Capel Manor College
THE SCHOOL OF GARDEN DESIGN AND PLANTSMAINSHP
GARDEN DESIGN AND PLANTSMANSHIP

Garden design combines artistic style with a love of plants and design. A career in garden design is for you if you are creative, enjoy working outdoors, have an interest in the environment and want to be your own boss.

“Garden design is a career which encompasses some of the very best aspects of horticulture. It engages with an almost unlimited combination of plants, garden features and architecture to create inspiring gardens. There are few jobs where imagination and flair directly interact with nature and the outdoors. For me, this creates immense job satisfaction as what's better than getting paid for doing something you love?”
WELCOME

Capel Manor College’s School of Garden Design and Plantsmanship, where people and plants join to create unique gardens.

Why choose Capel’s garden design courses?

Our course tutors all have exceptional skills with extensive knowledge and experience of the garden design industry as working professional garden designers and successful exhibitors at shows and competitions.

Our courses will give you an opportunity to gain nationally and internationally recognised qualifications with the prospect of progressing to further study, Higher Education, employment or starting your own business venture whilst learning in a unique and supportive environment.

Our students are encouraged to show off their skills by designing for shows, competitions and for outside clients, providing them with invaluable project management experience.

Many students have won awards at shows, including the Ideal Home Show, Grand Designs and the RHS Flower Shows at Chelsea, Hampton Court and Tatton Park.

Capel has an unparalleled range of high quality teaching resources including specialist designated design studios and up-to-date computer-aided design (CAD) and software.

You will study a wide range of topics that will prepare you for working in the industry, including: design theory, (CAD), technical drawing, surveying and setting out design projects, designing with plants, business, studies and a foundation knowledge of practical horticulture which is essential for garden design.

You will have access to 34 acres of gardens at our Enfield centre as well as wonderful plant collections and open spaces at Regent’s Park, Gunnersbury Park and Crystal Palace Park to provide you with inspiration throughout your studies.

The College has established a reputation for delivering high quality garden design courses. Capel is also one of the most successful and largest college-based providers of Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) courses in the country.

Our Foundation Degree in Garden Design and Plantsmanship is delivered in partnership with the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester.

We have full-time, part-time and evening courses. Please come to one of our Open Days or Advice Evenings where you will have an opportunity to discuss courses with our tutors to determine which course is right for you.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- business owner / self-employment
- CAD technician
- contracts manager
- garden design lecturer
- garden designer
- gardens adviser
- horticultural consultant
- horticultural tutor
- horticulturalist
- landscape designer
- landscape manager
- private / public / botanic / RHS garden maintenance

Find out more about our Summer School in the Capel College Guide.

We want all of our students to maximise their personal development and prospects for employment or further study. While on your course you will continue to build skills relevant to work and study on our Skills Development programmes, which may include English, maths or computer skills.
GARDEN DESIGN INTRODUCTION COURSES

Find out how to apply for our courses in our Capel College Guide or the ‘how to apply’ section of our website: www.capel.ac.uk

INTRODUCTION TO GARDEN DESIGN (LEVEL 1)

Starts: October, January and April
Duration: part-time, 1 day a week over 10 weeks
Available at: Crystal Palace, Enfield and Regent’s Park

This short introductory course will help you develop basic knowledge and skills in garden design for use in your own garden, it is also a useful springboard course if you are considering a career change or further studies in garden design.

INTRODUCTION TO PLANTING DESIGN (LEVEL 1)

Starts: April
Duration: part-time, 1 day a week over 10 weeks
Available at: Enfield and Regent’s Park

This course will help you develop your skills and knowledge to improve planting in your own garden.

You will:
• learn the plant identification of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, annual plants and weeds
• look at soil pH and texture tests to help you understand the soil in a garden
• complete a garden design plan.

If you have completed or are currently studying towards the RHS Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture or Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) and want to study garden design you should complete one of these introductory courses so that you can embark on a Garden Design Advanced Diploma (Level 3) with greater confidence.

Entry requirements for Level 1 courses
There are no formal entry requirements to these courses. You do not need previous experience, just a willingness to learn and a genuine interest in garden design. Relevant prior learning experience in an appropriate professional environment will be considered.

