# Programme Specification for BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Awarding institution/body** | University of Worcester |
| 2 | **Teaching institution** | Warwickshire College |
| 3 | **Programme accredited by** | N/A |
| 4 | **Final award** | BSc Hons |
| 5 | **Programme title** | Horticulture Production Technology |
| 6 | **Pathways available** | Single Honours |
| 7 | **Mode and/or site of delivery** | Warwickshire College Group: Pershore College |
| 8 | **Mode of attendance** | FT |
| 9 | **UCAS Code** | **D415** |
| 10 | **Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement** | Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009) |
| 11 | **Date of Programme Specification preparation/revision** | May 2016 |

## 12. Educational aims of the programme

BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology is a full-time programme aimed at students with the following general characteristics:

- Entrants progressing from 'A' level studies or from further education who wish to achieve a level 6 qualification within 3 years.
- Entrants seeking a science and technology based horticultural qualification who have career aspirations in the production industries.
- Entrants seeking an academic qualification with a work-related ethos to prepare them for employment in the horticultural sector.

BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology has been designed to provide a broad introduction to horticulture at Level 4 through a range of core subjects to introduce students to the underpinning principles of horticultural science and practice. At level 5 students will develop more of a specialist knowledge in sustainable production horticulture and continue this into Level 6. In the final year, in addition to advanced horticulture production modules, the students will extend their knowledge of their chosen area and apply it to the production of an original piece of research in the Dissertation module.

The course is industry led in its design and reflects the strategic growth plans of the sector. Indeed, LANTRA (the Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based sector), in its Sector Skills Agreements for 'Landscape', 'Production Horticulture', and 'Trees and Timber' identifies the following key strands in its workforce development plan:

- *'Promote lifelong learning to increase professionalism, productivity and profit';*
- *'Recognise and increase the skills of the entire workforce';*
- *'Facilitate entry into employment';*
- *'Make the land-based sector a positive career choice for all'.*

There are approximately 95 000 people employed in production horticulture in nearly 8,000 businesses in the UK contributing in excess of £3 billion to GDP. The sector is all about large-scale plant production and includes two distinct areas nursery production (ornamentals, trees and shrubs) and food production (fruit and vegetables, including potatoes). LANTRA calculates that the West Midlands accounts for approximately 14% of businesses and workforce in this sector.

In discussions with industrialists through the Industrial Liaison Group and other contacts it is evident that the industry needs technically competent graduates who can manage horticultural production but who are sensitive to environmental sustainability. Good plant knowledge and technical understanding are skills identified by most industrialists. It is also clear that transferable skills are important and in a survey of the industrial members of the Industrial Liaison Committee the skills that were regarded as the most important were:

- Technical knowledge;
- Use and application of IT;
- Enthusiasm and commitment to the work and the company;
- The ability to solve routine and non-routine problems;
- The ability to motivate others.

The BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology has been designed to include a wide range of topics to develop the students' academic knowledge and their practical skills, there is an emphasis on the application of theory to practice. As such, many of the modules contain work related outcomes designed to simulate actual work-place practices that students may encounter when they enter employment. The development of transferable employability skills and an entrepreneurial spirit with an ethical understanding of global trade are central to the programme as described in section 11.

**Generic aims**

The award of Bachelor's degree with honours aims to provide the following:

a. to develop in each student subject knowledge and understanding appropriate to their individual interests and developing vocational needs;

b. to develop each student's intellectual powers, their understanding and judgment, their ability to see relationships within what they have learned and to examine the field of study in a broader perspective;

c. to develop the personal effectiveness and employability of students, in particular their ability to learn, to communicate, to work with others and to solve problems through an entrepreneurial mindset;

d. to develop those skills of professional scholarship required for career management, lifelong learning and innovation; and

e. a lively, stimulating and challenging educational experience.

**Award-specific aims**

The BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology award aims to provide the following:

f. to develop knowledge and understanding of the principles, concepts, theories and methods of the multidisciplinary approach of the horticultural production sector;

g. to develop students' abilities to make informed scientific, technical and managerial decisions in a sustainable horticultural production industry;

h. to develop a strategic and holistic approach to contribute to the future of a sustainable horticultural production sector; and

i. to equip the student for a career in the horticultural production sector, in its widest sense, and in a national and international context.

