



Amenity horticulture

If the idea of a career in horticulture is growing on you, we can offer opportunities to help you achieve a blossoming future.

As well as the Apprenticeship programme for the 16-24 age group, for the first time this year we are offering FREE Adult Apprenticeships for the over-25s.

Apprenticeships benefit both employees and employers, providing recognised qualifications which develop skills in the workplace.

Northumberland College offers an NVQ Level 2 in Amenity Horticulture which includes units on propagation, identification and maintenance of plants, use of equipment, health and safety and monitoring environmental conditions. It also builds in Key Skills at Level 1 and additional occupational qualifications.



The training is delivered by a combination of college attendance, onsite assessment and blended learning.

The Advanced Apprenticeship programme in amenity horticulture offers the NVQ at Level 3, and Key Skills at Level 2, together with Certificate in Amenity Horticulture and additional occupational qualifications.

You must have an employer to become an Apprentice.

Who is the programme for?

Apprenticeships are designed for people aged 16-24 years who are already employed. Adult Apprenticeships now offer free training to over-25s too.

Do I need any formal qualifications?

Ideally you will need GCSE Grade D or above in English and Maths. You must have an employer to become an Apprentice.

Do I need an interview?

Yes, you will need to attend an interview.

What will I study on the programme?

NVQ Level 2 in Amenity Horticulture. This involves units dealing with:

- Propagation of plants
- Monitoring environmental conditions
- Identify and maintain plants
- Use and maintain equipment and machines
- Health and safety
- Develop and maintain working relationships
- Emergency first aid
- Safe use of pesticides
- Pesticides application
- Other certificates appropriate to the business

Key Skills Level 1 in

- Application of Number
- Communication
- Improving Own Learning
- Working with Others

How is the programme organised?

The programme initially involves training at a Level 2 standard, which will normally take between 18 and 30 months. You will attend college, access e-learning and spend the remaining time working within the horticultural environment.

How will my progress be assessed?

The NVQ qualifications are assessed by qualified staff both in college and in the workplace. This means you are observed in practical situations as well as having to collect evidence of your skills. Key Skills are assessed through a programme of work, assignments and some external tests. You can gain some exemptions from Key Skills depending on your GCSE, AS or A Level grades.

What final qualification will I get?

- NVQ Level 2 – Amenity Horticulture
- Key Skills Certificates at Level 1
- Additional qualifications such as Health and Safety and Spraying Certificates

What could I do after completing this programme successfully?

You can progress onto an Advanced Apprenticeship programme in amenity horticulture, which will involve an NVQ and Technical Certificate at Level 3, and Key Skills in Application of Number, Communication and ICT at Level 2. Once you have completed your Advanced Apprenticeship there may be opportunities for you to progress to higher education.

Conditions of Training

All Apprentices will be employed for the term of their Apprenticeship and will work within the terms and conditions of their employer (hours of work, holiday entitlement, sickness procedure etc). The minimum wage you are entitled to on an Apprenticeship is £80 per week. However employers are encouraged to review this as you progress and gain more experience.