

# OATRIDGE COLLEGE

## Higher National Certificate In Landscape Management

The HNC in Landscape Management is a nationally recognized award that has been designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for the needs of the landscape industry, both locally and nationally. It was recently reviewed and updated to reflect the changing demands of the industry and we offered this new HNC for the first time in September 2007.

For entry to the course, candidates must possess an appropriate level of Numeracy and Communication skills. Formal qualifications, appropriate work experience, or both may be sufficient evidence. Candidates may already hold an SVQ at level 2 or 3 in Amenity Horticulture (Landscaping), an appropriate group of Certificate level Units or already have adequate relevant industrial experience. Mature candidates without a horticultural or landscaping qualification may be admitted to the course if they can, during interview, demonstrate a capacity to cope with the demands of the course.

On achievement of the HNC Landscape Management, it is possible to progress directly to HND Landscape Management. The completion of a few additional units will also allow progression to HND Garden Design.

If already in employment in landscaping or horticulture, an HNC should enhance your opportunity to progress to managerial positions within the workplace.

If directly entering employment after HNC, it may be possible to enter the landscaping/horticultural industry at junior foreman, Foreman, Assistant Contracts Manager, with a view to progressing to Landscape or Contracts Manager. Other areas include self-employment, technical officer with local authority, Clerk of Works, building supplies companies and setting up own landscaping company.

The course is offered on a full time and a part time basis. Full time students are required to attend a number of formal, practical and study sessions each week over one year (September to early June). It has also been designed to enable part-time students to complete the course at their own pace, although they can achieve the HNC in as little as two years.

The HNC is based on Higher National Units that have a total value of 12 credits. Candidates wishing to progress to HND will require to complete a further 3 bridging credits before being able to enter the HND course. HND involves the successful completion of a further 15 credits (30 in total).

At Oatridge, it is necessary to successfully complete all of the following Units to achieve the HNC in Landscape Management:

**HNC Landscape Management Graded Unit (1 credit)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide evidence that you have achieved the principal aims of the HNC, and that you can integrate knowledge and skills and apply them to new contexts. In Landscape Management, it takes the form of an end of course Exam which is graded A, B or C.

**Using Software Application Packages (1 credit)**

This unit will enable you to use an IT system and software application packages to process a range of types of data. You will learn how to integrate different types of data from more than one application and to carry out searches to extract and present information from electronic data sources.

**Horticultural Practices (2 credits)**

In this unit, you will be introduced to the main career routes and opportunities within the horticultural sector. During the bulk of this unit you will identify, acquire and apply the main practical skills required in horticulture, and to a minimum identified level, using professionally accepted techniques and standards

### **Horticulture: Plant Recognition (1 credit)**

The aims of this unit are to develop your skills in plant recognition and plant knowledge. You will also develop an understanding of why specific plants are suitable for particular landscape use and their care and maintenance.

### **Soil Management (1 credit)**

Here you will develop your skills in the assessment of soil properties and fertiliser needs. By the end of the unit, you will be able to evaluate the most appropriate soil management practices.

### **Constructing Hard Landscape Features (1 credit)**

You will develop an understanding of and apply the principles of the construction of common hard landscaping features such as free-standing walls and fences, surfaces, rock features and water features.

### **Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying (1 credit)**

This unit will train you in the basic techniques of linear and level surveying. Fixing positions and elements of setting out will be covered to a level where you will be able to carry out simple surveys and cut and fill exercises.

### **Planting Design (1 credit)**

Here you will develop a greater appreciation of the principles underlying good planting design. You will also develop the skills required to select and use plants that are not only appropriate to the environmental conditions but will also achieve specified design objectives. The unit will also develop your plant knowledge and your skills in technical drawing.

### **Design, Process & Composition in the Landscape (1 credit)**

In this unit, you will develop your understanding of the principles of landscape design and composition and apply these principles to the design process.

### **Horticultural Mechanisation Principles (1 credit)**

This unit introduces you to the fundamentals of horticultural mechanisation. You will consider the machines that are suitable and appropriate for all types of horticultural business (cultivation and grass-care) and the maintenance needs of these machines. You will also look at the associated aspects of health and safety.

### **Supervision and Management (1 credit)**

The Unit includes the identification of resources, selection of objectives, short-term plans. You will consider organisational structures and control measures used to ensure that performance conforms to appropriate standards. You will also look at decision making processes, management strategies and leadership and their relationship with management.

**N.B. The units offered on this course at Oatridge College may alter slightly from year to year.**

**If you require further details about this course, please contact me at the address below:**

Elspeth Ross  
Oatridge College  
Ecclesmachan,  
Broxburn  
West Lothian, EH52 6NH

Telephone: 01506 864800  
Fax: 01506 853373  
e-mail: [info@oatridge.ac.uk](mailto:info@oatridge.ac.uk) (College)  
e-mail: [eross@oatridge.ac.uk](mailto:eross@oatridge.ac.uk) (Elspeth Ross)