RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture: FAQ’s

Q1. How is the qualification awarded?
A. The qualification is subject to continuous assessment which is itself subject to internal and external verification to ensure a common standard of teaching and knowledge is delivered across the UK. Practical tasks will be assessed by observation and other learning is assessed by short written tests completed in class or by short reports which can be completed at home.

Q2. How long is the course?
A. The course will run for 18 Saturdays between 10.00am and 4.30pm in a period running from the end of February to the middle of October. The schedule does allow some free weekends including those attached to Bank Holidays.

Q3. Do I need to have already studied at RHS Level 2?
A. This is not a requirement of the RHS but you would be well-advised to speak to our Education Administrator to discuss any additional reading that would be helpful to you.

Q4. What happens if I have to miss a week or two?
A. Any absence, anticipated or unforeseen, could result in delay to your completing the qualification and receiving your certificate. There is limited leeway to reschedule practical and written assessments on an individual basis during the course as the catch up sessions scheduled are to accommodate any re-sit requirements. Your missed assessments would be re-scheduled in due course but the taught element of the class would be lost.

Q5. Is a level of IT competency is required?
A. All work submitted for assessment can be handwritten. However the course is supported by an electronic Blackboard system where tutor notes and other communications are posted together with RHS policies (also available in hard copy in the study room) – registration on Blackboard requires you to have a personal email.

Q6. Is there any funding available towards course fees?
A. Fees for the course in 2016 are £1250.00 (including the RHS assessment fee) payable in advance of joining the course. There are no grants available but payment can be made in instalments by agreement so please ask about this.

Q7. What equipment will I need to provide?
A. All tools, plant material and a number of appropriate books are provided for your use are provided. You will need to furnish your own weather-appropriate clothing, protective footwear and gloves - you will be working outdoors most weeks as well as in the Botanic Garden’s Potting Shed and in an unheated glasshouse. We hope there will be times when you need sunscreen and a hat!

Q8. What level of fitness is required?
A. On enrolment you are asked to complete a confidential health questionnaire which will identify any conditions that need to be referred to an Occupational Health Advisor for guidance to ensure your well-being.