



# SAC



Scottish Agricultural College

# Horticulture



Aberdeen • Ayr • Edinburgh  
0800 269 453  
[www.sac.ac.uk/learning](http://www.sac.ac.uk/learning)





# Horticulture Course Information

## Why study Horticulture?

Horticulture is a diverse and dynamic industry that encompasses the commercial production of fruit, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants, and also the design, establishment, and maintenance of our parks and gardens, leisure and sports grounds, open spaces and managed landscapes. Horticulture is a worldwide business spanning a range of interests including large multi-national companies and smaller entrepreneurial organisations, Local Authorities and National Trusts. At home and abroad, British trained horticulturists are always in demand. It is a profession which offers a diversity of jobs to suit a wide range of talents. While there is a requirement for individuals with a sound practical base in horticulture, the profession also needs researchers, technologists, marketing experts and managers to shape the industry for the future. Horticultural businesses, whether those concerned with production horticulture or environmental, conservation or landscaping activities, require staff possessing sound scientific and technical knowledge combined with business and financial abilities.

SAC offers a comprehensive range of courses preparing you for the wide range of challenging career opportunities that these sectors can offer. In the UK particularly, there is a current lack of horticulturists trained to degree level. This means that as a graduate, you will have excellent employment opportunities. Part-time provision, some flexible learning, and study of individual modules for personal or professional development purposes, are also available.

## SAC... a unique institution

SAC – the Scottish Agricultural College – is Scotland's specialist higher education institution for courses that relate to the existing & emerging land-based industries and pursuits, applied food, plant and animal sciences and sustainable land-use.

SAC offers courses in a wide range of subject areas, all related to how we make use of the land and environment around us: Agriculture, Science, Horticulture, Environment, Conservation, Green Technology, Business, Sport and Tourism courses are on offer at our three campuses in Aberdeen, Ayr and Edinburgh.

SAC offers HNC, HND and degree courses, and our degrees are awarded by the prestigious universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh.

In addition to its role in education, SAC has an innovative and leading research and development programme and runs an international advisory and consultancy service. This all means that as a student at SAC you are taught by a team of staff including lecturers, researchers, advisers and consultants. They will provide up-to-the-minute information and insight into the commercial world beyond the College environment. We believe no other education institution can offer this combination of expertise and experience.

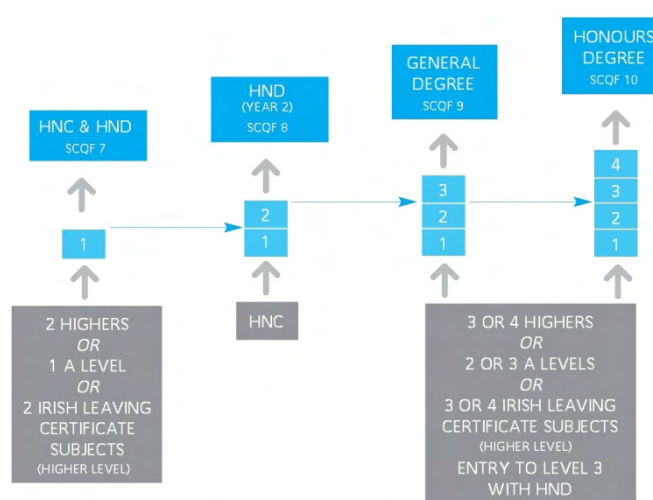
# Horticulture at SAC: Which Courses Where?

Awards Available:	Campus		
	Aberdeen	Ayr	Edinburgh
BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture	x	x	✓
HND Horticulture	x	✓	✓
HNC Horticulture	x	✓	x

## Qualifications to suit your needs

Our role is to help you achieve your true potential. This is why we have designed many of our courses to allow progression from one academic level to the next, with the possibility of a qualification at the end of each academic year (HNC, HND, degree, or Honours degree).

If, for some reason, you do have to leave before achieving an Honours degree, you needn't leave empty handed. Similarly, you may enrol for the HNC or HND, and as long as your performance is good enough, you can transfer to the degree course without any loss of time or repeated years.



SAC also makes provision for holders of many HNCs or HNDs from elsewhere to transfer to the second or third years, as appropriate, of a suitable HND or degree.