What next after your course?
Successful completion of these courses will enable you to progress to a Garden Design Certificate (Level 2) or one of the RHS Level 2 Certificates. If you have a Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) or equivalent you can use these courses to progress to one of our Garden Design courses at Level 3.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING AND GRAPHICS (LEVEL 1)

Starts: Autumn and Summer
Duration: 1 evening a week over 11 weeks
Available at: Enfield

Our introductory drawing and graphics course will give you a foundation in a range of drawing and graphics skills for design in gardening. The course will introduce you to drawing, graphics and 3-dimensional work.

You will:
• complete drawing exercises both in the studio and gardens
• build a portfolio of work
• be introduced to graphics so that you are familiar with standard landscape symbols and drawing equipment used in garden design.

Entry requirements for Level 1 courses
There are no formal entry requirements to these courses. You do not need previous experience, just a willingness to learn and a genuine interest in garden design. Relevant prior learning experience in an appropriate professional environment will be considered.

What next after your course?
Successful completion of these courses will enable you to progress to a Garden Design Certificate (Level 2) or one of the RHS Level 2 Certificates. If you have a Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) or equivalent you can use these courses to progress to one of our Garden Design courses at Level 3.

INTRODUCTION TO PLANTING DESIGN (LEVEL 1)

Starts: April
Duration: part-time, 1 day a week over 10 weeks
Available at: Enfield and Regent’s Park

This course will help you develop your skills and knowledge to improve planting in your own garden.

You will:
• learn the plant identification of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, annual plants and weeds
• look at soil pH and texture tests to help you understand the soil in a garden
• complete a garden design plan.

If you have completed or are currently studying towards the RHS Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture or Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) and want to study garden design you should complete one of these introductory courses so that you can embark on a Garden Design Advanced Diploma (Level 3) with greater confidence.

Entry requirements for Level 1 courses
There are no formal entry requirements to these courses. You do not need previous experience, just a willingness to learn and a genuine interest in garden design. Relevant prior learning experience in an appropriate professional environment will be considered.

What next after your course?
Successful completion of these courses will enable you to progress to a Garden Design Certificate (Level 2) or one of the RHS Level 2 Certificates. If you have a Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) or equivalent you can use these courses to progress to one of our Garden Design courses at Level 3.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING AND GRAPHICS (LEVEL 1)

Starts: Autumn and Summer
Duration: 1 evening a week over 11 weeks
Available at: Enfield

Our introductory drawing and graphics course will give you a foundation in a range of drawing and graphics skills for design in gardening. The course will introduce you to drawing, graphics and 3-dimensional work.

You will:
• complete drawing exercises both in the studio and gardens
• build a portfolio of work
• be introduced to graphics so that you are familiar with standard landscape symbols and drawing equipment used in garden design.

Entry requirements for Level 1 courses
There are no formal entry requirements to these courses. You do not need previous experience, just a willingness to learn and a genuine interest in garden design. Relevant prior learning experience in an appropriate professional environment will be considered.

What next after your course?
Successful completion of these courses will enable you to progress to a Garden Design Certificate (Level 2) or one of the RHS Level 2 Certificates. If you have a Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) or equivalent you can use these courses to progress to one of our Garden Design courses at Level 3.

INTRODUCTION TO PLANTING DESIGN (LEVEL 1)

Starts: April
Duration: part-time, 1 day a week over 10 weeks
Available at: Enfield and Regent’s Park

This course will help you develop your skills and knowledge to improve planting in your own garden.

You will:
• learn the plant identification of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, annual plants and weeds
• look at soil pH and texture tests to help you understand the soil in a garden
• complete a garden design plan.

If you have completed or are currently studying towards the RHS Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture or Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) and want to study garden design you should complete one of these introductory courses so that you can embark on a Garden Design Advanced Diploma (Level 3) with greater confidence.

Entry requirements for Level 1 courses
There are no formal entry requirements to these courses. You do not need previous experience, just a willingness to learn and a genuine interest in garden design. Relevant prior learning experience in an appropriate professional environment will be considered.

