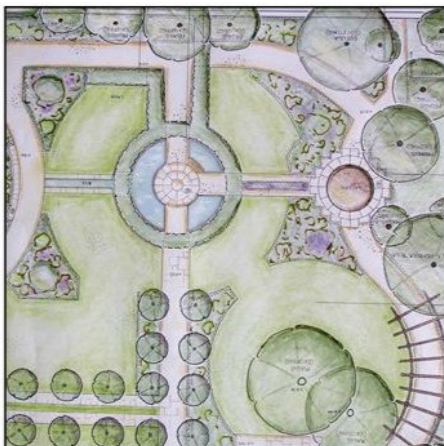




Royal  
Botanic Garden  
Edinburgh

# RBGE Diploma in Garden Design 2018-19



Welcome to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), and thank you for requesting further information on the RBGE Diploma in Garden Design.

We are delighted that you are considering joining our course and embarking on a professional career in Garden Design. Our tutors are practicing designers and fully appreciate the need for a strong grounding in the art and principles of design as well as a practical application to fully appreciate the subject.

This is a fantastic place to be a student - a world-renowned centre for horticultural and botanical training and research. We have superb resources, the jewel in the crown being our living collections: over 15,000 species of plants growing across our four gardens. Perhaps even more important for our students, though, is the expertise of our staff. The Diploma course offers students expert input and tuition from specialists in garden design as well as botany and horticulture. This includes learning support and practical-led experience in the garden and its nursery, as well as visiting other sites. The opportunity to study in and behind the scenes at RBGE is an enjoyable and rewarding one for all our students.

This handbook introduces you to the RBGE Diploma in Garden Design. I hope it answers all your questions, but please don't hesitate to contact the Education Office (details on page 7) if you have any further queries.

We look forward to receiving your application!

**RBGE Education Team**

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## **1. Introduction**

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) offers this two-year intensive Diploma in Garden Design as part of its world-acclaimed education portfolio.

Intense tuition, group and self-directed learning with a combination of lectures, practical training and project work will develop you into a well-rounded, creative and confident garden designer. Being at RBGE gives you access to one of the best collections of plants in the world, so it is the perfect opportunity to really hone your palette of plants. The projects will take you through the conception, design and build of gardens, making complete case studies where you'll pick up a huge range of skills to apply to your own careers.

The course takes place one weekend a month through the first year, with occasional weekends and home-project delivery in year 2. The weekend sessions are held in the beautiful surroundings of the RBGE, with site visits to gardens, and nurseries.

The main design elements of the course will be undertaken by qualified professional garden designers, plus input from experienced RBGE tutors and guest lecturers. Together, they provide a unique, comprehensive and well-balanced course for anyone wishing to pursue garden design as a professional career.

The course provides sound knowledge of the theory and practice of garden design, planting design, construction theory, presentation, contract administration, business management, and the construction of a show garden.

We hope you will join us for a very stimulating, creative and enjoyable course.

## **2. Course Philosophy**

To give students a solid grounding in the theory and practice of Garden Design, and apply this to designing 'real gardens'. We want students to feel confident when using these skills in a professional environment, and place particular emphasis on how to use plants to their fullest.

### **3. Objectives**

- To develop students' skills in design, presentation and communication.
- To educate students in the key elements in garden design; hard landscaping, horticulture and project management which are all important in working life.
- To increase their plant knowledge, benefitting from the plant use and combinations in the surrounding Botanic Garden.

### **4. Programme Structure and Content**

Although we work within a structured format, we encourage students to explore ideas in order to develop their own style and approach. Our first class professional training covers all aspects of garden design: creative, technical, horticultural and business.

The two year course is run on monthly weekends in Year 1, and occasional weekends in Year 2 plus home study. Each weekend is divided up into sessions with a mix of lectures and practical studio work, including regular sessions on plant knowledge throughout the course.

Assessment and feedback will be given throughout the course to ensure each student develops to their full potential with any weaknesses being addressed effectively. Class sizes are limited to 15 to allow plenty of opportunity for one-to-one teaching.

Refreshments are provided during morning and afternoon break. Lunch is not provided but can be obtained in the Terrace Café or students can bring their own food.

## 5. Course Tutor

### Phillippa (Pip) Probert



After training in Edinburgh and Wales, Garden Designer Pip Probert started creating gardens in 2005, when she set up a successful design business. Her first RHS Show Garden was built that year at the Tatton Park Flower Show introducing Pip into the world of horticulture and since then her design business 'Outer Spaces' has gone from strength to strength. She has built 16 RHS Garden Exhibits at various shows including Chelsea Flower Show, Malvern Spring Flower Show, Tatton Park Flower Show, and RHS/BBC Gardeners World Live. Each of these exhibits has been built to a high standard of design, construction and planting skill. All have been awarded an RHS Medal ranging from Bronze to Gold.

