Writtle College is one of the most famous and well-respected centres for horticultural technology and research in the world. Postgraduate students from Writtle are highly regarded throughout this international industry, and often go on to work on major projects affecting the production, storage and supply of food and fuel crops across the globe.

**POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES**

The Postgraduate School offers taught horticulture awards on a full-time and part-time basis including MSc/MA International Horticulture, MSc Horticulture (Crop Production), MSc Postharvest Technology and MSc Landscape and Amenity Management.

Each topic area can be pursued by research, leading to an MSc, MPhil or PhD, and each can be studied as a full-time or part-time postgraduate qualification. If you are considering working towards a PhD please allow a minimum of three years’ full-time or eight years’ part-time investigation to complete the award. The department will always endeavour to meet the needs of postgraduate students. For example, provided that suitable arrangements can be guaranteed, it may be possible to spend some or almost all of your study period at your own institution or organisation.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX**

Our links with the University have developed quite extensively in recent years. In addition to the quality assurance of our courses which are validated through the University, staff regularly cooperate in research and outreach activities, which have proved to be of substantial benefit to students and clients.
NEW PROGRAMMES FOR 2005*

From September 2005, subject to validation by the University of Essex, the Department of Landscape Management at Writtle College will be offering two masters programmes. The MSc in Landscape and Amenity Management is a revision of a previous successful course, whereas the MSc in Conservation and Heritage Management is a new programme.

These two degrees have been developed jointly as part of a process that will lead to an integrated suite of programmes in the study of landscapes. Dealing with aspects of the science and management of landscapes, it is planned that the next developments will include landscape design and the management of tourism and leisure. The full programme will be offered by the summer of 2006.

The basic teaching philosophy will involve working in multi-disciplinary teams on problems and projects that use Writtle College’s extensive contacts within industry. Study support utilises a rich mixture of face to face, workshop and electronic methods. Core disciplines will include resource management, landscape theories, landscape ecology and conservation, and landscape and environmental assessment. There is extensive support for the research dissertation through a programme of contextual research methods.

The degrees are structured as one year full-time and flexible two year part-time programmes of study. The former will appeal to UK and international students with a first degree at 2:1 or better in a relevant discipline and the later to experienced middle managers working in relevant industries. Through personal development planning there will be opportunities for accreditation of prior learning and experience and negotiated study. The degrees have been developed with extensive consultation with the lead bodies in the landscape industries and also local authorities. Successful candidates may be able to gain access to Chartered Landscape Architect status through the Landscape Institute.

Further details can be obtained from the Postgraduate School, please call 01245 424200.

*subject to validation

HORTICULTURE RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY

Research activity and consultancy work are extremely significant aspects of the masters awards within the Horticulture department, covering many aspects of crop production and fresh produce management.

Recent activities have focused on breeding and improvement work with crops ranging from blackcurrants, carnations, hybrid brassicas and leafy African vegetables to rhubarb, evening primrose and Echinacea. Staff and students use techniques as diverse as cryogenic storage, flow cytometry and infra-red gas analysis as well as the more conventional methods available to the modern horticultural researcher.

Important progress has also been achieved in topics such as eliminating fungal spores from stored potatoes, heavy metal resistance in European wheat cultivars, the repair and performance of modern football pitches and casual labour in the UK soft fruit industries.

A major research interest is the storage of fresh produce. Current investigations include bedding plants and cut flowers as well as sliced vegetables and tropical fruits. Staff research activity embraces techniques for storage and modified packaging as well as improvements in national and international transport.

Horticultural staff are committed to expanding research activity at the College, which is why we are always keen to look at new areas and topics. For example we are currently investigating the beneficial effects of extracted plant oils on animal and human health. First results from this exciting new area should be appearing in the near future.