What next after your course?
Successful completion of these courses will enable you to progress to a Garden Design Certificate (Level 2) or one of the RHS Level 2 Certificates. If you have a Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) or equivalent you can use these courses to progress to one of our Garden Design courses at Level 3.
GARDEN DESIGN CERTIFICATE (LEVEL 2)

**Starts:** September
**Duration:** part-time, 1 day a week over 1 year
**Available at:** Crystal Palace and Enfield

**Starts:** January
**Duration:** part-time, 1 day a week over 1 year
**Available at:** Regent’s Park

You will study seven specialist units during the year. Four of these units will focus on drawing and design and three will relate to horticulture, plant knowledge, and plant use. You will participate in workshops, lectures, studio sessions and weekly garden walks to improve your plant knowledge, planting design and garden design skills.

**Entry requirements**
You will need at least one of the following:
- relevant prior learning or experience gained in an appropriate professional environment will be considered
- a keen interest in horticultural and garden design.

**What next after your course?**
Successful completion of this course will enable you to progress to:
- a Garden Design Advanced Diploma (Level 3)
- our Plants and Planting Design Advanced Certificate (Level 3) and/or Principles and Practice Advanced Certificate (Level 3)
- a Kew Diploma, Botanical Garden Training Programme
- a pass in one of our Level 1 introductory programmes, which may include English, maths or computer skills.

A garden design and survey drawing will be produced during the course. You will then be introduced to more advanced drawing techniques including producing planting plans using the plant database in the latter part of the course.

**2D CAD FOR GARDEN DESIGN (LEVEL 2)**

**Start date:** October, January and April
**Duration:** part-time, 1 evening a week over 10 weeks
**Available at:** Enfield and Regent’s Park

This course is aimed at practising garden designers who want to introduce the use of CAD into their design practice. It is practical and computer-based using educational software package for one year. Entry requirements:
- you should have previously completed 2D CAD for Garden Design (Level 2)
- you should have a working knowledge of computers.

**What next after your course?**
Successful completion of this course will enable you to use CAD as a garden designing tool or progress to the 3D CAD for Garden Design (Level 3).

We want all of our students to maximise their personal development and prospects for employment or further study. While on your course you will continue to build skills relevant to work and study on our Skills Development programmes, which may include English, maths or computer skills.

**3D CAD FOR GARDEN DESIGN (LEVEL 3)**

**Start date:** January and April
**Duration:** part-time, 1 evening a week over 10 weeks
**Available at:** Regent’s Park

This course is for garden designers who are already using CAD and in particular the Vectorworks Landmark software package in their design practice and wish to further develop their expertise.

This 3D CAD course will give you the practical skills required to create and use 3D objects, organise layers, sheets and classes and produce planting and presentation plans for garden design.

Enrolling on this course automatically gives you access to the Vectorworks Landmark educational software package for one year.

**Entry requirements**
- 2D CAD for Garden Design (Level 2)
- you should have previously completed a garden design qualification
- a working knowledge of computers.

**What next after your course?**
Successful achievement of this course will enable you to confidently use CAD in your garden design practice or help you gain employment as a KAD Technician.
PLANTS AND PLANTING DESIGN ADVANCED CERTIFICATE (LEVEL 3)

Daytime

Starts: September (Enfield) and January (Regent’s Park)
Duration: part-time, 1 day a week over 1 year

Available at: Enfield and Regent’s Park

The course will improve the breadth and depth of your plant knowledge and provide you with the theoretical and practical skills required to create aesthetically pleasing and sustainable planting schemes. The emphasis of the course is always on professionalism and a high standard of presentation is expected for all work. A wide range of topics and lectures are delivered by a combination of workshops, plant identification walks and online resources.

Topics include:
- form and texture
- plant selection, design and plans
- elevations
- colour theory
- garden and plant history
- business documentation
- trees and shrubs
- herbaceous plants and grasses
- new wave perennial planting
- ferns and bamboos
- bulbs
- wall plants
- exotics
- roses
- biodiverse and sustainability
- quick planting solutions
- CAD for planting plans

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE (LEVEL 3)

Daytime

Starts: September (Enfield) and January (Regent’s Park)
Duration: part-time, 1 day a week over 1 year

Available at: Enfield and Regent’s Park

Evening

Starts: September
Duration: 1 evening a week over 1 year

Available at: Enfield and Regent’s Park

You will develop skills in surveying, site analysis and the design principles and hard landscape materials used in garden construction while producing a range of technical and graphical drawings to a professional standard. The emphasis of the course is always on professionalism and a high standard of presentation is expected for all work. A wide range of topics and lectures are delivered by a combination of workshops and online resources.

Topics include:
- surveying and site analysis
- design principles
- graphic skills
- computer aided design
- concept boards
- plan drawing and presentation
- plan colouring
- section-elevations
- structural planting
- hard landscape materials
- construction drawings
- axonometric drawing
- structures and water features
- twentieth century garden designers
- working as a garden designer
- CAD for garden designers

Entry requirements for Level 3 courses

You will need at least one of the following to apply for one of our Advanced Certificates:
- a Garden Design Certificate (Level 2)
- a RHS Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture and a pass in one of our Level 1 introductory courses so you have the required foundation in the range of drawing and graphics skills essential for design in gardening
- a Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) or equivalent and a pass in one of our Level 1 introductory courses so you have the required foundation in the range of drawing and graphics skills essential for design in gardening. Application is dependent upon tutor recommendation.

You will be asked to attend an interview to explore your interests, experience and ambitions and complete an initial assessment so that we can help you study. References are also considered.

What next after your course?

You will need to complete both Advanced Certificates (Level 3) to give you the foundation, knowledge and practical skills required to start practising as a professional garden designer.

GARDEN DESIGN ADVANCED DIPLOMA (LEVEL 3)

Starts: September (Enfield) and January (Regent’s Park)
Duration: 2 year part-time course, 1 day a week

Available at: Enfield and Regent’s Park

Our Garden Design Advanced Diploma (Level 3) will give you the solid foundation, knowledge and practical skills required to start practising as a garden designer.

This course is the full Advanced Diploma and equivalent to the combined study of our Plants and Planting Design Advanced Certificate and Principles and Practice Advanced Certificate.

Entry requirements

You will need at least one of the following:
- a Garden Design Certificate (Level 2)
- a RHS Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture and a pass in one of our Level 1 introductory courses so you have the required foundation in the range of drawing and graphics skills essential for design in gardening
- a Gardening and Commercial Landscaping Diploma (Level 2) or equivalent and a pass in one of our Level 1 introductory courses so you have the required foundation in the range of drawing and graphics skills essential for design in gardening. Application is dependent upon tutor recommendation.

You will be asked to attend an interview to explore your interests, experience and ambitions and complete an initial assessment so that we can help you study. References are also considered.

What next after your course?

Successful completion of this course will:
- enable you to progress to our Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Garden Design and Plantsmanship with a focus on employment in the garden design, landscape or horticulture industry as an employee or self-employed garden designer, landscape manager, landscape technician, horticulturist, gardener, contracts manager, horticultural consultant or garden design lecturer.

Further information about our courses is available on www.capel.ac.uk
HIGHER EDUCATION

ACCESS TO HE LANDSCAPE DESIGN DIPLOMA (LEVEL 3)

Starts: September
Duration: 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time
Available at: Enfield

Our Access to HE Landscape Design Diploma is designed to give you the skills, knowledge and confidence you need to study for a degree in garden design. Being qualified to degree level increases the options available to you and your earning potential.

On the course you will:
- develop plant identification skills
- develop drawing and graphics skills
- look at conceptual design and materials research
- prepare detailed design drawings for presentation
- complete a major design proposal
- enhance your business management and research skills.

You can choose to study full-time for a year, with a commitment of two days study at College and one day a week self-directed study or choose the more flexible part-time route over two years at College with a commitment of one day a week including weekend study where available.

Entry requirements
There are no formal qualifications required but ideally you will have relevant experience gained in a professional working environment and related qualifications. Although a desire and enthusiasm for life-long learning and ability to study independently are equally as important.

We will ask you to take an English and maths assessment and meet with us to ensure this is the right course for you.

What next after your course?
Successful completion of this course will enable you to progress to:
- our Foundation Degree in Garden Design and Plantsmanship
- a wide variety of other Higher Education land based programmes
- employment in the garden design and horticulture industry.

Further information about our courses is available on www.capel.ac.uk

ADVANCED LEARNING LOANS

You can apply for an Advanced Learning Loan to help you with the costs of a course if you are aged 19 and over. Further information is available on www.gov.uk

Student Finance England will write off any outstanding Advanced Learning Loans you owe for an Access to HE course if you complete a higher education course, so you don’t have to pay back the loan (the course must be eligible for student finance).