## 13. Intended learning outcomes

### Knowledge and understanding:

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

| | Learning Outcome |
|---|---|
| I | demonstrate familiarity with the science, technology, management and sustainable principles of a range of horticulture enterprises within the global, socio-economic and environmental context required to ensure global food security for the modern society |
| II | apply and evaluate a range of concepts, theories and practical methodologies to contribute to sustainable horticultural production |
| III | use systematic understanding of key aspects of horticultural production to integrate the challenges of global food security, sustainable production, preservation of biodiversity, climate change and human well-being |
| IV | critically evaluate a range of information and data to make judgments, and to provide appropriate solutions to theoretical and work-related problems in horticultural production |
| V | demonstrate the relevance and application of technology in the horticultural production sector, to develop, investigate and communicate a research topic within horticultural production in their specialist subject |

### Cognitive and intellectual skills:

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

| | Learning Outcome |
|---|---|
| VI | critically analyse, synthesise and summarise information from a range of sources |
| VII | manipulate and interpret complex sets of data, critically assess their reliability and validity and present them in an appropriate format |
| VIII | collect, analyse and integrate several lines of evidence to develop balanced arguments, demonstrating critical thinking and synthesis |
| IX | formulate hypotheses or research questions, plan and execute research or development work, evaluate the outcomes and draw valid conclusions |
| X | analyse and critically evaluate, in a work-related context, a wide range of scientific, technical and managerial aspects of the horticultural sector, especially with regard to sustainable horticultural production. |
| XI | critically review aspects of current research within the horticultural production sector, identify current gaps in knowledge or understanding and the current issues of the wider context of sustainability to society and the world |

### Practical skills relevant to employment:

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

| | Learning Outcome |
|---|---|
| XII | plan, conduct and report on practical investigations |
| XIII | select and apply appropriate scientific or technical principles to the diagnosis, analysis (qualitative and quantitative) and solution of complex and unpredictable problems |
| XIV | take account of safety regulations, legal requirements and the impact of investigations on the environment |
| XV | operate and maintain a range of horticulture machinery and innovate technology solutions for horticultural practice |

**Transferable/key skills:**

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

| | **Learning Outcome** |
|---|---|
| XVI | communicate clearly, concisely and confidently, using an appropriate format |
| XVII | learn independently and display the skills of professional scholarship required for personal development, career management and lifelong learning |
| XVIII | use information and communication technology effectively |
| XIX | display the attributes, skills, behaviours and attitudes required in working life including the ability to establish effective working relationships with others |
| XX | appreciate the limits of their knowledge in the context of the horticultural sector and demonstrate the ability to manage their own learning |

The aims and outcomes of this award are in alignment with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (November 2014) at Level 6.

This award meets the key requirements of skills and knowledge as identified in the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, and Consumer Sciences (2009) and the draft QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for consultation (Feb 2016) Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences.

## Curriculum Map for BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology

This map provides both a design aid to help academic staff identify where the generic and award specific outcomes are covered within the programme. It also provides a check list for quality assurance purposes and aids validation, accreditation and external examining processes by making the learning outcomes transparent. In this way, it also helps students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses. The map shows the award outcomes as listed at the start of the programme specification

| | |
|---|---|
| | Knowledge and Understanding |
| | Cognitive and Intellectual Skills |
| | Practical Skills Relevant to Employment |
| | Transferable Skills |

| Modules | Codes | Award Outcomes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | i | ii | iii | iv | v | vi | vii | viii | ix | x | xi | xii | xiii | xiv | xv | xvi | xvii | xviii | xix | xx |
| ASSET | PHOR1001 | | X | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Horticultural Skills Development | PHOR1002 | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | |
| Horticultural Sciences | PHOR1003 | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | |
| Plant Propagation | PHOR1004 | X | X | | | | X | | | | X | | X | | | | X | | X | X | |
| The Principles of Amenity and Production Horticulture | PHOR1005 | X | X | X | X | | X | | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | X | |
| Horticulture Machinery | PHOR1007 | X | X | | | | X | | | | X | | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Applied Plant Sciences | PHOR2001 | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | |
| Research Design and Analysis | PHOR2002 | | X | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Horticulture Business and Trade | PHOR2003 | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | | | X | | X | X | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sustainable Horticulture | PHOR2004 | X | X | X | | | X | | X | | X | X | | | | | X | X | X | X | |
| Protected Cropping | PHOR2006 | X | X | X | X | | X | | | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | |
| Field Production | PHOR2007 | X | X | X | X | | X | | | | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | X | |
| Horticulture Engineering Technology | PHOR2010 | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Horticulture Production Technology Dissertation | PHOR3000 | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Horticulture Business Leadership and Management | PHOR3002 | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | |
| Contemporary Topics in Horticulture | PHOR3003 | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | X | X | X | X | |
| Plant Improvement and Biotechnology | PHOR3006 | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Agronomy | PHOR3007 | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Post-Harvest Technology and Innovation | PHOR3010 | X | X | X | X | | X | | | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Global Food Security and Alternative Crops | PHOR3011 | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | X | X | |

