

BSc (Hons) Landscape Management

For students entering Part 1 in October 2004

UCAS code: D255

Awarding Institution:

The University of Reading

Teaching Institution:

The University of Reading

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

AFAFC

Faculty of Life Sciences

Programme length: 4 years

Date of specification: **26 May 2006**

Programme Director: Mr R Bisgrove

Programme Adviser: Mr R Bisgrove

Board of Studies: BSc Degrees in Horticulture and Landscape Management

Accreditation: Landscape Institute

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to equip students with a broad and integrated understanding of Landscape Management and to develop in the students a critical, innovative and professional approach to their work.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills that all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem solving, team working and use of information technology.

In Landscape Management particular emphasis is placed on team working and presentation techniques.

Programme content

The profile that follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory modules), together with lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must select from these modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title. Some optional modules may not necessarily be taught in each year.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules (100 credits)

Module	Title	Credits	Level
PS1HB1	Principles of horticulture	10	C
PS1HC1	Arboriculture and practical horticulture	10	C
BI1Z10	Ecology	10	C
PS1HJ1	Principles of landscape management 1	10	C
PS1HC2	Amenity horticulture	10	C
PS1HD2	Plants of horticulture	10	C
PS1HH2	History of landscape design	10	C
PS1HU2	Computing for horticulture and landscape management	10	C
LW1A05	General introduction to law	10	C
LW101F	Introduction to property law	10	C

Optional modules (20 credits)

Module	Title	Credits	Level
PS1BA2	Plant physiology and development	10	C
PS1BA1	Plant world	10	C
SS1C1	Soil use and management	10	C
LA1**	Language	10	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules (110 credits)

Module	Title	Credits	Level
AP2A26	Forestry and woodlands	10	I
PS2BC5	Ecological aspects of environmental assessment	10	I
PS2HC4	Amenity Turf Management	10	I
PS2HL3	Landscape management and field course	10	I
PS2HJ4	The contemporary British landscape	10	I
PS2HL4	Landscape design	10	I
PS2AC4	Career management and transferable skills	10	I
PS2HM4	Landscape management software	10	I
PS2HL5	Planting design	10	I
PS2HJ5	Landscape specification	10	I
PS2HM5	Landscape management plans	10	I

Optional modules (10 credits)

Module	Title	Credits	Level
PS2AB5	Crop pests and integrated crop protection	10	I
PS2HD4	Crop disease and its control	10	I
PS2NA4	Introduction to history and philosophy of science	10	I
PS2AB4	Weed biology and control	10	I

Sandwich year (three terms)

Module	Title	Credits	Level
PS3HL6	Sandwich year preparation (end of term 6)		I
PS25JK	Sandwich year		I

Note: the Sandwich Year is assessed on a pass/fail basis, thus while it counts towards progression to Part 3, it does not count towards the final degree classification.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules (90 credits)

Module	Title	Credits	Level
PS3HJ7	Landscape management systems	10	H
PS3HN7	Landscape ecology and land reclamation	10	H
PS3HLB	Special study in landscape management	40	H
PS3HJ8	Landscape management techniques	10	H
PS3HL8	Professional practice in landscape management	10	H
PS3HM7	Community and landscape	10	H

Optional modules (30 credits)

Module	Title	Credits	Level
Any other PS3 module		10	H
Free choice		20	C,I or H

Progression requirements

Part 1

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and at least 40% in *Principles of Landscape Management 1*.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2 and to have successfully completed, or have received exemption (on the basis of prior experience) from, the Sandwich Year.

Part 2 contributes one third of the overall assessment and Part 3 the remaining two thirds. In order to be eligible for Honours, students must gain an overall weighted average of 40% and must gain at least 40% in the project module.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is organised in modules, which may involve lectures, practicals, tutorials, project work or any combination of these approaches. Assessment methods depend on teaching methods and expected learning outcomes for each module.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

UCAS Tariff: 220 points, biology, environmental sciences or geography required at A level

International Baccalaureat: 27 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: Acceptable

Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level

Admissions Tutor: Dr R. W. Cameron

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Career prospects

Recent graduates have gained employment as landscape technical officers in local authorities, with landscape contractors and in private practice, the National Trust and conservation organisations. Some have gone on to research degrees and to postgraduate courses in Landscape Design and Planning. A small minority have chosen non-landscape careers such as teaching, general management and accountancy.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Socrates/Erasmus links, especially with France but also with other European countries enable students to study abroad. The compulsory sandwich year in Landscape Management allows students to work in professionally based placements in Britain, the rest of Europe and elsewhere.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to produce technically and professionally competent landscape managers and to equip students with the generic transferable skills to enter the wider graduate career market should they so wish.

