



Waterford Institute *of* Technology
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LÁIRGE

www.wit.ie/wd096



BSc in Horticulture (Waterford – Kildalton College)

Level 7



What is the BSc in Horticulture?

This is a three year Level 7 course designed to train you to work as a professional horticulturist. With our partners Teagasc, Kildalton College, we will train you to ensure you can use your scientific knowledge, technical and business skills to make innovative decisions in your future career as a Horticulturist.

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Why is Horticulture important?

Horticulture plays an important role in many people's lives. Everything from the golf course and parks you enjoy, the fresh fruit and vegetables you buy, the plants in the garden centre, and flowers for a bouquet are all managed or produced by horticulturists. The Horticultural industry needs technically skilled people who can respond to the demands of this expanding industry.

What subjects will I study?

In **year 1** the focus is on learning core horticultural skills and the science which underpins them. In **year 2** you can specialise in a specific area of horticulture by selecting one major elective from the following: Landscape Design, Nursery Stock Production, Sustainable Food Production, Sportsturf Science, Lab Skills for Plant Micropropagation.* In **year 3** you will research an area of interest to you using our extensive research facilities. Along with our horticultural business subjects you can pick another major elective from the choice in year 2 and two minor electives from a comprehensive list which includes, Greenkeeping, Fruit Production, Arboriculture, Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, and Beekeeping and Pollination Studies*.

*Choice available may vary from year to year

What are the unique features of your course?

Our collaboration with Kildalton College, Piltown allows you to benefit from the skills and expertise of Teagasc staff. You will study the laboratory based scientific modules and the business modules on the WIT main campus. We provide transport to Kildalton for your horticulture based modules, allowing you access to extensive glasshouses, orchards and grounds.

In year 2 you will spend a semester on placement with a registered employer either in Ireland or abroad. This is an opportunity for you to see and practice the key horticultural skills you have learnt in college. Teagasc has links with Ohio State University's Horticulture Internship Programme and every year some of WIT's Hort students travel abroad on placements in the UK, Europe and the USA.

Graduates of the course are deemed to have achieved the equivalent of the 'Green Cert' for Stamp Duty exemption or land transfer for young farmers. In addition, graduates are eligible to register with DAFM as Professional Users of Pesticides.

If you would like to improve an older Hort qualification, or upskill in a specific area of horticulture, it may be possible to study certain modules. Please contact the Programme Leader to discuss entry requirements, and the opportunities open to you.

What career opportunities will I have?

The industry constantly needs trained, skilled and knowledgeable Horticulturists. With our degree you could become a:

- Greenkeeper – maintaining golf courses, sports fields and stadia
- Nursery Stock Producer – producing plants for the horticulture industry
- Craft Gardener in public parks, private or heritage gardens
- Self-Employed Landscape Contractor
- Independent Landscape Designer
- Garden Maintenance Contractor
- Food Producer
- Garden Centre Owner/Manager
- Horticulture Teacher
- Horticultural Therapist

Further training opens up opportunities to be a Horticulture Science Researcher working on problems in plant science, pathology, or plant/insect interactions.

What follow on study options are available?

After year 3 you could transfer into BSc (Hons) in Land Management (Horticulture) **WD158**.

After completing a level 8 you will be eligible to apply for postgraduate programmes.



What do students say about the course?

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at WIT and it gave me a good grounding in practical horticulture, supported by in-depth theory. Through my design business I got an opportunity to lecture in Landscape Design and I am currently coordinator for a FETAC horticulture training course with 20 students."

Gerard Mullen, BSc Hort., BA Hon. Design

Pictured left: Gerard Mullen's Gold Medal Winning Bloom Garden

Entry Requirements

Leaving Certificate:

5 subjects: O6/H7; English or Irish: O6/H7

Mathematics: O6/H7

If you are mature student (over 23) you don't need Leaving Certificate points.

How do I apply?

To enter into year 1 you apply through the CAO system, www.cao.ie. Course Code: **WD096**

If you have a FETAC level 5 and 6 qualifications in Horticulture, you could apply for entry into year 2. Contact the Programme Leader for further information.

What points are required?

You can check the current CAO points on our webpage www.wit.ie/wd096

For further information contact

WIT by emailing schoolsliasion@wit.ie or calling **051 845533**.

Programme Leader:

Dr. Cara T. Daly **E:** cdaly@wit.ie **T:** 051 302076

Or visit our programme website www.wit.ie/wd096



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