FDSC GARDEN DESIGN AND PLANTSMANSHIP FOUNDATION DEGREE

Starts: September
Duration: full-time over 2 years or part-time over 4 years
Available at: Enfield
UCAS course code: K32B

Our new and exciting Foundation Degree in Garden Design and Plantsmanship has been created in partnership with the Royal Agricultural University (RAU) Cirencester. The programme has been shaped for the plant enthusiast,景观 or landscape designer looking to set up a modern, professional practice and create wonderful and practical garden spaces with rich plant-based solutions to design challenges.

Emphasis is placed on developing your knowledge of plants, materials and construction techniques, as well as the design and business skills you need to deliver professional and innovative design solutions now demanded within the garden design industry in an urban context.

You will:
- Study at our Enfield centre with 34 acres of designed and mature gardens, plus two specialist design studios, there is also a one-week study tour to the RAU.

Further information about our courses is available on www.capel.ac.uk

FDSC Garden Design and Plantsmanship Foundation Degree

Develop your hand and computer-aided drawing skills as well as the enterprise, entrepreneurial and the soft skills required for garden design business.

Go on work experience enabling you to carry out projects in real life situations (alongside employers).

Complete a series of garden design projects and competition work.

Topics include:
- design principles and garden styles
- horticulture skills
- plant knowledge
- garden materials and structures
- digital design and construction
- professional business practice and management.
- design and business enterprise.

Entry requirements
- 120 (48) UCAS tariff, to include:
- at least 3 GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and a STEM subject (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications). Although a desire and enthusiasm for life-long learning and ability to study independently are equally as important.
- an IELTS score of 6 is needed if English is the applicant’s second language.
- Merit or higher
- 2 or more A levels (or equivalent combinations of A level, AS level, Scottish Highers)

An Access to Higher Education (HE) Diploma is a nationally recognised entry route for adults to a university course who do not have the expected entry qualifications and may not have studied for some time. For more information about Access to Higher Education Diplomas go to www.accessstohe.ac.uk

HIGH EDUCATION

- a relevant Level 3 qualification
- Access to Higher Education Diploma (Landscape Design) or other relevant Access to Higher Education Diplomas (30 credits at Distinction and 15 at Merit or higher)
- substantial relevant experience (considered individually where UCAS tariff is not met).

You will be asked to attend an interview to explore your interests, experience and ambitions and complete an initial assessment so that we can help you study. References are also considered.

What next after your course?
Successful completion of our Foundation Degree in Garden Design and Plantsmanship will:
- enable you to top-up your BSc at another institution, or Capel from 2018
- ensure you meet industry standards for professional occupational competences to work in garden design, landscape or horticulture industry as an employee or self-employed garden designer, landscape designer, CAD technician, landscape manager, landscape technician, horticulturist, gardener, contracts manager, gardeners adviser, horticultural consultant or teaching in further education.
RHS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE IN PRACTICAL HORTICULTURE

**Starts:** September
**Duration:** part-time, 1 day a week over 18 weeks
**Available at:** Gunnersbury Park and Regent’s Park

**Starts:** February
**Duration:** part-time, 1 day a week over 18 weeks
**Available at:** Enfield, Gunnersbury Park and Regent’s Park

This course will give you a strong foundation in a wide range of techniques required for a career in professional gardening and supports career development for those already in the industry. This practical-based course forms part of the RHS Level 2 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture.

You will be awarded a full RHS Level 2 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture if you complete all three RHS Level 2 Certificates, namely the two theory-based certificates and one practical certificate.

**Topics include:**
- Soil testing pH and texture
- Sowing seed and vegetative propagation techniques
- Practical skills in ground preparation for seeding and planting
- Practical skills in establishing seeds and plants in soil
- Care and pruning of plants
- Identification of plants, pests, diseases, disorders and beneficial organisms
- The safe operation of powered garden machinery.

You need to be willing to undertake a predominantly practical course with practical and written assessments including intensive plant identification tests.

