

# Master of Horticulture (RHS)

## Prospectus 2011



**The Master of Horticulture is the Royal Horticultural Society's most** prestigious professional qualification. Instituted in 1983, it succeeded the long established and highly regarded National Diploma in Horticulture.

This degree level qualification is designated as a recognised award for the purposes of the Education Reform Act 1988, and holders of the award may use the designation MHort (RHS) after their name.

Designed for those already working within the profession, the modular structure allows for flexible self-study, normally over a period of three years, but with the possibility to spread study over up to five years to suit individual circumstances.

Students are supported in their study by access to an Academic Tutor, a Virtual Learning Environment and Module Workshops held at the RHS Garden Wisley.

The award of Master of Horticulture (RHS) is made following successful completion of the following eight modules:

### **Year 1**

- M-1 Amenity Horticulture
- M-2 Production Horticulture
- M-3 Operational Business Management

### **Year 2**

- M-4 Horticulture 1 – Choose one from:

M-4a Gardens and Designed Landscapes  
M-4b Urban Landscapes M-4c Production  
Horticulture

- M-5 Horticulture 2 – Choose one from:

M-5a World Horticulture  
M-5b Retail Horticulture  
M-5c The Edible  
Garden

- M-6 Strategic  
Management in  
Horticultural Business  
Environments

### **Year 3**

- M-7 Technical Competence Assessments
- M-8 Dissertation

This Module aims to examine issues relating to the provision, establishment and management of amenity land. Such land may be defined as land primarily used for recreation, pleasure, visual enhancement or environmental improvement rather than the production of economic crops. This land may be situated in either urban or rural areas, and specific issues associated with each will be considered.

## **M-2 Production Horticulture**

The Module requires candidates to develop an understanding of the interaction and influences on plant and crop production, which may occur as a result of management decisions and the range of environments and environmental conditions experienced.

## **M-3 Operational Business Management**

This module encompasses the external business environment and legal **context in which today's commercial** and amenity horticultural industry operates. It will address strategy, performance and administration as well as embrace the fundamentals of marketing and human resource management.

## **M-4 Horticulture 1 [Choose one from the following]**

### **M-4a Gardens and Designed Landscapes**

The Module will focus on designed landscapes, parks and gardens and their management and conservation. Protection measures such as legislation, the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, and the role of English Heritage and its equivalents will be examined. Applied management issues will include staffing (training schemes, skills, and volunteers), funding, research for restoration and new features, visitor management including visitor facilities and interpretation.

### **M-4b Urban Landscapes**

Over 80% of people live and work within towns and cities. Their experience of horticulture will be within this environment through parks and open spaces, with street trees and other areas such as riversides. This Module focuses on the design and management of green space within the urban environment. The aspects of provision in social, economic, environmental and political terms will be examined. The interaction between people and landscapes, and the implications this has for landscape managers will be considered. Technical issues of plant selection, establishment, and management underpin the whole module.

## **M-4c Production Horticulture**

The Module builds upon the Learning Outcomes in M-2 Production Horticulture as it embraces a wide range of issues that influence the production of horticultural crops in the context of European and global markets. It embraces edible and ornamental cropping systems utilising a range of practices including organic and integrated production systems.

## **M-5 Horticulture 2 [Choose one from the following]**

### **M-5a World Horticulture**

This module aims to ensure candidates gain an appreciation of the impact of horticulture globally in terms of health and well-being of both developed and developing nations, and to be aware of the current issues relating to global horticulture today. Comparative country studies will allow candidates to explore the wide ranging factors within selected countries to include location and politics, which may influence its horticultural significance both financially and socially. The transference of skills, knowledge, technology and products globally, and the impact on people and the environment, will then be analysed to give an overall understanding of the opportunities and issues within horticultural production and global development.

### **M-5b Retail Horticulture**

The module examines the skills required to retail plants and complementary horticultural product to the general public. Three critical areas for the developing manager are:

- Practical technical skills associated with buying, holding and selling retail stock.
- Interactive people skills with colleagues, customers and suppliers
- Integrated technology skills including EPOS sales systems, multi-channel marketing and social networking sites.

### **M-5c The Edible Garden**

This module will look at the set-up and management of edible plant production within a variety of horticultural landscapes such as walled kitchen gardens, orchards, forest gardens and potagers. The module will explore the use of integrated pest management [IPM], companion planting, modern and traditional methods of management and organic production methods.

This Module will build upon the learning undertaken in M-3. The Module will address the significance of effective management of organizations. It develops an understanding of the ways in which such organisations are influenced by the attitudes and behaviour of their members and clients, and how these in turn impact upon organisational effectiveness. The Module will equip candidates with the tools necessary for effective management. Candidates will be expected to have read widely in the field of organisational theory, and to bring critical faculties to bear on what is read.

The Module will also embrace the needs of commercial and not-for-profit organisations to focus on their markets and market relationships. The Module will emphasise the strategic aspects of marketing of relevance to managers, as well as providing an appreciation of the tasks that can be effectively undertaken by marketing specialists.

### **M-7 Technical Competence Assessments**

The Module aims to further develop the student's management and analytical skills, with an emphasis on an assessment and interpretation of situations and problem solving. The Module offers candidates the opportunity to demonstrate a well-informed broad perspective of those issues facing the industry as a whole, as well as on technical challenges and real-life situations. Assessments take place over two days at the RHS Garden Wisley.

### **M-8 Dissertation**

The objective of this Module is a substantial and in depth exploration of an issue related to a specific area within horticulture. The Module provides candidates with an opportunity to research a current and relevant issue. It will allow a candidate to develop and demonstrate their ability to research, investigate, analyse and contextualise, as well as to communicate.

The assessment process is via two Tutor Marked Assignments [TMA's] for each of the Modules M-1, M-2 & M-3 and via two TMA's and a two hour written examination for each of the modules M-4, M-5 & M-6. The Technical Competence Assessments for M-7 require attendance for two days, at the RHS Garden Wisley. Finally there is the production of a dissertation [M-8] for which candidates will also be required to attend an oral examination.

## **Entry Requirements**

A requirement of entry is that candidates have at least four years of work experience in a professional horticultural environment, one of which should be in a supervisory role or a position of relevant responsibility, as well as qualifications in horticulture, such as the RHS Level 3 Diploma or National Diploma.

Equivalent qualifications will be accepted, and interested candidates are advised to contact RHS Qualifications to discuss their qualifications and experience.

## **Fees**

Fees are given in the separate **Schedule of Fees**. Fees are payable in advance for each module and cover access to the Virtual Learning Environment, Academic Tutor support, attendance at a module workshop and all assessments.

## **Contact Us**

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