

Writtle College

A partner of the University of Essex

GRADUATE CAREERS GUIDE



Welcome

Welcome to the Writtle College Graduate Careers Guide. Our intention in writing this guide is to give you a flavour of some of the many and varied career paths you might take up after graduating with a higher education qualification from Writtle College.

As a small specialist higher education institution we are able to offer a bespoke careers guidance service to each student including individual career guidance interviews and employer events as well as a vacancy service via a virtual jobs notice board and email notification of vacancies. We maintain ongoing contact with employers who return to us with vacancies on a regular basis and this aids our graduates in finding suitable employment. Our aim is to empower students to make independent, informed choices for their future careers.

Our degrees are accredited and awarded by the University of Essex – one of the top ten universities for research and students work with approachable academic staff who are proactive within both research and consultancy.

We hope you enjoy reading our careers guide. All of the profiles are from Writtle College graduates and their employers and we hope they will inspire you to come and study at Writtle College too.

Angela Kinloch
Head of Careers Centre
Writtle College



Name: Stuart Drewrey

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Animal Science
2000-2003

Nationality: British

Occupation: Veterinary Surgeon, The
Wylie Veterinary Centre, Upminster.



The Animal Science degree at Writtle offered the perfect stepping-stone to a career working with animals. For me, the course was perfect to enable me to progress to a degree in Veterinary medicine. Although there are many other similar courses, Writtle seemed a friendlier place to study, with better all round facilities than other courses I had considered. Lectures were enjoyable and presented well and backed up with excellent practical facilities. Friendly staff that are easily approachable helped make Writtle an easy place to study and learn.

Your career path

I decided Writtle's Animal Science degree would offer me a sound basis and open opportunities for me to pursue a career working with animals. Essentially my hope was to use Writtle as a stepping-stone to becoming a vet. I came to Writtle straight from A Levels with very little work experience under my belt, but gained a fair amount during the course. Having graduated with a 2.1 degree, I was accepted to study Veterinary Science at Liverpool University.

I subsequently spent five years at Liverpool, finally qualifying and being awarded my MRCVS licence to practice as a Veterinary Surgeon in 2008. Since then I have spent two years in a private small animal practice.

Writtle has beyond doubt played a huge part in shaping my career.

Current job

My job as a Vet is hugely varied. My duties include routine consultations for several hours a day, examining patients and treating them as necessary. In those patients where a diagnosis is not obvious we have the facilities to perform further tests on our patients including diagnostic x-rays and ultrasound scans, the latter of which I have begun to specialise in. Another significant part of my working day is involved in carrying out anaesthesia and surgery, either as a treatment or part of routine neutering programs.

Obviously veterinary work has both exceptional high points, particularly with patients that are treatable and recover well, but Vets work is unfortunately susceptible to the low points too. Patients that fail to improve on treatment or when owners are unable to pay for treatment makes decision making difficult and

heartbreaking. The hours we work tend to be incredibly long, with the average working day ranging from 10-12 hours often with little or no breaks. On the majority of days, the good points outweigh the bad. In general my current job tends to be rewarding and enjoyable and I am lucky enough to be part of a large dynamic and youthful team that makes work interesting and fun.

Future plans

Hopefully there is still plenty for me to achieve in the future. As a Vet there is always opportunity to continue education and scope to specialise within the industry. Further to this, becoming a partner in or owner of a practice would be an ambition, but not before I've had a bit more opportunity to travel and see the world.





Name: Sara Potten

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Horticulture, 2009

Currently studying MSc Postharvest Technology, complete September 2010

Nationality: British

Occupation: Postharvest Technologist – Fresh Technologies, UK Ltd



My career path

I was working in garden maintenance prior to starting my undergraduate horticulture degree. Then as I carried onto the MSc I was lucky enough to find a position on the current graduate internship programme, which Writtle runs with interested industry businesses. The company I have an internship with – Fresh Technologies – have now offered me a full-time job to commence when I finish my MSc studies here at Writtle College.

Without my degrees I would not have been so well placed in the job market. Undoubtedly the combination of the degrees and the Colleges' links with industry has proved extremely beneficial. Writtle graduates are highly regarded in industry and in my case headhunted for positions.