Our award winning ‘Wellbeing Yoga Retreat Garden’ at the 2016 Ideal Home Show, designed by Murial Bates.
RHS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE IN THE PRINCIPLES OF PLANT GROWTH, PROPAGATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**Starts:** September  
**Duration:** part-time, 1 day a week for 18 weeks  
**Available at:** Crystal Palace, Enfield, Gunnersbury Park and Regent's Park  

**Starts:** February  
**Duration:** part-time, 1 day a week for 15 weeks  
**Available at:** Regent's Park

This is an intensive, part-time theory-based course that forms part of the RHS Level 2 Diploma in the Principles of Horticulture.

**Topics include:**  
- plant classification, structure and function  
- plant nutrition and the root environment  
- maintaining plant health  
- understanding plant propagation.

Because of the demands of this exam-based course, you must be able to commit time for independent study and have good literacy and study skills.

Entry requirements for Level 2 courses
You will need the following to apply for the RHS Level 2 Certificates:  
- at least 4 GCSEs at grades A* to C including English  
- an interest in plants and gardening.

You may be asked to attend an interview to explore your interests, experience and ambitions or complete an initial assessment so that we can help you study. References are also considered.

What next after your course?
Successful completion of these courses will:
- support career development for those already working in the industry  
- provide a route to employment in professional horticulture  
- allow you to progress to the RHS Level 3 certificates.

If you want to progress to one of our garden design courses but do not have any drawing or graphics experience, you should complete one of our Level 1 introductory courses. These courses will give you a foundation in the range of drawing and graphics skills essential for design in gardening.

If you have any questions please call our friendly Admissions Team on 08456 122 122 or come to one of our Advice Evenings or Open Days. Go to www.capel.ac.uk for dates and times.

### RHS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE IN THE PRINCIPLES OF GARDEN PLANNING, ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE

**Starts:** September  
**Duration:** part-time, 1 day a week for 18 weeks  
**Available at:** Enfield and Regent's Park

**Starts:** February  
**Duration:** part-time, 1 day a week for 15 weeks  
**Available at:** Crystal Palace and Gunnersbury Park

This is an intensive, part-time theory-based course that forms part of the RHS Level 2 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture.

**Topics include:**  
- garden features, selection and planning  
- the choice, establishment, maintenance of garden plants and lawns  
- the production of outdoor vegetables and fruit  
- protected environments and their use in plant cultivation.

Because of the demands of this exam-based course, you must be able to commit time for independent study and have good literacy and study skills.

After graduating with an MA from the Slade School of Fine Art I started a gardening business to fund my practice before discovering the courses offered at Capel. I did a RHS Level 2 Certificate at Regent's Park and found this invaluable in honing my horticultural skills. I was encouraged to enrol for the Garden Design Advanced Diploma the following year and I have really enjoyed this course. Garden design is a perfect combination of my creative and practical skills and I feel this course has greatly improved the professional quality of my work. Before starting this course I had a few small design projects, but now 18 months on I am running a successful garden design and maintenance business alongside finishing my diploma.

Lucy has completed our Garden Design Advanced Diploma (Level 3)
HISTORIC AND BOTANIC GARDEN TRAINING PROGRAMME

HISTORIC AND BOTANIC GARDEN TRAINING PROGRAMME (LEVEL 3)

Starts: September
Duration: 1- and 2-year placements
Available at: various gardens (please refer to website for further information)

The Historic and Botanic Garden Training Programme (HBGTP) scheme is a truly exceptional opportunity for passionate and committed horticulturists to advance their careers. You will earn a salary while developing your horticultural and business skills by working alongside the professional teams in some of the best historic and botanic gardens that the UK has to offer.

The programme combines a two-year practical work placement with residential study blocks and final exams each year. You will:

• study for the full RHS Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture
• attend six weeks of residential study each year at Wrest Park, Bedfordshire
• undertake training and assessment for two further practical qualifications: pesticide application and a compact tractor qualification
• study for the Heritage Gardens Diploma covering subjects and projects related to managing historic and botanic gardens using online study materials.
• attend study trips and lectures
• study for the full RHS Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture

What next after your course?

Successful completion of this course will:

• support career development for those already working in the industry
• provide a route to employment in professional horticulture
• allow you to progress to the RHS Master of Horticulture qualification.

Entry requirements

You will need the following to apply for the RHS Level 3 Certificate:

• at least 4 GCSEs at grades A* to C including English
• an interest in plants and gardening
• RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture (equivalent Horticulture related qualifications will be considered).