RESEARCH PARTNERS – IN THE UK AND ABROAD

The horticulture department enjoys excellent relations with the research sectors of several major international organisations and universities such as FAO and Egerton University in Kenya, the Rubber Research Institute in Sri Lanka, and the Parks Department in Bermuda, in addition to UK universities e.g. Cranfield, Nottingham and Abertay. Additionally, we carry out regular consultancy studies for international companies working in Central/Southern Africa, Egypt, Eastern Europe and SE Asia, who produce and trade in fresh produce.
MSc/MA International Horticulture

Course Aims
The scheme will provide students with the opportunity to:
- Study at an advanced level the techniques used for the production and postharvest handling of horticultural/tropical crops and the underlying mechanisms which determine and limit these techniques.
- Develop a broad understanding of the national and international institutions and organisations which are actively influencing developments in horticultural trade.
- Apply research methodology and information technology to horticultural practice.
- Identify and critically evaluate important trends and developments within the international horticultural industry.
- Identify the needs of national and international communities, and reconcile these with the aims and objectives of specific horticultural organisations.

Duration
This modular course is delivered in the UK and in The Netherlands. It is expected that most students undertaking the course will do so on a full-time basis over one year. However, it is also possible to study part-time, over two to three years. Typically, students will study at Writtle College from September to December. The second stage of the course is then undertaken at HAS Den Bosch University, from January to April. A minimum of three months will be spent studying in the UK.

Delivery and Assessment
Teaching methods will be a combination of lectures, workshops, seminars, tutorials, visits and student managed learning. Self-guided study takes place under the supervision of horticultural staff to ensure that students maximise their use of all study facilities available at Writtle and Den Bosch. Students are assessed using a variety of methods including written papers, case studies and project reports. This flexible approach allows students to monitor their knowledge and skills development throughout the course.

The research project/dissertation provides an opportunity to undertake specialist investigative work to demonstrate the application of learning to a problem-solving situation. The project is supervised by an academic member of staff, and takes place over a 20-week period during the summer. The research project can be based at Writtle, Den Bosch or at an external organisation. However, students who embark upon an industry-based project must have access to the same level of facilities and support as students carrying out their research at the College.

Writtle College modules:
- Export Management
- Global Trade
- Export Management Case Study

HAS Den Bosch modules:
- Professional Education in The Netherlands
- Global commercial focus, covering crop production and handling, as well as management, marketing and international trade issues
- Opportunity to undertake research for the dissertation in industry in the UK or the Netherlands
- An MA route for students specialising in business applications

CAREER PROSPECTS
Recent graduates have entered management positions in global export/import organisations, dealing with fruit, vegetables and flowers. Others have entered plant protection services and also set up advisory businesses for new product development, based on international floral crops.

Who is the Course for?
This course is particularly tailored for those who require an in-depth understanding of horticultural production and marketing techniques within a global context. Successful graduates will be looking to enter an internationally-focused sector of the industry, or to pass their knowledge on to others as a trainer/educator. Applicants will be graduates in a subject area related to horticulture, agriculture or agribusiness but applications are equally welcome from individuals with extensive industrial experience. Applications from non-UK students are particularly welcome.

GRADUATES’ CORNER
“The exportation of cut flowers and other horticultural produce mainly to Europe and the USA is a growing market for Mexico. We have the climate, the transportation systems and the horticultural expertise, but what we lack are people who can offer both market development experience and horticultural knowledge. That’s what I hope to learn by taking the MSc in International Horticulture at Writtle College.”

“The key advantages of studying here were the combination of being in England with its history and expertise in botany, and then going to Den Bosch and studying in Holland, one of the biggest commercial horticulture exporters in the world. It’s a great opportunity.”
Gerardo Suazo Jimenez
Course Aims
The scheme will provide students with the opportunity to:
- Study to an advanced level the techniques used for the production and postharvest handling of horticultural crops and the underlying mechanisms which determine and limit these techniques.
- Develop a thorough knowledge of the horticultural business environment and marketing processes concerned with the trade of horticultural produce.
- Apply research methodology and information technology to horticultural practice.
- Identify and critically evaluate important trends and developments within the horticultural industry.
- Identify the needs of national and international communities, and reconcile these with the aims and objectives of specific horticultural organisations.