My current job

I am responsible for fresh produce packaging research and development using various different packaging and material types. In particular I look at ways to reduce produce waste in the supply chain with different packaging and extend shelf life to the consumer. I develop trial protocols and conduct laboratory trials and experiments which includes result analysis and report writing. I also liaise with major UK fruit companies and make site visits to assess their packaging requirements. Communication with businesses across the globe is also necessary and there will be opportunities for overseas trips to growers to start trials at source.

The diversity of my work amazes me with no two days being the same! The company is progressive and I am fortunate to have the chance to work with new technology and materials.



Name: Thadian Pillai

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Landscape & Garden Design 2005

1st Class & the Barton Wines Award for the Best Graduate in Design

Nationality: British

Occupation: Principal & Lead Artist, Thadian Pillai Studio



My career path

My educational and professional background prior to Writtle was in fine art, design and horticulture, and my course at the College showed me ways I might be able to exist and work within all three disciplines simultaneously.

After graduating I started working for the Essex-based chartered landscape architecture and urban design practice, LiZLaKe. During this first job in my career a series of important fine art commissions enabled me to leave the LiZLaKe design practice and establish my own studio.

My current job

Thadian Pillai Studio has a portfolio of work that engages it in environmental art and the design of landscape and gardens; in the last year alone we have been commissioned by a range of national and international arts' organisations including the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Southbank Centre in London. The Studio has continued to grow throughout the recession, and now finds itself creating employment not only for myself, but for associate artists, designers and horticulturists, some of whom I have met through my ongoing professional relationship with Writtle College.

The great legacy of my degree is the hunger it has left me for continued learning, development, and meaningful engagement with the environment.

My role as Principal and Lead Artist involves the creation of artwork for exhibitions and to commission the design and management of landscape and garden projects, the day-to-day management of the Studio and its strategic and sustainable development.

I particularly enjoy the stimulus and creative challenge of our commissions, and the great privilege they offer us to engage meaningfully with the environment.

Name: Caroline Murray

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Equine Studies, 2007

Nationality: British

Occupation: Equine Nutritionist, Baileys Horse Feeds



After two interviews, a presentation and 50 written questions to answer, I secured the role of Equine Nutritionist at Baileys Horse Feeds and commenced employment in January 2008.

My current job

I have developed in my role as Equine Nutritionist simply through experience of the job and as a result have been able to progress in my capabilities. I now do far more yard visits to a wider variety of horse owners/riders including international competition riders.

I particularly enjoy the yard visits – all disciplines and studs. Dealing with the owners, riders, breeders and horses directly in person and having the opportunity to aid in the good health and success of the horses is very rewarding. It is particularly exciting to be a part of the success of horses in high-level competition by planning and communicating appropriate and beneficial diets specifically tailored for the individual. I also very much enjoy writing whether that be in the form of magazine articles or in-house material such as the technical information sheets.

My career path

Having worked at a couple of different yards throughout my time studying at Writtle College I carried on with this more practical line of work through the summer whilst keeping an eye out for employment within other areas of the equine industry – namely nutrition. In the September I sent out speculative letters and my CV to a couple of Feed Companies in my area before heading off on holiday. It was while I was in Thailand that the Director of Nutrition at Baileys Horse Feeds contacted me to inform me of the vacancy of Equine Nutritionist that had arisen within the company.



Name: Mehrdad Mirazee

Graduated: MSc Postharvest Technology, 2008

Nationality: Iranian

Occupation: Technical manager and research officer (Horticulture and postharvest), Landseer Ltd



My career path

Prior to starting my studies at Writtle College I had been working in a number of different horticultural related fields for more than 10 years. This experience helped me to find a job in this specialist field while I was still working on my dissertation.

My current job

I am very happy in my current job. Everyday I face new challenges which help me to consistently increase my specialist knowledge and makes for a hugely varied job. Mainly, I conduct research on the effects of internal and external environmental factors on fresh produce, especially apples. I monitor the produce during storage, recommending improvements to increase the postharvest lifespan. I investigate and apply new techniques to storage of fresh produce – testing new chemicals and organic products to maintain and develop the sales of the company I work for.



