



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

RBGE Diploma in Garden History Blended Learning Course 2019-21



Chatsworth

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Helping you to explore the world of plants



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Frequently asked questions

When can I start?

The next online course begins on 8th March 2019

What is the format of the Course?

The course consists of five units. These are divided over four terms within the two-year duration of the course. Each unit consists of ten sessions and these sessions are made available to participants weekly throughout the terms. Alongside activities within each unit to support learning, a graded online quiz is provided at the end of each unit. Four assignments are set across the two years and these form the main assessments for the Diploma. The attended study blocks provide an opportunity to meet course colleagues and tutors as well as take part in some focussed learning. We also provide suggested reading lists. An average of four to five hours study each week is recommended to complete the course.

Do I need any prior knowledge of garden history?

No experience of the topic is necessary. The course is set at first year degree level and is very accessible for interested students.

What do I need?

You will need a computer with reliable online access with a connection capable of streaming videos and downloading documents. Most resources will be compatible with a tablet. An up-to-date browser is the main piece of software you will need along with a PDF viewer e.g. Adobe Reader for viewing notes. We recommend Google Chrome and Firefox as the browsers most compatible with PropaGate.

To brush up on any computer skills please use the Digital Skills Check which can be found at onlinecourses.rbge.ac.uk. This will help you to make the most of your online course.

This course will involve navigating around web-pages, viewing resources, viewing videos, participating in online forums and uploading photographs and assignments. Help is always at hand from our PropaGate Learning Team!

What support is available?

Online technical and tutor support will be available via the discussion forums in the course and at the attended study blocks.

What is the course fee?

The RBGE Diploma in Garden History course fee is £2,500.

How do I apply?

Please apply using the form at the end of the course Handbook. You will be sent a payment link if your application has been accepted.

A note from the Course Director

Welcome to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's Diploma in Garden History. Thank you for taking an interest in this course.

Since the founding of The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) in 1670 there have been profound changes in the layout of British gardens and the plants used to design them. The RBGE has played a seminal role in increasing the number of plants available to the gardener and the advancement of horticultural techniques required to successfully cultivate them. The Garden has been associated with the work of some of the most famous botanists, plant collectors and horticulturists including John Hope, George Forrest and David Douglas to name but a few. These, and more recent individuals, have left an incredibly rich botanical and horticultural legacy. The educational history stretches back as far as the origins of the institution; indeed, it was the desperate need for education that drove the founding of the Garden in order to improve the state of medicine in Edinburgh. It is therefore highly appropriate that the RBGE should be a centre for education in the history of gardening and horticulture.

For me, the study of the development of any subject clarifies and aids understanding of the present, and provides a context for current actions. It also allows informed consideration and evaluation of past activities in the light of today's knowledge. This should also place us in a stronger position to make informed decisions for the future. We are now, more than ever, required to consider those elements of the practice of horticulture and botany that can be legitimately sustained. Preservation of historical accuracy versus environmental responsibility will be a recurring topic for discussion and debate during our journey through the history of gardens and gardening. The conservation of some historic structures and materials now has to be balanced against the need to reduce the usage of resources that are now threatened or inefficient in energy consumption.

As works of art, gardens and designed landscapes are perhaps the most vulnerable and subject to change yet they have played an important role as a reference for, and expression of our national identity.

I do hope that you find that this Handbook explains all you wish to know about the course and answers all questions that you may have.

Phil Lusby,
Course Director

Introduction

The history of gardens and gardening stretches back to the beginnings of human civilisation where the first evidence of ornamental planting is difficult to separate from the practices of agriculture and growing plants for medicine. Defining exactly what constitutes a garden continues to occupy the thoughts of academic garden historians today. Changes and differences in garden design and practice throughout history result from a wide range of causes among which are political and religious belief, perception of the relationship between art and nature, and concerns regarding the interaction between buildings, gardens and the countryside. Added to these is the steady increase in influence of new plants introduced mainly over the last four centuries through botanical exploration and plant breeding and selection.

The subject of garden history is therefore very wide and although this course has a broad compass, selection of the main topics is necessary. Geographically, the main context is British garden history but as the development of our gardens has been profoundly affected by European influences these must be considered; indeed a module devoted to Italian gardens emphasizes their particular importance.

A main aim of this course is to provide a firm foundation of knowledge in the discipline and to stimulate the student to explore further branches of the subject. We also hope to present a context in which to link existing knowledge and encourage interest in the history of the related fields of art, architecture and botany.