## 14. Learning, teaching and assessment methods used:

Learning and teaching methods on BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology are designed to develop academic skills while not losing sight of the importance of industry relevance and currency. Horticulture is a vocational subject requiring an understanding of scientific, technical and environmental principles and their application to real-life situations and scenarios. Graduates will typically be entering the industry in a technician, supervisory or managerial capacity and must therefore have a thorough grounding in horticultural production principles and practices. As such the course has been designed to provide learners with an appropriate balance of academic knowledge and practical skills to enable them to succeed in the workplace or progress to post-graduate study.

The methods of learning and teaching vary according to the nature of the subject matter but include a wide diversity from formal lectures to student-centred activities including practical work, seminars and case studies. Employer links are exploited to provide guest speakers and industry visits to help students with the contextualisation of academic knowledge.

Scientific principles will be taught using two well equipped laboratory facilities at Pershore College. Many modules contain outcomes which require learners to demonstrate the application of theory to practical situations and are therefore designed to be work-related. The practical application of horticultural principles utilises the College's extensive grounds, plant collections, orchards, field areas and glasshouses.

Other teaching and learning methods include:

- Lectures;
- Workshops;
- Visits;
- Seminars
- Practical activity involving field work, grounds, laboratory and glasshouse experience;
- Group work – including presentations and creation of exhibits at national, regional and local events and shows;
- e-Learning.

At Level 5 and 6 students are expected to demonstrate more independent learning and especially in the final year of the degree they will be required to research a wide range of contemporary issues and produce an original piece of research for their Dissertation module.

The teaching team can access excellent technology including a Virtual Learning Environment and intranet supported by strong technological support. Students will have home access to the College's VLE (Google Classroom) for dynamic resources and supporting materials.

### Assessment Strategy

Assessment methods are varied and have been designed to assess a full range of skills in presenting information.

The assessment programme is designed to determine if learners have achieved the module learning outcomes and assessment criteria and can demonstrate qualities and

abilities, which reflect the general educational aims of the course. In addition, the programme of assessment will provide feedback for both learners and module tutors so that remedial action may be taken where required.

Formative assessment is undertaken regularly throughout the course. Many of the assessments that contribute to final grades are of a formative nature in addition to their summative role. Furthermore, learners are expected to participate in a wide range of in class activities, presentations and written work that will not contribute to the final grade but which is vital as part of the learning process and in providing feedback on academic progress.

The use of examinations is considered important as an effective way of assessing key aspects of the course and preparing students for potential progression to a higher level qualification.

The course is fully compliant with UW regulations for assessment, mitigation, appeals and complaints.

Assessment methods may include:

- Written reports, assignments and essays;
- Case-studies;
- Posters;
- Podcasts;
- Information factsheets;
- Reflective logs;
- Design Projects;
- Practical assessment;
- Examinations and end-tests;
- Plant Identification tests;
- Independent study.

## 15. Programme Structures and Requirements

The degree course is of three years duration with between 3-4 days per week spent at the College in lectures, seminars and workshops. Although work experience is not a mandatory aspect of the course, Warwickshire College Group encourages students to undertake work experience (up to 10 weeks) between Years 1 and 2, and Years 2 and 3 to develop their employability. The Work Based Learning Team facilitate access to work experience providers and supported individuals in securing an opportunity that meets their individual career aspiration.

The course is module-based. Each course module consists of a package of lectures, seminars and assessment of, notionally, 60 hours. Learners are expected to spend around 90 hours per module in private study and preparation for assessment bringing the notional time for each full 15-credit module to 150 hours.