Name: Caroline Davies

Graduated: MSc International Horticulture

Nationality: British

Occupation: Glasshouse Technical Officer at Syngenta Bioline, Essex



My career path

Following the completion of a BA (Hons) in Humanities (History Major, Literature Minor) in 1995, horticulture represented a complete change of career for me. My interest was initiated whilst travelling and working in New Zealand in 2005. At that time I worked in an organic community vegetable garden in Golden Bay on the South Island, and on the orchards in Hawkes Bay on the North Island. Prior to my MSc I studied horticulture for two years at the Scottish Agricultural College (S.A.C.), Auchincruive, Scotland, leading to an HND in Horticulture, completed in 2008. Subsequent practical horticulture experience includes farming herbs on the Isle of Skye, Scotland and as a gardener at the Castle of Mey, Caithness, Scotland which is the annual holiday residence of Prince Charles.

I was lucky enough to conduct my MSc dissertation in Thessaloniki, Greece, “Detection of Plum Pox Virus Strains in Stone Fruits and Aphids Using Molecular Methods”. The dissertation reflected my fascination for pests and diseases in plants, and enabled practical experience to be gained in laboratory procedures in characterising viruses, both in plant material and insects.

My current Job

My job involves helping to breed beneficial insects for horticultural crops and to advise and assist with any quality issues or problems on the production lines. A unique opportunity where I can immerse myself in insect and plant interactions and work with people, plants and bugs, I am totally in my element talking about my passion all day long.

Name: Kim Arbuckle

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Equine Studies and Business Management 2003 (1st Class)

Nationality: Scottish

Occupation: Strategy Analyst, Corporate and Institutional Banking Strategy, RBS Group Plc



My career path

After graduating I worked as yard manager and head instructor at one of the largest equestrian centres in the West of Scotland. I was responsible for over 60 horses (a mix of DIY and full liveries and also around 20 riding school horses) and I looked after around six full-time staff and a whole host of volunteers. Although there were many aspects of this role I thoroughly enjoyed – particularly the teaching – I found I wanted to concentrate my career elsewhere.

After six months I changed career direction and ended up at Style Financial Services in Glasgow, working in a basic admin job at a company that was part of the RBS Group Plc. Working

my way up I gained my first graduate level job as a business analyst in the Credit Information team in October 2004. At the end of my first year, I was put forward and accepted for the bank's Gold Programme – a four year talent development programme. After my first year on the programme I joined Edinburgh Corporate as a Corporate Manager (CM). As a CM I supported the Relationship Director in managing the overall banking relationships and operational banking of our portfolio of Corporate clients. After just under three years in the CM role I accepted the Strategy Analyst role in the Corporate and Institutional Banking (CIB) Strategy team based in London – I started in April 2010.

My current job

Essentially, my role is similar to that of a consultant. I am drawn into projects across a diverse range of topics, from a sector strategic plan, to a business case for a new talent programme, to a business plan for our Structured Finance business. We collaborate with experts across the business to shape the strategic plan. This is a high profile role involving meeting and working with people from all levels in the organisation, with a wide variety of experience and knowledge. It also gives me opportunities to learn new things every day as each project brings new challenges.



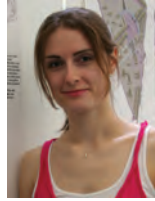
Name: Nicki Barford

Graduated: 2008 – PG Diploma in Landscape Architecture

2000 – BSc (Hons) Landscape and Garden Design

Nationality: British

Occupation: Landscape Architect; LiZLaKe Associates



My career path

I have worked with the same company for the ten years since I finished my undergraduate degree. I met my boss at our final design exhibition; she invited me for an interview and subsequently offered me a job as a year-out student. At the end of the 'year-out' I was offered a permanent position in the company and I have been there ever since.

The undergraduate degree gave me a solid base of knowledge which I could then build upon once I started working. I decided to leave it a few years before going back into education to do Postgraduate study by which time I was more confident from the knowledge I had gained through work.

My current job

My current position is as a Landscape Architect at LiZLaKe Associates in Stansted. The job entails a wide range of tasks within landscape design, including the preparation of masterplans; planting design; calculating levels and gradients; drawing sections; quantity surveying; preparing cost-estimates and general liaising with other members of the design team from other consultancies. When you become Chartered you are also involved in Contract Administration.

I personally enjoy the job because it involves both problem-solving and creativity. You have to compromise and balance your design aspirations with the reality of the client's budget and the limitations within statutory regulations such as Building Regulations or service easements. This can be tricky but it is rewarding if you resolve all these things successfully.

"We have enjoyed long term relationships with graduates and interns who have studied Landscape Architecture at Writtle College. The quality of the students just keeps on rising, particularly now that the courses are accredited by the Landscape Institute. At LiZLaKe, we pride ourselves on being at the forefront of our profession and Writtle graduates successfully meet our requirements."

Dr Liz Lake, LiZLaKe, Chartered Landscape Architects and Urban Designers



Name: Sarah Barfoot

Graduated: Postgraduate Certificate
Conservation Management, 2007

BSc (Hons) Conservation Management,
2006

Nationality: British

Occupation: Community Learning Officer, Essex and
Central East of England Properties, National Trust



My career path

After I graduated from my Honours degree I found employment with the Essex Wildlife Trust at Thorndon Country Park as a Centre Assistant – a part-time post whilst I undertook further studies. I worked for them during my Postgraduate Certificate in Conservation Management at Writtle.

Following my postgraduate studies I applied for the role of Community Learning Officer (a new post) with the National Trust and got it! It took a lot of hard work, but the combination of studying, volunteering and part-time work got me on the 'interview' pile.

My studies have given me good grounding in a wide variety of subject areas which has given me a solid understanding of the issues surrounding the sector I work in. It provided me with good contacts which I call upon in my work.

My current job

My job covers two different property portfolios, Essex and the Central East of England. My role is to develop, deliver, advise and support anything which falls under 'learning' which can be formal (curriculum based) or informal (everything else, all ages). I also work on forming and building strong relationships with key local organisations as well as working with our local communities.

I love my job and no day is ever the same. I travel around different places in Essex and Suffolk working on projects and meeting different people with a passion and pride in the stewardship they are providing for these amazing places. I spend most of my time on the following sites: Flatford Hall; Paycocke's; Bourne Mill; Grange Barn; Hatfield Forest; Rayleigh Mount; Lavenham Guildhall. I especially enjoy working with my volunteers and the visitors to improve the learning experience at these properties.



Name: Marina Bernardo

Graduated: PhD in Business
Management – expects to graduate 2013

MA in Business Management 2008

Bsc Equine Studies and Business
Management 2007

Nationality: German

Occupation: Product Manager, Simba Deckie Group



My career path

Before starting at Writtle College I had always worked within the equine industry breaking in youngsters and competing in show jumping. During my studies I went on riding privately, using the chance to train with successful Show Jumpers in summer breaks and competing at Towerlands (close to Writtle).

To finance my hobby I started working in a part-time job in a marketing post. To me it was a great experience and I was honestly surprised how much more confident my studies at Writtle had made me of my own capacities.

Straight after finishing my Master's I joined the international chemistry company DuPont as a consultant. My role was to identify potential savings for the customers by identifying risks and providing solutions. As I was travelling a lot all over Western Europe I decided to change my job and I am now a product manager within a large toy manufacturer group.

My current job

I manage an entire product category and do all according steps starting with managing the brands, designing and establishing new products, coordinating production in China and purchasing the finished products. I personally really enjoy working with design agencies on product or packaging artworks as well as with our Marketing department to improve the product fit to our target groups and develop adverts accordingly.

One of the greatest highlights is to visit fashion shows for new outfit designs as well as the regular trips to Hong Kong and China!



Name: Shwe Phue San

Graduated: MSc International Horticulture, 2008

Nationality: Myanmar

Occupation: Bioservices Screening Technician, CABI Europe (UK Centre)



My career path

Before I joined Writtle, I had studied plant pathology as my specialist subject in my home country, Myanmar. My earlier studies helped me to get onto my degree at Writtle College and supported my studies.

During my dissertation research, my postgraduate supervisor introduced me to Dr Thomas Thomindis of ATEI, Thessaloniki who supported me with my studies and my conclusions. Dr Thomidis also kindly invited me to ATEI after I had completed my studies at Writtle to participate in a national research programme in Greece.

After I had visited Greece I applied to join CABI, a not-for-profit science-based development and information organisation that applies scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. Plant microbiology is my true passion and my knowledge and skills gained from studying at Writtle College, as well as my work experience in Greece supported my application and I was successful – I now work as a screening technician at CABI.

My current job

I have just recently started at CABI and so far I found it to be the best choice for my career. I am able to access further e-learning and other necessary in-service training while I work at CABI, allowing me to continually increase my knowledge.

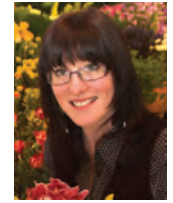


Name: Heidi Baker

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Horticulture, topping up from FdSc Professional Floristry, 2008

Nationality: Manx

Occupation: I run my own florist shop, The Flower Studio. My job title varies on a daily basis! Manager, florist, book-keeper, counsellor and general dogsbody!



My career path

Floristry had only ever been a hobby of mine so I hadn't had any work experience before I started the course. During the course I worked in two London florist shops, as well as a florist on the Isle of Man during the holidays. I also took a year in between the Foundation Degree and the top up year for BSc Horticulture to work with the National Trust for Scotland. I believe these placements were all so valuable in helping me decide which direction I wanted to go in after graduation.

Immediately after graduation I had a seasonal gardening job with my local council, but when this finished I got a job as a florist. This was only a part-time position so I decided to look for other jobs to boost my income. I was then asked by the Tynwald Mills shopping centre to put a proposal together to open a florist. They liked my ideas and have supported me as business advisors ever since. I also received assistance from the Isle of Man Government with their Small Business Start Up Scheme.

My current job

My shop has been open since March 2009 and since then I have been on an almighty learning curve. I do my own book-keeping, ordering and stock control, as well as being a florist and shop manager. I work seven days a week most weeks and do not pay myself much at the moment so my business can survive in the recession. I am fortunate to have a network of freelance florists and drivers as well as family and friends who help out at peak periods such as Mothers Day and Christmas. We have recently taken over the management of a small garden centre in the Tynwald Mills shopping complex, which calls on the knowledge that I learnt in the top up for the Horticulture degree.

I love my job because every day is different, and I am constantly challenging myself. I love the relationships I build up with my customers and to be able to give them the best service is my goal.

Name: Kirsty Foy

Graduated: MSc Equine Science 2007

BSc (Hons) Equine Breeding and Stud Management 2005

Nationality: British

Occupation: Scientist



My career path

As the end of my degree approached I was still unsure about my career direction, so decided to stay on and study for an MSc in Equine Science to give me more freedom of choice.

Before I completed my MSc I applied for a number of jobs that involved lab work. Among these I applied for a Scientist post at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). It wasn't for a specific post as they were recruiting for casual staff in a number of departments. I got a job working for the Food and Environmental Safety (FES) with Salmonella and E. coli. I was on a casual contract for a year; later I applied and was successful for a role in the Neuropathology labs.

Two years on I am now looking for a career change – I have decided to go into teaching at secondary level. Teacher training requires 50% of your degree to be in the subject area you want to teach and as my degrees are biology based I will be specialising in Biology.

My current job

The VLA is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is well known as a Centre of Scientific Excellence. I started out working in the Food and Environmental Safety department working mostly with Salmonella. Approximately 10,000 salmonella isolates are examined each year and results published annually in 'Salmonella in Livestock and Production'. In addition, field investigations at farms are undertaken for conformation of infection by sampling, clinical examination of affected stock, collection of epidemiological data and provision of advice on control of infection. I now work in Neuropathology with Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy's (TSE's), where the VLA provides a primary source of high quality scientifically based advice to the Government (via DEFRA and the Food Standards Agency) on all aspects of TSE's with special reference to BSE and Scrapie. Projects cover the surveillance and epidemiology, pathology and transmission, and diagnostics and molecular biology of TSE's. The VLA is the holder of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Salmonella and TSE Reference Laboratory.

Most of my work is blood processing and animal post mortems; these are usually sheep, although occasionally we have cows and goats. I really enjoy the post mortems. You can learn so much from being able to see things in front of you and being able to explore tissues.



