

News release



14 February 2008

Key facts

- There are an estimated 1000 sector-related progression routes from the Advanced Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies to higher education programmes. (Source: Lantra)
- The Advanced Diploma is equivalent to 3.5 A Levels grade A-E and up to 420 UCAS tariff points.*
- Some 93 applications were received from consortia (local partnerships of schools, colleges and employers) across England, to deliver the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies in 2009, equating to approx 7,000 learners.

Higher Education support for Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies

A leading academic has today said that students who complete a Diploma will have some significant advantages over students who come from a more traditional education background.

Professor Brian Chalkley, Director of the Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Plymouth said:

“I am sure that this will be a credible route through into higher education because the courses are demanding, they are wide ranging, and they will give students lots of the skills and attributes which higher education admissions tutors will be looking for. Moreover, higher education is becoming more engaged with the employability agenda and these sorts of students will enter education with a head start over many who have come with more traditional and conservative backgrounds.”

Professor Chalkley has been involved in the development of the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies which will be available in some schools and colleges in from 2009, with a national roll-out across England in 2013. Professor Chalkley adds:

“The environment is emerging as an increasingly significant theme in the world of education. We need to prepare citizens for a century in which environmental issues are going to be perhaps the greatest challenge that faces mankind, not least in terms of sustainable development, climate change and the depletion of non-renewable energy resources. We are going to have to learn to live differently and to organise our businesses differently. Equipping students with the values, knowledge and the skills to face that key challenge for the new century is becoming absolutely central to the purpose of education at all levels.”

The content of the Advanced Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies is wide-ranging. It includes elements of ecology, business and enterprise, applied plant and animal science, and environmental analysis.

Myerscough College is a specialist land-based college in Preston, Lancashire. It delivers both further and higher education programmes and has made applications to deliver the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies with schools and employers across the region.

Laura Wallis, 14-19 Co-ordinator said: “The Environmental and Land-based Diploma has very clear progression routes through not just specialist degrees and foundation degrees in

subjects such as horse care, agriculture, animal care and horticulture, but also through environmental science, geography and the sciences.

“It’s important that higher education institutes take a close look at this qualification and decide what students can progress onto and market that clearly to reassure students and parents when they are looking at taking this Diploma.”

For further information on the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies, please visit www.diplomaelbs.co.uk or telephone Lantra Connect tel: 0845 707 8007.

Issued by

Bailey Lamburn, PR and Marketing Manager, tel: 02476 858 436 or email: bailey.lamburn@lantra.co.uk

Editor’s notes

- The Principal and Generic Learning elements, which together constitute the Progression Diploma, will attract a maximum score of 300 points.

A further 120 points will be available for the top grade achieved in the Additional and Specialist Learning (ASL) which, when combined with Principal and Generic Learning, enables candidates to be awarded the Advanced Diploma and a combined total of 420 Tariff points. (UCAS)

- Designed in collaboration with employers, the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies is intended principally for 14-19 year-olds and combines knowledge, understanding and skills that are informed by and recognisable to industry and the world of work. They are being developed as an alternative to the traditional GCSE and A level route.
- The Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies is being developed and support by a partnership of six Sector Skills Councils, led by Lantra the Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based sector.
- As the Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based sector, Lantra represents the interests of over 230,000 business, 1 million workers and 500,000 volunteers in 17 related industries which cover three broad clusters.
 - Environmental industries
 - Animal health and welfare
 - Land-management and production

For more information about Lantra please visit www.lantra.co.uk.

What is Principal Learning?

Principal learning - is the core of the Diploma and is the main compulsory section covering the necessary skills and knowledge of the chosen Diploma. Applying these skills and knowledge in work scenarios is a part of the course with some learning occurring in an environment that could be more like a workplace than a classroom.

What is Generic Learning?

Generic learning comprises functional skills in English, Maths and IT; Personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS); work experience and an extended project.

What is Additional and Specialist Learning?

ASL is where students can choose additional or specialist qualifications to study. There are many hundreds of learning opportunities for ASL and these include A levels. A maximum of 120 points will be available for qualifications that qualify as ASL that are already within the UCAS Tariff.