam course, your tutor will work with you all the way through revision up to exam day. Click on the chat button in the bottom right of your screen to speak to an adviser now.

#### HOW DO I ENROL?

Getting started on an Edinburgh Garden School course is simple. You can enrol on-line, using the Paypal buttons on each course page. This allows you to enrol securely using a credit or debit card or your Paypal account if you have one. If you prefer, you can enrol via Worldpay, or

by standing order. Your course materials will arrive in your in-box within 2 hours of us receiving your enrolment details. You will also receive contact details for your personal tutor, so you can get started on your course and your first assignment straight away.

#### WHERE CAN I STUDY?

You can study at home, on the train, at work, or in the garden – wherever you please! There are no fixed classes to attend.

You can work through the course at your own pace.

[www.edinburghgardenschool.com](http://www.edinburghgardenschool.com)