If you have further questions after reading this handbook you can contact us using the details below:

Education Department
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
20a Inverleith Row
Edinburgh
EH3 5LR

0131 248 2937
education@rbge.org.uk

Course tutors

Philip Lusby MBE



Phil is the Course Director and Senior Lecturer in Horticulture and Botany at RBGE. Phil worked and studied horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. His interest in garden history was stimulated whilst maintaining the Queen's Garden, a recreation of a seventeenth century garden at Kew. After completing the Kew Diploma and graduating in botany at Aberdeen he worked as a botanical surveyor in the Nature Conservancy Council and then returned to horticulture in 2000 when he joined the education department of RBGE as a lecturer. Garden history had been an intended subject for many years in horticultural education at RBGE and Phil was able to realise this during a major course re-structure in 2005. The subject is now an integral part of the BSc Horticulture with Plantsmanship course and several successful short courses have been run as evening classes within the RBGE Adult Education Programme. The RBGE Diploma in Garden History builds on this foundation with the intention of providing an exciting and fulfilling programme of study.

Johanna Lausen-Higgins



Johanna has worked at several historic gardens across Britain including The Lost Gardens of Heligan where she tended the Victorian pineapple pit. After completing a BSc (Hons) in Horticulture at RBGE and an MA in Garden History at the University of Bristol Johanna joined the Education team at RBGE where she teaches on a number of different courses. Her special interests include the history of fruit growing, the historical cultivation of pineapples, and Renaissance gardens.

She has published on various garden historical topics such as the grotto of the animals at Villa Castello, Florence and the eighteenth century botanic garden once situated on Leith Walk in Edinburgh.

Entry requirements

No specific formal qualifications are necessary for admission onto the course. There will be an introductory session on elements of botanical terminology and plant classification and naming (nomenclature).

Further supplementary material and key references will be available on RBGE's online learning environment, PropaGate Learning which will be the main forum for this course.

No previous knowledge about garden history is required. Nevertheless, those with botanical and/or horticultural backgrounds will be more familiar with some concepts whilst students with previous historical knowledge will be able to appreciate the changes in garden design and gardening in a wider context.

You will need a computer with reliable online access with a connection capable of streaming videos and downloading documents. Most resources will be compatible with a tablet. An up-to-date browser is the main piece of software you will need along with a PDF viewer e.g. Adobe Reader for viewing notes. We recommend Google Chrome and Firefox as the browsers most compatible with PropaGate.

This course will involve navigating around web-pages, viewing resources, viewing videos, participating in online forums and uploading photographs and assignments. Help is always at hand from our PropaGate Learning Team!

To brush up on any computer skills please use the Digital Skills Check which can be found at onlinecourses.rbge.ac.uk. This will help you to make the most of your online course.

For those with little experience and who wish to increase or progress their horticultural or botanical knowledge either prior to application or during the Diploma, one of the following courses run by the RBGE is recommended:

- RHS (Level 2) Horticulture
- The RBGE Certificate in Practical Horticulture
- Getting started with...Botany

Course aims

To provide a broad understanding and appreciation of the history and diversity of gardens including their importance to society and the issues and challenges for their conservation

To provide a sound knowledge of the changes in British garden design over time and the historical context for those changes

To provide the knowledge and skills to design gardens of specific historical periods using a selection of appropriate plants

To stimulate the student to study related historical subjects including art and architecture

To familiarise the student with some of the most important gardens of historical interest in Britain

To provide an insight into aspects of the origins and development of cultivation methods of selected plants and crops

To familiarise the student with period plants, their dates of introduction to Britain and their use in gardens

To recognise how the historical significance of gardens is evaluated and graded across Britain

Course contents

The course is divided into the following five Units:

1. History of British garden design
2. Italian gardens and their influence
3. Historical aspects of gardening
4. Victorian horticulture
5. Conservation of historic gardens and designed landscapes

1. History of British garden design

This is a comprehensive overview of gardens and garden design in Britain since the earliest evidence of Roman gardens to the late twentieth century. The characteristics of the changing design styles together with their designers will be studied and emphasis will be given to the multifarious reasons behind changes in design layouts.

The consideration of these often provides links to other related areas of history and will provide a basis for the student to explore these associated aspects. It is important for students to view the history of garden design in a wider historical context and wider reading and study will be encouraged.

This unit is considered as the foundation of the course and underpins the following more specialised topics which build upon and assume familiarity with the content of this one. It is therefore important that all students complete this unit before progressing any further in the course.



Iford Manor

2. Italian gardens and their influence

Influences on the design of gardens in Britain come from a number of geographic sources throughout history including The Middle East, Italy, France, Holland, Japan and, more debatably, China. It is, however, generally accepted that the most profound and recurring impact over the centuries has come from Italy. It seems that the British have always had an admiration and empathy for Italian gardens so the Italianate style of gardening has regularly surfaced to popularity and continues to do so.