You may be asked to attend an interview to explore your interests, experience and ambitions or complete an initial assessment so that we can help you study. References are also considered.

Each unit is assessed by a separate written examination, two unit exams will be taken in February and the remaining two unit exams will be taken in June.

Success in all four units of this course will lead to the award of the RHS Level 3 Certificate in Garden Planning, Construction and Planting. This certificate forms one third of the RHS Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Horticulture. To achieve the Diploma, candidates will also need to complete the RHS Level 3 Certificate in Plant Growth, Health and Applied Propagation and the RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture.

Please visit www.hbgtp.org.uk/placements for further information about the training programme and the application process.
Find out how to apply for our courses in our Capel College Guide or the ‘how to apply section’ of our website: www.capel.ac.uk

Our Botanical Illustration courses offer students of all abilities the opportunity to improve their observational drawing skills and learn more about plants that interest them. There are no formal entry requirements to this course. You do not need previous experience; you just need an interest in drawing and garden design.

Course detail, dates, fees and registration information is available on our website, www.capel.ac.uk or you can call our friendly Admissions Team on 08456 122 122 for further information.

Our courses are seasonal, focusing on plants that are prominent in the garden at that time of year. You will learn the basic skills required to create a beautiful and accurate botanical drawing.

Topics include:
• selecting botanical subject matter
• accurate line drawing of botanical structures
• drawing to scale
• composition
• tonal sketching and understanding techniques for creating shape and form
• colour mixing and use of watercolour washes
• surface texture.

Regent’s Park
We will be looking at the following topics on our three-day courses at Regent’s Park:
• line drawing with pen and ink
• studies of trees in flower
• colour a masterclass
• seeds, berries, and bulbs
• autumn edibles
• roses.

Enfield
We will be looking at the following topics on our weekend courses at Enfield:
• line drawing with pen and ink
• summer flowers and pollinators.

Vanessa Hoch and Rachel Pocock, graduated in 2015 and have just established their own garden design business VaRa Garden Design. They are no stranger to competitions – both designers won the Provender Nurseries Garden Design Competition in 2014. Vanessa was awarded the College’s ‘Student of the Year’ prize and their garden ‘Foundations for Growth’ won Silver-Gilt at the prestigious RHS Hampton Court Flower Show in July 2015.

Their debut RHS Garden, was designed as an inspirational space, in an education setting, for visitors to learn and reflect and discover their potential. “The opportunity to put our first planting design into fruition and to be rewarded with a Silver-Gilt medal at Hampton Court is beyond my wildest dreams,” said Vanessa. “Both Rachel and myself are incredibly proud of what we have achieved and are grateful for all the help from our team of planters and hard landscapers.”

“Our experience at College gave us, and our fellow students of all ages, the opportunity to follow a different path to utilise and build on our skills and interests. Garden design has enabled me to combine my love of being outside in green spaces with an appreciation of colour and design,” Rachel says. “I’m so glad I made the leap.”
I came from a career in the fashion industry so I was used to working to balance colours and textures, although using fabric rather than plants! While studying at Capel I worked for the company as a freelance project manager overseeing the planning and installation of brand shop-fits. This had some useful parallels with garden design - planning the layout of the shop space, ensuring a balance of fixtures for practical movement and visual appeal. It proved very useful for my new career.

My training at Capel was a wonderful experience and gave me a great understanding of the practicalities of garden design as well as the creative and horticultural considerations. The Diploma gave me the confidence to start my business and although there was a lot to learn in running my own practice, the skills I acquired have helped me to create garden designs for my clients that work both practically and visually.

Cassandra completed our Garden Design Advanced Diploma (Level 3) and 2D CAD for Garden Design (Level 2).

All information in this Course Guide has been carefully checked and is correct at the time of publication. Whilst we have done our best to ensure its accuracy, we accept no liability for errors or omissions. The entry requirements for each course are given as guidelines. Your interests, motivation and determination are also important. We aim to offer the best and most current education and training available, to ensure we maintain an effective and responsive provision, we reserve the right to change any aspect of any educational programme listed. We often introduce new courses during the academic year so please always contact the College’s Admission Team or check www.capel.ac.uk for the latest course information.

The garden designed by Cassandra Crouch was shortlisted for the Society of Garden Design Awards.
Capel Manor College

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