It is also usually possible to transfer either way between the Horticulture course and the Horticulture with Plantsmanship course at the end of Years 1 or 2.

## Application Details



Application for full-time study on HNC, HND and degree (BA/BSc) courses is through UCAS ([www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)). Please consult the SAC web site or prospectus for further details.

### Codes for UCAS application are as follows:

- Institution code name: SAC
  - Institution code: S01
  - HNC Horticulture 014D HNC/Hort
  - HND Horticulture 914D HND/H
  - BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture D410 BSc/Hort
- The BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture degree is awarded by the University of Glasgow

## About the course

Courses are taught through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical classes using on-campus as well as local facilities. Visits and occasional study tours are used to develop awareness of the diversity of the horticulture industry.

For each campus, SAC has its own practical horticulture facilities comprising greenhouses and landscaped areas. Additionally, we have partnerships with the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) who provide an additional garden resource for practical garden maintenance classes and work experience, and local councils who provide additional nursery facilities and parks for practical work and projects. We have abundant links with the many facets of the horticulture and landscape industry, with scientific institutes and SAC's own researchers and consultants, and you will find that classes at all levels involve supplementary interaction and teaching by these related professional experts.

## Entry Qualifications

- **Direct entry to Degree programmes:** Typically three Scottish Highers/ Irish Leaving Certificate subjects at Higher level (BCC) or two A-Levels (CC), normally to include a Science subject.
- **HND/HNC:** 2 Highers (CC) or 1 A-Level pass, normally to include a Science subject.

Relevant vocational qualifications are accepted, and advanced entry (for example into year 3 of the degree course) is available to those students with appropriate qualifications. Mature candidates with experience but no formal qualifications are encouraged to apply.

## Contact Details:

Students wishing to study part-time or obtain specific programme advice should contact:

<b>In Aberdeen:</b>	<b>In Ayr:</b>	<b>In Edinburgh:</b>
N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mark McQuilken</li><li>• 01292 886176</li><li>• mark.mcquilken@sac.ac.uk</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Margaret Norton</li><li>• 0131 535 4079</li><li>• margaret.norton@sac.ac.uk</li></ul>

## Open Days



2011 Open Days are as follows:

- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September - Open Morning (10.30am-1.30pm)
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Open Afternoon (1.30-4.30pm)
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Open Afternoon (1.30-4.30pm)

Applicant days are held in early 2012 for those applicants holding offers.

Please book your place through our web site at [www.sac.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.sac.ac.uk/opendays)

2012 Open Days are as follows:

- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September - Open Morning (10.30am-1.30pm)
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Open Afternoon (1.30-4.30pm)
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Open Afternoon (1.30-4.30pm)

## Visit Us:

Open days and evenings are held regularly and we encourage those interested in this course to attend in order to speak to staff, meet students, and see the facilities. In addition, each campus hosts a taster day each year. This is your chance to be a SAC student for the day. Details are available on the web site.

For more information please contact one of the Student Recruitment Officers or book through the web site. If you are unable to attend one of the open days, please contact us so that we can make alternative arrangements for you to visit.

General information and details about open days and taster sessions are available from:

<b>In Aberdeen:</b>	<b>In Ayr:</b>	<b>In Edinburgh:</b>
Student Recruitment Officer SAC Aberdeen Craibstone Estate ABERDEEN AB21 9YA <b>Tel:</b> (01224) 711189 <b>Email:</b> aberdeen@sac.ac.uk	Student Recruitment Officer SAC Ayr, Riverside Campus University Avenue AYR KA8 0SX <b>Tel:</b> (01292) 886196 <b>Email:</b> ayr@sac.ac.uk	Student Recruitment Officer SAC Edinburgh West Mains Road EDINBURGH EH9 3JG <b>Tel:</b> (0131) 535 4391 <b>Email:</b> edinburgh@sac.ac.uk

## Career Prospects

Employment opportunities are excellent with challenging and rewarding posts both in the UK and internationally in areas such as:

- Management of public green space and private gardens
- Local authorities, country parks, botanic gardens, community gardens
- Retailing, garden centres
- Landscaping companies
- Nurseries
- Fruit and vegetable crop production
- Journalism, TV
- Teaching, school gardening
- Lecturing, research
- Consultancy, advisory work
- Restoration of historic gardens
- Landscape reclamation
- Marketing
- Horticultural therapy

There is an expanding range of possibilities in organic production and food safety, production of plants for extracts for the pharmaceutical industry, for oils and energy, and in landscaping of green space to improve health and wellbeing.