**Title: Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture Production Technology**

| **LEVEL 4 Mandatory Modules** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **Credits** (Number) | **Status** Mandatory (M) Option (O) | **Pre-requisites** | **Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*** |
| PHOR1001 | ASSET | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR1002 | Horticultural Skills Development | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR1003 | Horticultural Sciences | 30 | M | None | None |
| PHOR1004 | Plant Propagation | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR1005 | Principles of Amenity and Production Horticulture | 30 | M | None | None |
| PHOR1007 | Horticultural Machinery | 15 | M | None | None |

**Single Honours Requirements at Level 4:** Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total. All modules at Level 4 are mandatory for Honours students.

| **LEVEL 5 Mandatory Modules** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **Credits** (Number) | **Status** Mandatory (M) Option (O) | **Pre-requisites** | **Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*** |
| PHOR2001 | Applied Plant Sciences | 30 | M | PHOR1003 | None |
| PHOR2002 | Research Design and Analysis | 15 | M | PHOR1001 | None |
| PHOR2003 | Horticulture Business and Trade | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR2004 | Sustainable Horticulture | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR2006 | Protected Cropping | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR2007 | Field Production | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR2010 | Horticulture Engineering Technology | 15 | M | None | None |

**Single Honours Requirements at Level 5:** Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total. All modules at Level 5 are mandatory for Honours students.

| LEVEL 6 Mandatory Modules | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **Credits** (Number) | **Status** Mandatory (M) Option (O) | **Pre-requisites** | **Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*** |
| PHOR3000 | Horticulture Production Technology Dissertation | 30 | M | PHOR2002 | None |
| PHOR3002 | Horticulture Business Leadership and Management | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR3003 | Contemporary Topics in Horticulture | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR3006 | Plant Improvement and Biotechnology | 15 | M | PHOR2001 | None |
| PHOR3007 | Agronomy | 15 | M | PHOR2006 PHOR2007 | None |
| PHOR3010 | Post-Harvest Technology and Innovation | 15 | M | None | None |
| PHOR3011 | Global Food Security and Alternative Crops | 15 | M | None | None |

**Single Honours Requirements at Level 6:** Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total. All modules at Level 6 are mandatory for Honours students.

The detailed schedule for the course showing how modules are delivered over the academic year is included in Section 3 of the Course Handbook.

## 16. QAA and Professional Academic Standards and Quality

Like all higher education courses in the UK, this award is designed with reference to section A of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, a means of describing academic standards in terms of the academic level you are expected to achieve and, in broader terms, the content that will be covered. This includes the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), which provides details of the academic level expected within each year of the course. This award is located at level 6 of the FHEQ.

The QAA also produces a Subject Benchmark Statement which describes the content required by courses in particular subjects. The BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology has been developed in line with Subject Benchmark Statements for Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food and Consumer Sciences (2009) and with the draft QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences (Feb 2016).

## 17. Support for Students

Warwickshire College Group has a Learning Resource centre located at each of its seven Colleges, as well as a virtual learning environment, Google Classroom, accessed via the Intranet.

### Induction

All students will be given a full induction to their course which will include meeting staff and a tour of facilities. Further details on the induction programme can be found in the course handbook.

**Equal Opportunities**
Warwickshire College has a comprehensive Equality and Diversity policy details that can be found on the Warwickshire College intranet. Further information on equality, diversity and access can be found in the course handbook.

**Academic Tutors**
Students will be allocated an academic tutor who will offer support throughout their studies. Formally, students are entitled to a minimum of three tutorials per year on an individual basis with their academic tutor. In practice, one of the strengths of higher education at Warwickshire College Group is that students will be able to have much greater informal access to tutors than may be possible at a university or other institution with larger group sizes and less teaching contact time. Records and action plans resulting from tutorials are entered onto the student's College file for review and updating. Students may also be issued with progress reviews to provide an overview of their achievements to date, and what they need to do to improve.

**Personal Development Planning**
The Warwickshire College Group PDP tutorial process provides advice and guidance to students on a range of approaches to planning for their personal, educational and career development. The planning of individual goals and intentions and the alignment of actions to achieve them is emphasised. Students are encouraged to record thoughts, ideas, and experiences in the form of an Evidence Log or Personal Development Record. Students are guided to use this PDR as a tool to review and evaluate their experiences and the results of their learning.

**Study Skills**
During their course all students should develop and exercise key skills, career management abilities, and the research and scholarship competencies required of autonomous professionals in a rapidly changing sector. The course aims:

- To develop the key skills for successful learning both in undergraduate courses and in subsequent careers.

- To develop the knowledge, understanding, attributes and skills required to obtain appropriate employment and manage career development.

- To develop the professional scholarship required in a learning society.

Study Skills Advice Sheets have been developed in order to help students plan and carry out their coursework and assessments, making the most of the time available and helping them to achieve their potential.