It also aims to maintain professional accreditation of the programme by the Landscape Institute. In particular students will be able to:

- recognise the components of a particular landscape
- assess the significance of a landscape in historical, ecological and cultural terms
- use the technical knowledge derived from individual modules in the programme to evaluate options for sensitive management of the landscape.
- develop an appropriate management strategy.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:
the fundamental concepts and techniques of landscape management in the UK including:

1. the evolution of the landscape and the geological/ecological processes influencing that evolution.
2. the historical development of designed landscapes and the major influences shaping that development.
3. the principal components (especially vegetation) of natural and cultural landscapes, their characteristics and management.
4. the development of the landscape profession and current directions in professional practice.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
The knowledge base is developed through formal lectures, seminars, practical classes and visits. There is considerable emphasis throughout the programme on application of acquired knowledge in practical exercises and projects as a means of reinforcing the knowledge base.

Assessment
Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework (including oral presentations) and unseen final examinations. The dissertation plays a significant part in final assessment.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

1. think logically
2. define, analyse and solve problems
3. organise tasks into a structured form
4. understand the evolving state of knowledge and appreciate the balance between knowledge and judgement.
5. transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one aspect of the subject to another.
6. plan, conduct and write a report on an independent project.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The programme is structured around the relationship between design (as a logical process for developing an end product) and management (as a system for realising, evaluating, monitoring and revising the product) so all aspects 1-6 are integral to the programme.

In several practical exercises (including the module in Landscape Management Plans) students are required not only to organise tasks but to analysis and report on their approach to those tasks and its effectiveness.

Assessment

1-6 are assessed directly and indirectly throughout the programme but especially in Landscape Design, Landscape Management and Practical Horticulture modules. 4 is assessed in Principles of Landscape Management; 5 and 6 are assessed specifically in Landscape Management Plans and in the Special Study.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. carry out a range of practical horticultural operations.
2. undertake a simple land survey, prepare a site analysis and formulate and present design proposals for small-scale landscape projects.
3. prepare a landscape management plan to a professionally competent standard.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Practical skills are taught in Part 1 and Part 2 practical classes. Surveying, landscape analysis and design are taught in lectures, practicals and project work in Part 2. Also in Part 2 students work with a landscape manager in private practice to produce and present a landscape management plan.

Assessment

1 is assessed in practical classes and through the practical notebook. 2 is assessed in several Part 2 modules especially Landscape Design, Planting Design and Environmental Assessment. 3 is assessed specifically in Landscape Management Plans (in Part 2).

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. use IT for general (word-processing, spread sheet and data processing) and professional (CAD) purposes.
2. use numerical skills.
3. use library and other information resources.
4. use verbal and graphic skills in presentations.
5. work as part of a team.
6. manage time effectively.
7. plan their career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The Management and Transferable Skills module (Part 2) including the Career Management Skills (CMS) sub-module deals specifically with all these facets. 1 is taught specifically in Part 1 (Computing) and Part 2 (Landscape Software); 2 is incorporated in Practical Horticulture (Part 1), Landscape Specifications (Part 2). 3 is taught in CMS. 4 and 5 are taught specifically in the Presentation Skills component of Management and Transferable Skills and in Landscape Design but are also addressed in the majority of modules taught by the Horticulture and Landscape Department. An understanding of the importance of time management is developed by working on projects of increasing complexity to strict deadlines. 7 is addressed in the CMS sub-module, through the Personal and Academic Record system, in the Part 3 Professional Practice module and through the planning, experience and critical evaluation of the Sandwich Year.

Assessment

1 and 2 are assessed through coursework. 3 is assessed indirectly in seminar and report preparation and especially by the quality of the bibliography in the dissertation. 4 and 5 are assessed in several Part 2 modules. Attendance and punctuality are assessed in Part 1 Horticulture modules especially. Other aspects of time management are not assessed specifically but are needed for the successful outcome of most project work, in essay preparation and in examinations. 7 is assessed through preparatory and evaluative reports on the sandwich year.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.