

# Horticulturist Apprenticeship

**Higher Level Certificate in Horticulture**

**(NFQ Level 6)**



## Why you should consider doing this Apprenticeship?

Earn while you learn  
Recognised Qualification  
Diversity/Range of Work on commercial units  
Work as part of a team  
Advanced Entry into SETU Bachelor of Horticulture  
Career in Horticulture

### About this programme

This is a two-year programme with 6 streams, developed in consultation with industry.

The apprenticeship is streamed into:

- ▶ Nurseries
- ▶ Garden Centres
- ▶ Garden And Parks
- ▶ Fruit Production
- ▶ Vegetable Production
- ▶ Hard Landscaping

The apprentice **must stay** in their chosen stream for the duration of the programme.

As part of this programme, apprentices will engage in on-the-job training with a SOLAS approved employer. Off-the-job training will take place in a Teagasc College supported by online learning. Off-the-job training will also include some visits to industry / horticultural research locations. Off-the-job training will be a total of 10 weeks per year.

On completion of the programme, the Apprentice will hold a nationally-recognised QQI Higher Certificate as a Horticulturist (NFQ Level 6).

### Delivery of the programme

The apprenticeship programme is designed to be delivered in a flexible way, which includes blended learning, skills training, face to face classwork, online delivery and off the job training.

## Programme Content

**12 Industry-focused Modules over 2 years**

### Year 1 / Stage 1

- ▶ Growing media and plant nutrition
- ▶ Plant science
- ▶ Plant propagation
- ▶ Sustainable plant protection
- ▶ Plant ID
- ▶ Sustainable IT skills
- ▶ Horticultural machinery and health and safety

**Note – All streams complete year 1 modules, content and assessment tailored to the relevant stream.**

### Year 2 / Stage 2

#### Mandatory for all streams:

- ▶ Financial management for horticulture
- ▶ Sustainable horticultural practice

**Note – All streams complete year 2 mandatory modules, content and assessment tailored to the relevant stream**

The following are the specific stream modules:

#### Fruit Stream:

- ▶ Fruit production

#### Garden and Parks Stream:

- ▶ Advanced plant identification and cultivation techniques
- ▶ Garden and parks management

#### Garden Centre Stream:

- ▶ Customer service for horticulture
- ▶ Garden centre management

#### Landscaping Stream:

- ▶ Advanced plant identification and cultivation techniques
- ▶ Hard landscaping

#### Nursery Stream:

- ▶ Customer service for horticulture
- ▶ Nursery stock production

#### Vegetable Stream:

- ▶ Vegetable production

*Earn while you learn working in the Horticulture Industry*

# Additional Information



**Apprentices will be employed on commercial horticulture units in Ireland in such enterprises as:**

- ▶ Plant nurseries
- ▶ Garden centres
- ▶ Fruit growers
- ▶ Vegetable Growers
- ▶ Landscapers
- ▶ Garden and parks



The Employer pays the Apprentice for the duration of the Apprenticeship. The rate of pay is agreed between the Employer and the Apprentice.

**Note - Basic pay will be minimum wage.**

Off-the-job co-ordination location:

**Teagasc, Botanic Gardens,  
Glasnevin Dublin D09VY63**



## Cost

Programme cost per annum are to be confirmed.

## Employers are required to:

- ▶ Be a SOLAS approved employer
- ▶ Nominate a workplace mentor
- ▶ Release the apprentice for the 'off-the-job' block release days
- ▶ Pay the apprentice for the duration of the apprenticeship

# Entry Requirements

**To be eligible for this apprenticeship, an applicant must:**

- ▶ Be directly employed by a SOLAS approved Employer
- ▶ Successfully completed the Leaving Certificate (NFQ Level 5\*) with 5 subjects with a minimum of O6 / H7 to include English or higher and a minimum of foundation mathematics F6.

**Or**

- ▶ A Major QQI level 5 (or higher) Award In Horticulture\*

**Or**

- ▶ A candidate 17 years or older who does not hold the above Level 5 qualifications as set out in categories 1 or 2 above, but who has a minimum of 48 weeks cumulative experience working in horticulture, is recommended by their employer and demonstrates the stated literacy and numeracy skills, will also be eligible to apply.

\* A qualification deemed equivalent on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications to any of the qualifications listed above.

*NOTE - The English language entry requirements for the programme are CEF B2+ or equivalent. Candidates with English language levels below CEF B2+ must first reach this minimum standard before enrolling on the academic programme*

*Where there is a mathematics requirement at Leaving Certificate Established or Vocational Programme, obtaining a minimum grade O6/H7 in Maths or a F2 in Foundation Maths, mature and international applicants may be required to demonstrate that they possess the required competency through the completion of a maths assessment.*

# Further Information

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[www.teagasc.ie/education/](http://www.teagasc.ie/education/)

[www.apprenticeships.ie](http://www.apprenticeships.ie)