Name: Alastair Arnold

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Horticulture –
September 2009

Nationality: British

Occupation: Assistant Head Gardener
at Broughton Grange



My career path

Prior to my studies at Writtle, I worked and trained for three years at a large private garden on the Surrey/ Berkshire border. Over the same time period, I completed a National Diploma course with distinction at Merrist Wood College in Surrey.

After graduating from the BSc (Hons) Horticulture course with first class honours in 2009, I gained immediate employment as a Manager at a large commercial plant nursery in north Essex. Later in the year I was offered a position as a Senior Gardener on a country estate in north Oxfordshire, which I took up in January 2010. Studying horticulture at Writtle has provided me with a solid foundation of knowledge, skills and inspiration; all essential tools for furthering my career. I am convinced that the many contacts I made with both staff and students will exert an influence over my direction at some stage in the future.

My current job

I am currently employed as Assistant Head Gardener, at Broughton Grange Estate, located in rural north Oxfordshire. There are three main aspects to my job. They are to run the

onsite plant nursery and plant sales, developing and managing a global positioning system (GPS) database for all woody plants on the estate and, maintaining the extensive walled garden. I particularly enjoy running the plant nursery, which is a project of mine to expand over the next few years.

Working with a large range of plant species and cultivars, I am continuously revising knowledge gained at Writtle College as well as learning more on a daily basis. There is a certain level of interaction with horticultural societies and the public, which provides a good opportunity to exchange knowledge and advice.

“Broughton Grange is an Estate situated in North Oxfordshire. In the last 10 years the garden has undergone major development. The centre piece, designed by Tom Stuart Smith in 2000 is regarded as one of the most significant and scintillating gardens to be created in modern times. Currently, a new Arboretum of 80 acres is being developed and trees plotted using GPS technology. This requires staff to be at the fore front of new developments within the horticultural industry.

With a new Assistant Head Gardener on board, and trained at Writtle, this enables us to utilize the qualities that the syllabus contains. This, with good plant knowledge and excellent IT skills provides graduates with the qualities required in order to maintain and manage a garden such as this.”

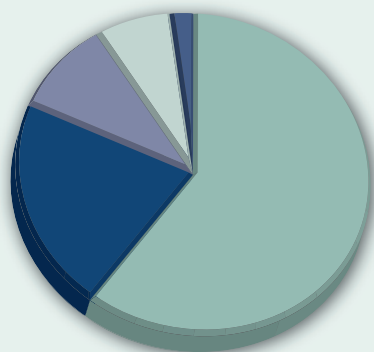
Andrew Woodall, Head Gardener, Broughton Grange.



WRITTLE COLLEGE DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY 2008 – 2009

HESA Statistics as at 11 January 2010

DLHE 2008 -2009



- WORKING
- STUDYING
- UNEMPLOYED, seeking work
- OTHER, unwell, starting work in a month, travelling
- Not employed, not seeking employment or further study

DISCIPLINES INCLUDED:

TYPE OF WORK

Business Management	Complaints Manager, Customer Service Manager
Animal Science	Conservation Officer, RSPB Development Officer
Equine	Equine Nutritionist, Farm Ranger
Conservation & Environment	Park Ranger, International Conservation Warden
Leisure & Tourism	Manager Leisure Centre, Customer Service Advisor
Sports & Exercise Performance	PE Teacher, Community Sports Coach
Horticulture	Arboricultural Consultant, Tree Surgeon
Floristry	Manager of Flower Shop, Florist
Agriculture	Field Trials Officer, Production Manager
Design	Graphic Designer, CAD Technician

Writtle College secured an 85% response rate from 08/09 graduates

88% of Writtle College graduates 08/09 are either in employment, further study, or travelling/ due to start work soon.

Writtle College

A partner of the University of Essex



Writtle College
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 3RR

Tel: **+44 (0) 1245 424200**

Fax: **+44 (0) 1245 420456**

Minicom: **01245 424254**

Typetalk/TextDirect: **18001 01245 424200**

Email: **info@writtle.ac.uk**

www.writtle.ac.uk

This guide is also available in large print
format and Braille. Please contact:
student.support@writtle.ac.uk