Over the last few years Pip has worked with the BBC and the RHS in various different media, from taking part in a range of garden programmes such as Passion for Plants, to giving gardening advice on Tatton FM, and BBC Radio Merseyside on a regular basis. Pip writes a blog for the RHS in reference to her Show Gardens on-going projects and gives talks and presentations at various RHS seminars and events.

Although mostly working on private projects, Pip designs gardens of all types and styles and prides herself on her planting schemes. Garden designs for public spaces include Ness Botanical Gardens and Liverpool Hope University.

### Additional Tutors

#### RBGE staff and associate tutors

RBGE has many qualified and experienced members of the horticultural and botanical staff involved with teaching and tutoring on the course. Much focus, as you would expect, is devoted to learning about plants and one of the key features of the course is that many of the staff at RBGE are horticulturists of international standing. Their expertise and contribution to the course provides a most valuable opportunity for students to learn at first hand.

In addition we have a number of excellent guest specialists from all over the country who deliver sessions on the course.

## 6. Entry Requirements

No formal qualifications or prior experience in design are needed to enrol in the course, just a keen interest in, and enthusiasm for, garden design and a willingness to commit time and effort.

## 7. Application Procedure

An application form can be found at the back of this handbook. This should be completed and returned to:

Education Department (Dip GD)  
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh  
20A Inverleith Row  
Edinburgh  
EH3 5LR

Potential students will be invited to attend an interview before a place can be offered. Successful applicants will be informed in writing and asked to pay a non-refundable deposit of £500 to confirm their place.

**The deadline for applications is Monday 18th December 2017.**

## 8. Course Costs

Tuition fees: Fees for the Diploma 2018/19 session are £4,500. These are non-refundable and must be paid in full by the start of the course as follows:

- £500 on acceptance of place on the course
- £4,000 2 weeks before the start of the course

Alternatively payment by instalments throughout the first year is available by request.

Example:

- £500 on acceptance of place on the course
- £2,000 due before the start of the course
- £1,000 due in May 2018
- £1,000 due in September 2018

Materials: The lecture room is equipped with drawing boards but students will be expected to provide all other equipment for class work and home study. The list of equipment required will be discussed on the first day of term which may cost in the region of £550 depending on your individual requirements.

## 9. Course Duration and Term Dates 2018 - 2019

Classes are run on weekends approximately once a month from 9.00am - 5.00pm (4pm on Sundays), one weekend a month throughout the whole year. In year 1 there are 11 weekends to attend, and in Year 2 there are 8 weekends plus home study time and building of the Show Garden for Gardening Scotland (usually the last weekend in May or first weekend in June).

YEAR 1		YEAR 2
<b>Weekend 1</b>	20-21 January 2018	<p>1 weekend per month</p> <p>Starting: 13-14 October 2018</p> <p>Finishing: June 2019</p> <p>Exact dates to be confirmed.</p>
<b>Weekend 2</b>	10-11 February 2018	
<b>Weekend 3</b>	3-4 March 2018	
<b>Weekend 4</b>	24-25 March 2018	
<b>Weekend 5</b>	28-29 April 2018	
<b>Weekend 6</b>	19-20 May 2018	
<b>Weekend 7</b>	9-10 June 2018	
<b>Weekend 8</b>	30 June - 1 July 2018	
<b>Weekend 9</b>	21-22 July 2018	
<b>Weekend 10</b>	1-2 September 2018	
<b>Weekend 11</b>	22-23 September 2018	

*\*These dates may be subject to slight change*



## **10. Course Content 2018 - 2019**

### **DESIGN PRINCIPLES I & II**

The main core Design Principles lectures are covered in these sessions along with Drawing Skills, Surveying, Site Assessment and History of Garden Design.

Main subjects taught:

- Gaining a client brief, customer requirements, key questions and site analysis.
- Surveying the site, taking measurements and recording information.
- Drawing skills and use of equipment, learning how to create a technical plan. Preliminary diagrams of the existing plot.
- Design principles; learning how to design.
- Moodboards and concept drawings, converted into basic plans.
- Garden history and the major influences on our gardens now.