**Student Services**
Students enrolled on ***BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology*** have the opportunity to access the services offered by the Warwickshire College Group Student Services. Student Services is the central department that provides non-academic support for students. The department includes support relating to careers, counselling and mental health, disability, welfare and finances. Further details of these and a range of additional college services provided by Student Services at Warwickshire College Group are listed in the Course Handbook and on the college website at:
https://www.warwickshire.ac.uk/help  advice.aspx.

## 18. Admissions

### Admissions policy

The course aims to attract interest from school leavers to those already experienced in the horticulture industry, and applicants wishing to change their career paths. It is particularly aimed at those who wish to gain an overall appreciation of the horticultural industry whilst allowing for the opportunity to specialise in production technology. This potential diversity of entrants means that the entry requirements (detailed below) reflect varying qualifications of the applicants.

The College Group celebrates and values diversity. We will seek to ensure that individuals and communities have equal access to learning programmes and facilities.

We will treat all students with respect and dignity and seek to provide a positive learning environment free from discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

We are committed to providing high quality education in a welcoming and supportive environment enabling everyone, regardless of age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender, learning difficulty or disability to have the opportunity to succeed.

### Entry requirements

Entry to BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology is determined by the qualifications held by the applicant and the outcome of an individualised structured conversation or interview:

Warwickshire College Group's standard entry requirements apply: 4 GCSEs at Grade C or above plus a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3½ A Levels or equivalent Level 3 qualifications. The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to the course are published in the prospectus.

The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to this course are published in the prospectus and on the College website.

### Recognition of Prior Learning

Details of acceptable level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the College webpages. Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available.

### Admissions procedures

Pershore College hold a series of open days and afternoons when further course details can be discussed. This is also the time when interviews take place.

Full-time applicants apply through UCAS (Course Code D415)

### Admissions/selection criteria

Applicants will be invited to attend an interview / structured conversation at Pershore College to discuss their application, establish the level of any previous experience they possess, that the course will be of benefit to them and that they have an enthusiasm for the subject.

An offer of a place will be made on the basis of the applicant holding or achieving the minimum entry requirements discussed above and demonstrating an enthusiasm for the subject, and commitment to the programme of study.

## 19. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Quality and standards at Warwickshire College Group are monitored and maintained through a wide range of processes, including those relying upon contributions from the student body.

The Course Manager for the BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology completes an Annual Course Monitoring report at the end of each academic year. This report enables the evaluation of many aspects of the course management including the quality of assessment and employer engagement. The report is shared with UW and the course's link tutor at UW writes a Link Tutor Report to comment on the ACM report and the quality of the course. In addition, the report is circulated to key managers within Warwickshire College so that the quality of the course can be widely assessed.

One key piece of information that feeds into the Annual Course Monitoring report is the External Examiner's (EE) Report. The EE looks at the quality of assessment on the course and sits on the Examination Board that confirms grades and progression.

Another internal quality mechanism is the annual lesson observations that are undertaken within Warwickshire College Group to assess the standard of teaching in the classroom.

A course committee meets on a regular basis to review the programme as a whole, take into account student comments and perceptions, and plan short and long term changes. The membership and role of the Course Committee is as follows:

- Course Manager (Chair)
- Module Leaders
- Student representatives (called StARs)
- Learning Resources Manager of Pershore College
- ILT Manager of Pershore College

Students have a vital role to play in reporting on the quality of their course. A range of quality questionnaires are circulated during the year to look at a number of key aspects of the provision.

One important questionnaire is the Course Survey which asks students to comment on aspects of the course such as the quality of learning resources and the quality of lecturers. These Course Surveys are supported by Module Surveys which look more in depth at individual modules.

The National Student Survey (NSS) takes place in the spring term and is administered nationally by Ipsos-Mori, the opinion polling company. Results of the NSS are published nationally and are available to read through the UCAS website and at www.unistats.com.

## 20. Regulation of Assessment

The course operates under the University of Worcester Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

### Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

### Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations see Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

### Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade, unless the failure was due to non-attendance.
- Reassessment items that are passed are graded at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module).

### Requirements for Progression

- Students at Level 4 may be permitted to progress to Level 5 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4.
- Students at Level 5 may be permitted to progress to Level 6 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 5.
- A student who fails 90 credits or more due to non-submission will be required to withdraw from the University.
- Students who pass less than 90 credits but have submitted all items of assessment will be required to retake modules.

### Requirements for Awards

| Award | Requirement |
|---|---|
| Cert HE Horticulture | Passed 120 credits at Level 4 or higher |
| DipHE Horticulture Production Technology | Passed a minimum of 240 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher |

| | |
|---|---|
| Degree (non-Honours) Horticulture Production Technology | Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6 |
| Degree with Honours Horticulture Production Technology | Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6 |

**Classification**

The Honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification:

- Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 60 credits attained at Level 5 and the best grades from 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades count equally in the profile.

or

- Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 120 credits attained at Level 6 only

Institute-level Examination Boards review and confirm results for modules, and the Scheme Examination Board considers candidates' mark profiles to make decisions about progression, awards and degree classifications as appropriate.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework

## 21. Indicators of quality and standards

90% of respondents expressed satisfaction with Horticulture courses in the Warwickshire College Group 2016 HE Course Survey. In 2015, 57% of respondents to the National Student Survey (NSS) were overall satisfied with their HE studies at Warwickshire College Group. This figure was very disappointing and much reduced from previous years but, through its HE Course Survey process, the college has identified the specific course groups with areas for improvement (which did not include Horticulture) and, following a strong set of HE Course Survey results in 2015/16, is confident of a much improved set of NSS results in 2016.

Other indicators of quality and standards include:

- External Examiners' reports.
- The University of Worcester has the Investors in People kite mark which was renewed in 2011.
- Warwickshire College has the Investors in People kite mark, renewed in 2011.

Warwickshire College was granted Foundation degree awarding powers by Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council in September 2014 reflecting the very high confidence placed in us by independent higher education assessors after a year-long detailed scrutiny. The College also underwent a successful light touch Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) HE Review during Autumn 2015, where the quality of the provider's information about learning opportunities met UK expectations, and the enhancement of student learning opportunities met UK expectations. Significant areas of good practice were also recognised across a wide range of our activities.

In March 2015 an internal Periodic Review by the University of Worcester into all HE Horticultural provision at Pershore College reported that:

- confidence can be placed in the soundness of the management of the academic standards of the programmes
- confidence can be placed in the quality of the learning opportunities available to the students in the above courses.

## 22. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

### Graduate destinations

**BSc (Hons) Horticulture Production Technology** leads to career opportunities in commerce and industry, the public sector and education as well as scope for further studies leading to postgraduate qualifications. These opportunities include:

- Horticulture grower / farmer;
- Nursery Manager
- Crop management / agronomist;
- Technologist;
- Crop scientist;
- Consultant (*e.g.* rural land management / sustainability);
- Teaching (Lecturer at a land-based college);
- Journalism (Researcher/Writer for horticulture correspondence);
- Research and development via postgraduate qualifications *e.g.* MSc and PhD.

### Student employability

Work readiness is central to the design of Warwickshire College Group courses supported by commercial units which enhance the learning experience with real work environments. In addition, Pershore College staff have valuable and established links with horticultural employers, learned bodies and trade associations which broadens the learning experience and facilitates students' involvement with professional networks.

There is a horticulture industry liaison group, Pershore Advisory Board, that meets regularly at the College where a range of employers from different branches of the industry advise the College on current industry issues and they steer course content to ensure the training provided is fit for purpose.

The College have devised a HE student employability strategy, and during 14-15 engaged in the HEA Strategic Enhancement Programme on Embedding Employability into the Curriculum. All HE students are expected to attend Student Symposiums explicitly aimed at enhancing graduates' employability skill sets to increase their attractiveness to potential employers.

### Links with employers

Pershore College hosts meetings and academic staff serve on the committees of: The West Midlands Fresh Produce Forum, The Midlands Regional Growers Association, The West Midlands and South Wales branch of the Institute of Horticulture, International Plant Propagators' Society. Most of the members of these bodies are horticultural employers and College staff have regular formal and informal links with these employers through the meetings, visits, seminars and other events they organize. Students have access to participate in events and seminars and can contribute to discussion forums.

Exposure to external input broadens the learning experience and inspires students to reach their aspirations.

Staff associated with these courses, currently or in the recent past, have been External Examiners for other similar HE courses. They have also been involved as Internal and External Panel members at reviews and validations at UW or other HEIs. Some are involved as committee members of national professional bodies and learned societies *e.g.* the International Plant Propagators' Society and Plant Heritage. The College also has links with the horticultural research formally HRI Warwick, based at Wellesbourne in Warwickshire.

**Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module study guides and course student handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

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| Version no | ARC/IQC approval date | Record of amendments |
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