



## **Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies**

# **Career Progression in Land Management and Production - Trees and Timber**

## **Advanced Diploma to a Vocational Qualification to Employment**

### **A career in Trees and Timber**

#### **Example – Arboriculturist**

Arboriculturists are responsible for the cultivation and management of trees, hedgerows and shrubs in cities, the countryside and conservation areas. Their work includes preserving, planting and protecting trees, as well as all aspects of felling. They make sure that trees and shrubs are planted and maintained in an attractive and safe way. An arboriculturist may be involved in the same activities as a tree surgeon, but works at a supervisory/managerial or consultancy level.

The job is interesting and varied and requires a wide range of different skills.

An arboriculturist should:

- have a good knowledge about the care and management of trees and shrubs
- possess good leadership qualities
- be able to research and report on conservation and management issues
- have good communication skills
- have a good awareness of health and safety issues.

Work in arboriculture is expanding as interest in the environment and conservation of the countryside, trees and woodlands grows.

Arboriculturists work for local government, organisations such as the National Trust, Arboricultural and Landscaping Contractors, and other private businesses and consultancies.

For information on the skills gaps and shortages of the current workforce and factsheets on individual industries within the environmental and land-based sector, including trees and timber please visit: [www.lantra.co.uk/skills-assessment](http://www.lantra.co.uk/skills-assessment)

There are a growing range of qualifications for people who want to train to become an arboriculturist. These include a relevant degree, foundation degree, HNC/HND or work based qualifications, (NVQ's).

The Higher Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies would equip students with real skills and knowledge with which to commence further study and training in preparation for employment.

For information on other job roles within the trees and timber industry please visit [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/) and [www.afuturein.com](http://www.afuturein.com)

### **Why choose the Advanced Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies for entry into a Career in Trees and Timber?**

What makes the Diploma different from the traditional 'A' level route is that it is not purely a classroom based course. Students get out and about and learn from different employer businesses/organisations who understand what the next workforce generation needs to know. Consequently students take up to date, real world knowledge directly into the workplace.

This is achieved through employers being actively involved with the Diploma in a number of different ways, for example:

- Work Shadowing
- Industry Days
- Visits
- Mentoring
- Questions and Answers Sessions
- Work Experience.

For further information on Employer Engagement in the Diploma visit – [www.diplomaelbs.org.uk/welcome/consortia/downloads-and-resources/](http://www.diplomaelbs.org.uk/welcome/consortia/downloads-and-resources/)

### **What does the Diploma actually consist of and how is it different?**

The Advanced Diploma is equivalent in terms of the universities and college admissions services (UCAS), to 3.5 'A' Levels. The content is very wide ranging and includes elements of ecology, business and enterprise, applied plant and animal science and environmental analysis.

There are **three** elements to the diploma:

- principal learning
- generic learning
- additional and specialist learning.

#### **Principal Learning**

Principal learning is a free standing qualification relating to the environmental and land-based sector. It focuses on developing relevant knowledge, understanding and skills and applying them to work-based situations.

Therefore students would look at:

- exploring the productive and working environment – how we manage the environment in the modern world
- plants and animals – the role plants and animals in today's society covering subjects including nutrition, care, welfare and breeding
- developing the sustainable environment – the impact of people and business on the environment and debating current environmental issues.

## **Generic Learning**

Consists of:

- functional skills in English, ICT and mathematics
- personal, learning and thinking skills
- an extended project
- work experience – a minimum of 10 days related work-based activities.

## **An Extended Project**

A student interested in a career in trees and timber such as an arboriculturist would perhaps choose a project related to the development of climbing harnesses or specialist personal protection equipment (PPE).

In order to meet project objectives students need to:

- manage the project
- use resources/undertake research as appropriate to the topic
- develop the project to achieve the planned outcome
- review the project outcomes including own learning and performance.

Students need to show they can plan, deliver and present a piece of work.

## **Work Experience**

There are opportunities for work experience in the trees and timber industry. This could include working with tree surgeons as ground staff, assisting by clearing away branches and debris.

For a career in trees and timber enthusiasm and an interest in working with the environment and outdoors is really important.

## **Additional and Specialist Learning (ASL)**

Additional and specialist learning adds breadth and/or depth to the learning experience. A student's choice of ASL enables them to personalise their programme to include studies which interest them and support their career ambitions. An example of this could be a BTEC First Certificate in Countryside & Environment.

For further information on the qualifications within the diploma please visit <http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/DiplomaCatalogueSelection.aspx>

## **Further Progression**

On completion of the Diploma you may progress on to a programme of study with a specialist college. There are a range of vocational qualifications available including a Level 2 Certificate in Arboriculture run in association with the Royal Forestry Society (RFS). There are also work based diplomas (NVQ's) available in Forestry and Treework at different levels.

People entering this career must attain competency certificates before they are able to practice (some of which are a legal requirement). These include competency certificates in chainsaw use and pesticide application.

There may be promotion opportunities for experienced and knowledgeable arboriculturists to senior arboriculturist, management or director levels.

For a list of current qualifications visit the national database of accredited qualifications (NDAQ), [www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk](http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk)

It may also be possible to enter this career through an appropriate apprenticeship programme. Apprenticeships provide structured training with an employer and combine practical and theoretical skills designed to help employees reach a high level of competency and performance. For information on apprenticeships visit [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

Diploma progression illustrations can be found on the QCDA website: [www.qcda.gov.uk/25715.aspx](http://www.qcda.gov.uk/25715.aspx)

More information on the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies can be found at [www.diplomaelbs.org.uk](http://www.diplomaelbs.org.uk).