Duration
A full-time student can complete this modular course in one year. Part-time students can take two - three years to complete the course. The part-time programme offers greater flexibility for those with demanding commitments at home or work.

Delivery and Assessment
Teaching methods include lectures, workshops, seminars, tutorials, visits, case studies and student managed learning. Self guided study takes place under the supervision of horticultural staff who ensure that students maximise their use of all study facilities at the College, including the estate. Students will be assessed by a variety of methods including written papers, case studies and project reports. This flexible approach allows students to monitor their knowledge and skills development throughout the course.

The research project/dissertation provides an opportunity to undertake specialist research in specific fields. It must also include an investigative component to demonstrate that the student can apply learning to a problem-solving situation. The project is supervised by a member of the academic staff, and takes place over a 20-week period during the summer. The research project can be based at Writtle or at an external organisation; international placements may also be arranged. However, students who embark upon an industry-based project must have access to the same level of facilities and support as students carrying out their research at the College.

Students will study the following core modules:
- International Horticultural Crop Production
- Tropical Crops
- Fruit and Vegetable Production
- Research Methods
- Personal Development Planning
- Protected Cropping
- Agricultural and Horticultural Trade
- Postharvest Physiology and Pathology
- Postharvest Technology
- Literature Review

Key Features
- A combination of theory, practical experience and industrial visits alongside the development of interpersonal and communication skills.
- An international dimension to the course content.
- Opportunity to undertake original research in the UK or abroad.

Career Prospects
Upon completion of the course, graduates have moved into crop production with international growers and management positions with major import/export organisations.
MSc Postharvest Technology

Course Aims
The scheme will provide students with the opportunity to:

- Study to an advanced level the techniques used for the postharvest handling of horticultural crops and the underlying mechanisms which determine and limit these techniques.
- Develop a thorough knowledge of the fresh horticultural business environment and marketing processes concerned within the trade of horticultural produce.
- Apply research methodology and information technology to postharvest horticultural practice.
- Identify and evaluate critically important trends and developments within the horticultural industry.
- Identify the needs of national and international communities, and reconcile these with the aims and objectives of specific postharvest technology organisations.

Duration
This modular course can be completed in one year on a full-time basis. Part-time students can take two - three years to complete the course. The part-time programme offers greater flexibility for those with demanding commitments at home or work.

Delivery and Assessment
Teaching methods include lectures, workshops, seminars, tutorials, visits, case studies and student-managed learning. Self-guided study takes place under the supervision of horticultural staff who ensure that students maximise their use of all study facilities at the College, including the estate. Students will be assessed by a variety of methods including written papers, case studies and project reports. This flexible approach allows students to monitor their knowledge and skills development throughout the course.

The research project/dissertation provides an opportunity to undertake specialist research in specific fields. It must also include a practical experimental component to demonstrate that the student can apply learning to a problem-solving situation. The project is supervised by a member of the academic staff, and takes place over a 20-week period during the summer. The research project can be based at Writtle or at an external organisation, but students who embark upon an industry-based project must have access to the same level of facilities and support as students carrying out their research at the College.

Students will study the following core modules:
International Crop Production
Research Methods
Tropical Crops
Agricultural and Horticultural Trade
Personal Development Planning
Postharvest Technology
Postharvest Physiology and Pathology
Supply Chain and Logistics

Key Features
- A course with a strong commercial focus, including site visits and guest lecturers.
- A strong international flavour in both crops and practices.
- Opportunity to undertake original research in the UK or abroad.

Career Prospects
Upon successful completion of the course, graduates have gained employment with major wholesale, retail and import/export organisations where produce quality is paramount, and where supply objectives are on a global scale.