### **UNDERSTANDING PLANTS**

- Plant classification; soil types, requirements and availability
- Plant identification walk-rounds and the creation of a Plant Diary
- Some practical horticultural elements will be discussed

### **LANDSCAPING & DESIGN**

We continue to develop drawing skills and introduce construction as the main element in these sessions. The principles of planting design are taught in conjunction with three dimensional views.

Main subjects taught:

- Design styles and themes; and the features, materials, and plant types that distinguish them.
- Garden Features; ponds, decking, walls, furniture etc.
- Developing the design plan and technical drawing; sections and construction details for hard landscaping elements.
- Three dimension design; isometric and axonometric projections.
- Planting plans; use, functional and visual aspects and combinations.
- Planting design including shape, balance, colour and texture.
- One point perspective.

## **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

Career and business development are the focus for these sessions.

Main subjects taught:

- Career Day with presentation and Q & A sessions with professionals within the industry
- Plant Selection and Procurement - sourcing plants and materials, suppliers and getting the best deal
- Project delivery - transferring design from paper into the ground
- Business documentation; specifications, risk assessments.
- Sources for advice on planning law and legislation applied to outdoor spaces.
- Sample contracts, writing specifications and preparing fee estimates.
- Setting up in business, marketing and insurance.

## **11. Projects & Assessment**

There are three major design projects in addition to continuous assessment and plant identification tests throughout the course.

### **Year 1**

#### **Design Project 1**

A survey and design project. Assessing an RBGE site, recording the findings. You will be required to produce a site plan of the existing plot, and complete a written report of the site analysis. You will then use this to design a small plot within the grounds of RBGE. This project will require full design drawings, from site survey through to moodboards and a layout drawing. (Design description and notes to accompany plans).

#### **Design Project 2**

This project will be based on a real garden, with real site issues. All skills obtained in the sessions will be utilised; further design drawings, sections and construction details.

Work undertaken includes surveying, site analysis, design progression; mood boards through to design plan, elevations, axonometric drawings. Basic planting suggestions, construction drawings, specification and administration.

In addition, students are required to complete other work:

- A report on the history of gardens covering a chosen period.
- A hard landscaping portfolio of design analysis and construction drawings.
- A soft landscaping portfolio incorporating plant identification, design analysis and plant combinations.
- Produce a Plant Diary

## **YEAR 2**

### **Design Project 3**

The second year of this course will consist of project based learning and onsite, practical experience. This project involves the design of a proposed garden for 'Gardening Scotland' and you will prepare all the relevant documents including; (surveying and analysis will be 'tailored' to suite the design) design progression; mood boards through to design plan, elevations, axonometric drawings. Planting plans, construction drawings, specification, schedule of works and administration.

Each student will present their design to a panel of judges and their fellow students, who will select one design to be built at the 'Gardening Scotland' show by the whole student group.

Students will be required to find sponsorship and funding for the garden.

Once on site, students will be required to work on the garden constructing the chosen design. They will be marked on their approach to the jobs given, team work, and transferral of knowledge from the classroom to a real life scenario.

Each student will be asked to complete a report on the construction of the show garden, highlighting factors that were successful, and things that could have been improved on.

## **12. Home Study**

Independent study is necessary to complete all projects to a high standard. A minimum of 15 hours per week are required depending on experience and qualifications.

## **13. Completion of Work**

All project work indicated above is included in the assessment of your final marks.

Successful students will be awarded the RBGE Diploma in Garden Design at Pass, Merit or Distinction.

## **14. Referral Procedure**

If an assignment receives a referral, the students will be given one opportunity, within a given timescale, to resubmit their project after receiving feedback on additional work required to bring their final project up to the necessary standard for a pass.

\* 'Referred' work may be resubmitted once after tutor comments but cannot receive a higher mark than a pass.

Please note that these bandings may be moderated before final awards are made.





## Application Form RBGE Diploma in Garden Design (DIP GD)

This is an application form for a place on the RBGE Diploma in Garden Design. It is not necessary for applicants to have previous qualifications or relevant experience, a strong interest is enough. Please fill in the form thoroughly. If your application is successful you may be invited for an interview.

**The deadline for applications is Monday 18th December 2017.**

Please send your completed form & deposit to:

Education Administrator (Dip GD)  
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh  
20a Inverleith Row  
Edinburgh  
EH3 5LR

### 1. Personal Details

Title Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Numbers:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: M / F (delete as appropriate) Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications (in brief)

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Professional Background

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What do you hope to gain from this course?

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Do you have any additional support needs? Please give details.

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Where did you hear about this course?

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For office use only:

Date application received			Reference Number		
Offered place	Yes / No	Date:	Place accepted	Yes / No	Date: