

RBGE as an Academic Institution

As part of its mission "To explore, conserve and explain the world of plants for a better future", the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) undertakes a large amount of research and education. It provides a diverse range of formal and informal education programmes for people of all ages and at all levels, from primary school to HND, BSc, MSc and PhD.

Software and similar suppliers frequently require evidence of the academic status of an institution in order to provide the correct licensing and fulfilment mechanisms. A typical requirement is to show that the institution is "An academic or vocational institution accredited by the applicable governmental regulatory agency in the country in which the educational institution has its principal offices." (Microsoft, 2011)

For RBGE, the applicable Scottish Government legislation is **The Education (Listed Bodies) (Scotland) Order 2007** and is available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2007/558/contents/made>. The schedule shows RBGE as a listed educational body in the eyes of Scottish Ministers. There is also an explanatory note (page 22) which describes the purpose of the list.

A PDF version of the Scottish legislation is available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2007/558/pdfs/ssi_20070558_en.pdf

A similar list is published by the (UK Government's) Department for Business Innovation and Skills (<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/higher-education/recognised-uk-degrees/listed-bodies>). This 'listed bodies' list defines "All those institutions or bodies, which for the time being, deliver courses that lead to degrees awarded by Recognised Bodies."

A PDF version of the UK legislation is available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/2993/pdfs/uksi_20132993_en.pdf

At a technical level, JANET is the academic network managed by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and which itself manages ac.uk domain names (see <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/about>). RBGE holds the domain name rbge.ac.uk, so recognising its status as an educational institution.