You will find that throughout your course you will develop contacts with potential future employers through visits, trade shows, study tours, visiting speakers, work experience, summer placements, involvement in industry liaison meetings and participation as a student member in professional organisations.

Opportunities for employment are enhanced by SAC's strong links with the national and international horticulture and landscape industry and profession which means that many employers approach SAC directly when seeking to recruit new staff. SAC's graduate employment rate is 92%. Some graduates continue their studies at postgraduate level by taking up one of a wide range of MSc or PhD opportunities.

## Students views of the course

**HNC** - 'The course was an excellent start to any career in horticulture. It provided all the knowledge and skills needed to progress in the field. My favourite part of the course was the practical sessions. My career ambitions are to work in the world's most prestigious gardens with the top horticulturists. The staff at SAC not only helped me towards this goal, but with their excellent knowledge and mentoring, fired my ambitions.'

*Nick Malcolm*

**HND** – 'After working for several years in garden centres, I decided to pursue my dream of being a horticulturist. I applied to SAC as a mature student on the HND programme. I am now in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year and it has proven to be one of the best decisions of my life! Through the encouragement to succeed and guidance found at SAC, I am now considering continuing on to degree level. Taking the first step and applying at SAC was definitely a wise career move!'

*Christa Duncan*

**BSc** – 'I enjoyed studying for the Degree in Horticulture. Studying a broad range of subjects has enabled me to see the bigger picture as well as more options available to me for a career in horticulture. The course has required a lot of commitment and hard work, however the knowledge the lecturers have and their passion for their subject kept me interested and motivated.'

*Linda Ingle*



# HNC Horticulture

Also: HND Horticulture Year 1  
BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture Year 1

The HNC covers the fundamentals of the subject as well as introducing you to the different sectors of the industry which include nursery production, maintenance of gardens and greenspace, and plant retailing. During the year, the diversity of the course and work experience opportunities will help you to weigh up which areas you are most interested in for employment or further study. Subjects covered are plant identification and plant uses, soil management, plant protection, machinery for horticulture, business management, nursery production, and plant physiology. Practical work includes horticultural techniques for plant propagation and growing on of plants, garden maintenance, and how to conduct a plant trial on an outdoor plot. You will propagate plants, and pot them up, prune plants, and plant trees and shrubs. Plant identification is taught through tutor-led guided walks on campus and at botanic gardens. There are frequent visits to growers, nurseries and public gardens. Job opportunities at the end of HNC include working for nurseries, gardens, landscape companies and local authorities.

## Course Content:

- 1 year full-time
- The HNC Horticulture also constitutes the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the HND and degree programmes.

The Horticulture course currently differs very slightly between campuses:

	<b>Ayr</b>	<b>Edinburgh</b>
Business Management: An Introduction	✓	✓
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	✓	
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	✓	✓
Horticultural Practices (2 credits)	✓	✓
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	✓	✓
Information Technology: Applications Software 1	✓	✓
Nursery Production: An Introduction	✓	✓
Plant Growth and Development	✓	✓
Plant Physiology	✓	✓
Plant Protection	✓	✓
Plant Trials: An Introduction	✓	✓
Retailing of Plants		✓
Soil Management	✓	✓
Work Experience	✓	✓
Horticulture Graded Unit 1(exam)	✓	✓

# HND Horticulture

Also: BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture Year 2

## Course Content:

- 2 years full-time
- Year 1 of the HND is the HNC Horticulture.
- The HND Horticulture also constitutes Years 1 and 2 of the degree programmes.

With an HND in Horticulture, you will have a sound practical base in horticulture and also an understanding of the theory behind the practices. You will therefore be well equipped to enter the profession and should be eligible to take up a junior management level position after gaining experience in industry. Gardens and greenspace optional modules provide the competencies to work in the parks, gardens and landscape sector at a professional level. Production horticulture modules prepare you for employment in fruit, vegetable or glasshouse protected edible crop production; or alternatively, for ornamental plant production which can be small and specialist, or large scale nursery production of millions of trees, shrubs or bedding plants.

