

Horticulture & Floristry



“You will come out with the work skills, attitude and motivation to move forward not only in employment but in life as well.”

Darren Rudge, Manager, The Cedars

The Cedars HORTICULTURAL CENTRE

The Cedars Horticultural Centre is one of the largest providers of Horticulture and Floristry courses in the Midlands, training over 350 students every year which makes it the perfect setting for budding horticulturalists and florists to learn their trade.

The two and a quarter acre site, right on the city's doorstep is home to mature landscaped beds and borders, a range of mature and semi-mature trees, vegetable allotments, a wildlife area, a mini-orchard, 100ft glasshouse, a log cabin and Plant & Floristry Shop where students get real life work experience. The 510 bus runs every 20 minutes from the city centre, dropping you right outside the gates.

Why study horticulture?

Horticulture is a practical subject underpinned by theory so if you enjoy being outside and getting your hands dirty then it's the perfect subject for you!

Horticulture impacts on many areas of our lives and offers a number of fascinating job opportunities. It is a worldwide business spanning a range of interests including large multi-national companies and smaller entrepreneurial organisations, Local Authorities and National Trusts. Whether you choose to specialise in the leisure aspects of horticulture, such as sports turf or landscaping, or those areas more focused on plant and fruit production, we have a course to suit you.

Why study floristry?

As a qualified florist there are lots of opportunities for employment. You might own your own business, work in-house for another florist or department store, become a lecturer or floral demonstrator or even work overseas or on a cruise ship!

Your floristry skills are invaluable to so many industries. Just think about where you see floral arrangements – corporate events, award ceremonies, on television, weddings, funerals, hotels, restaurants – the list is endless.

“It's rare for students to drop out. We interview, assess and guide students to the right course.”

Darren Rudge, Manager, The Cedars

Be part of an Award Winning Centre...

BBC Gardeners' World Live:

- 2006 'Multiplicity' - Silver Medal
- 2007 'Around & About' - Bronze Medal
- 2007 'Wind in the Willows' (Floristry) - Silver Medal
- 2009 'Continuum' - Silver Medal
- 2011 'Naturally Playful' - GOLD Medal and 'Best in Show'

Birmingham Borders at BBC Gardeners' World Live:

- 2008 Three Silver Medals
- 2009 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plus six 'highly commended'
- 2010 Three Bronze Medals
- 2011 Two Bronze and Two Silver Medals



Why study with us?

- Learn from our award winning tutors and our floristry tutors who are some of the most highly qualified in the country
- Study at our Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) accredited site
- Benefit from our links with local employers and get real-life work experience to help you choose the right career path
- Take part in voluntary projects in the local community as part of your course which will give you a well-rounded view of the world outside college
- Participate in competitions like the BBC Gardeners' World Live and British Florist Association Show where the college has won numerous medals
- Get employability skills – learn effective interview techniques and how to write a great CV so you stand the best chance of getting that dream job
- Join our success - we have an 89% overall success rate in our courses
- We have caring tutors who will support you in your studies and everyday life
- Take advantage of our Tutors wealth of experience - careers advice is part of all courses and doesn't stop when you leave: many former students return to ask staff for advice long after they have left.

“You show your students excellence and give them the motivation to strive towards it.”

Jenny Jenner, Show Manager, BBC Gardeners' World Live



I did a two week gardening trial and really enjoyed it as it mixed both the academic and the practical, so I enrolled on a course at the Cedars. I'm really glad I did the course – the work atmosphere is great and very stress relieving and you meet lots of new people. If I hadn't done this I could have ended up unemployed so I'm so pleased I chose to come here.



After leaving school, **Josh Kohil**, aged 19, struggled to find a course that was right for him. He is currently working at The Cedars Horticultural Centre before starting his Level 2 course and would like to set up his own gardening business in the future.



Level 1 Diploma in Horticulture

1 year • The Cedars

Entry requirements

Interview only – no formal qualifications required

Ideal course if you are looking for a basic qualification in the horticulture industry. There is a strong emphasis on practical tasks rather than academic work, although work to improve Maths, English and IT is undertaken. Skills taught include plant propagation, taking cuttings, pruning, potting and planting; also mowing lawns and cutting hedges. Teamwork is encouraged by undertaking real practical tasks in the local community such as laying paths and erecting fences.

Future options

You may progress to Level 2 or find entry level employment in the industry, for example technicians, landscape gardeners, working in garden centres or starting a business.

Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture

1 year • The Cedars

Entry requirements

GCSEs at grade G or above in Maths and English or the level 1 Diploma in Horticulture.

The course covers plant physiology, soil science and botany, with written assignments that you will be expected to complete independently. Practical instruction includes construction of paths and fences, mowing and cutting, machinery maintenance and plant establishment. You are taught how to operate and maintain tractor mowers, cylinder box mowers, rotary mowers and Flymos.

Future options

Courses: Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture
Employment: You might progress to own your business, work with a garden designer or at a garden centre in supervisory or management positions.

Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture

1 year • The Cedars

Entry requirements

GCSE grades A-C, or a Level 2 qualification.

This course is aimed at training managers within the industry. There are written assignments and much critical thinking is required. The course encourages you to focus attention on one career path: there is a strong garden design emphasis and conservation and ecology are studied. You will choose an independent module for 15 weeks, eg producing a garden design for a client, working in a local authority landscape architect's design studio, or studying the running of a historic garden.

Future options

Courses: HND course or university.
Employment: You might progress to own your business, work with a garden designer or at a garden centre in supervisory or management positions.

HND in Horticulture

2 years • The Cedars

Entry requirements

Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture.

The HND is a full-time, two year programme. (It can also be studied part-time, leading to an HNC.) If you want to progress academically, it constitutes the first two years of a three year degree. There is a strong focus on design, plant production techniques, environmental issues, ecology and conservation.

Future options

Courses: BA or BSc degree in Horticulture
Amenity and Garden Design.
Employment: You could start your own business, teach, take up research posts or go in to management positions.

Level 1 Diploma Floristry

1 year • The Cedars

Entry requirements

Interview: no formal qualifications required.

This course is ideal if you are looking for a basic floristry qualification. It is run by two of the highest qualified florists in the country, who run demonstrations, talks and activities for the Society of Floristry and are also examiners and moderators. There is an emphasis on improving Maths and English as well as personal social development; retail practice is provided at the The Cedars Floristry Shop where you will learn customer service, cash handling and accounts.

Future options

Courses: Level 2 Diploma or you could study levels 3 & 4 part-time or choose a short course. Career: work with a floristry wholesaler, in a florist's shop or possibly start your own business.



“The Cedars offers a fabulous resource for the study of horticulture and floristry, backed by vocationally experienced and very well qualified staff that instil excellence.”

Martin Delahay, External Verifier, City and Guilds (2011)

What next?

After completing your course you can choose from a wide variety of careers or continue with your studies at The Cedars. Some of our former students have started their own businesses, others have become landscape designers, work in garden centres, work in private gardens or in the National Trust's historic gardens.