Year 2 includes Advanced Plant Propagation, Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock Production, Landscape Management and Maintenance, and Integrated Approaches to Plant Protection. Elective modules allow specialisation in crop production practices or landscape horticulture. You will go on visits to nurseries, gardens and landscapes, and also to scientific organisations to see how they conduct seed viability and plant variety tests. You will undertake a project in an area of special interest to you, and there is usually an optional study tour.

The Horticulture course currently differs very slightly between campuses, and the elective modules offered may vary from year to year.

	Ayr	Edinburgh
<b>Core modules</b>		
Advanced Plant Propagation	✓	✓
Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock: Container Production	✓	✓
Horticultural Production Mechanisation	✓	✓
Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	✓	✓
Landscape Management and Maintenance	✓	✓
Landscape Practices	✓	✓
Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches	✓	✓
Soils and Plant Nutrition	✓	✓
Horticulture Graded Unit 2 (project)	✓	✓
Horticulture Graded Unit 3 (exam)	✓	✓
Lawn Construction and Management	✓	
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings		✓
<b>Elective modules (choose 4) (Elective choice may vary from year to year)</b>		
Crop Physiology and Breeding	✓	✓
Constructing Hard Landscape Features		✓
Crop Production Practices	✓	✓
Genetics for Plant Science		✓
Getting Started in Business	✓	✓
Landscape Design History	✓	✓
Parks, Gardens, and Public Open Spaces	✓	✓
Planting Design		✓
Protected Crops	✓	
Terrestrial Ecosystems	✓	✓

# BSc Horticulture

## Course Content:

- 3 years full-time
- Students may study 3 years to achieve the BSc, or 4 years for BSc (Hons).

The degree gives you a broad base so that you are equipped to go into any area of Horticulture, while allowing you to specialise in either production horticulture or gardens and green space management. The degree is both practically based and technologically up-to-date. In addition to full-time study, the degree can be completed on a part-time (mainly one day per week) basis over a longer period for those already in employment.

Years 3 & 4 comprise core subjects plus a choice of specialist modules in production horticulture (including vegetable and fruit production and crop products and potential) or greenspace management (landscape horticulture, woodlands and open space management). You will visit growers and landscapes to evaluate production methods and management requirements, and scientific organisations such as SASA (Science Advice for Scottish Agriculture) and SCRI (Scottish Crops Research Institute) to see field and lab experimentation and research. You will prepare blueprints for plant production, management plans, and collect lab, field and landscape based data for analysis. In Year 4, the Honours Project and Dissertation gives you an opportunity to carry out research in an area of special interest to you.

## Core Subjects:

- Horticultural Plant Physiology
- Management Skills and Entrepreneurship
- New Perspectives in Plant Protection
- Ornamental Plant Production
- Research Skills and Data Analysis

## Production Horticulture Option:

- Crop Production: Vegetables and Fruit

OR

## Gardens and Green Space Management Option:

- Landscape Horticulture

## Elective Subjects (select 2):

- Advanced Case Studies
- Ecology: Management and Impacts
- Project Management
- Soil Environment Interactions
- Victorian Horticulture
- Visitor Management Systems

Additional elective modules may be available. Elective modules are run subject to availability in any particular year. Your Adviser of Studies will guide you on selection of electives.

# BSc (Honours) Horticulture

## Course Content:

### Core Subjects:

- Honours Project and Dissertation
- Land-based Environmental Issues

### Production Horticulture Option:

- Crop Products and Potential
- Global Horticulture

OR

### Gardens and Green Spaces (Amenity) Option:

- Garden and Open Space Management
- Multi-purpose Woodland Management

### Elective Subjects (select 2):

- Action for Biodiversity
- Biotechnology for Crops and Crop Products
- Business Marketing
- Ecology: Issues and Investigations
- Global Horticulture
- Heritage Garden Conservation
- Land and Habitat Restoration
- Plant Biotic Interactions
- Plant Protection Technology
- Plant Responses to Stress
- Sustainable Environmental Management

Additional elective modules may be available. Elective modules are run subject to availability in any particular year. Your Adviser of Studies will guide you on selection of electives.