This unit traces the development of Italian gardens from classical Roman times but focuses on the Renaissance gardens of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The layout, planting, and soft and hard landscape features will be considered as well as the contemporary perception of the function and meaning of Renaissance gardens. Many of these gardens carried variously challenging messages in their rich sculpture that invited visitors to decipher them.

The last part of this unit will consider how various influential designers interpreted Italian garden style within the design and construction of gardens in Britain from the seventeenth to the twentieth century.



Villa Lante

3. Historical aspects of gardening

The focus of this unit is the plants themselves. To keep this extremely broad subject within the scope of the course, a *selection* of historical garden features has been chosen for the study of their development. The unit will also survey the introduction of plants to Britain, how they were used in garden design, and how new plants stimulated the progress of horticultural techniques in order to grow them successfully. It is in this unit that the student will be introduced to some of the most important plant explorers and the challenges they faced in bringing back plants that, these days, we cannot imagine being without or, perhaps, just take for granted.

Knowledge of the date of introduction of plants to our country is important for the accurate choice of plants for the restoration, re-creation or re-construction of gardens of specific historic periods. Through garden visits both at RBGE and elsewhere, students will have the chance to compile an illustrated portfolio of plants arranged chronologically by their date of introduction. This will provide a very useful future reference source for historically accurate planting plans. The issues relating to the accurate use of plants that relate to the period of the garden (so-called 'period plants') will also be explored in this unit. Some plants, of course, first fashionable and cherished by some of the most eminent gardeners, now cause great problems in the natural environment through their too efficient dispersal and subsequent escape from gardens to out-compete native species and alter more natural vegetation. This issue will be further explored in the 'Conservation of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes' unit.



Hestercombe

4. Victorian horticulture

It is entirely arguable that any period of garden history may deserve more detailed scrutiny than an overview may provide, so in any course of study choices must be made.

Here, Victorian horticulture has been chosen for closer consideration as it is a particularly complicated (but not always tasteful!) period. It is characterised by intense debate, innovation and variation of gardening styles fuelled by the full effects of the Industrial Revolution. Coupled with this, the great increase in plant introduction into gardens increased the influence of plants alone to drive change in garden design and fashion.

In this unit we select the development and achievements of important and influential people and the effects of their garden styles to explore in some detail. Because the Victorian period is comparatively recent, a greater number of examples of both garden features and structures survive so it provides greater opportunities to study these at first hand. Towards the end of the period intense argument and debate regarding the perception of the quintessential English garden became the focus of a great crisis of national identity in England. The balanced compromise of formal and naturalistic approaches to garden design (exemplified by the work of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens) provided the solution and resulted in some of the most cherished gardens of today and a genre of gardening that carried on through the twentieth century.



Newby Hall

5. Conservation of gardens and designed landscapes

This module is necessarily placed as the last in the Diploma programme and is perhaps the most testing. This is because it is the most applied. Real proficiency in the area requires a familiarity and knowledge of all the areas covered in this course and at least an appreciation of other closely allied land use interests that interact with the gardens and designed landscapes such as conservation of nature and biological diversity.

We will cover the methods, techniques and evidence required for the evaluation of our heritage gardens and landscapes as well as the processes involved in the production of conservation and management plans to best reconstruct, restore or perhaps preserve them in their present state for the future. This involves investigating the wide and varied documentary, archaeological and other information for the existence and development of gardens, and the possible pitfalls in attempting to establish from the evidence what was actually constructed.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of this discipline is in the field of garden restoration. Because of our very long and rich garden history, many of our most cherished sites exhibit several historical layers with some of the best examples of features belonging to different time periods. How do we choose the most important and most appropriate historical layer to restore? How do we reconcile and incorporate features of other eras or do we remove them in the interests of purism? This unit addresses such questions, provides the background for informed consideration but cannot claim to provide the perfect answers.

Finally, having made the best possible decisions based on historical interests and accuracy, how do we cope with the demands of today in terms of visitor numbers, especially if the garden is open to the public?



Hampton Court

Course structure

The duration of this online course is two years. Each year is divided into two terms: Spring/Early Summer and Autumn/Winter. As study for this course is largely independent, the timetable is provided to enable the student to progress through the course at an optimal pace for completion within the allotted time.

It is expected that students will read the notes for each topic including any further reading in order to keep to the unit timetables. Expected student study time per week is in the region of 4-5 hours which should be adequate for assignments and online activities.

Assignments and unit revision quizzes will be set in accordance with the suggested rate of course progression.

Tutorial guidance and online discussions are available throughout the course.

The attended study blocks give you an excellent opportunity to meet fellow students and tutors, and attend a stimulating series of lectures as well as visits to gardens and research institution whilst using RBGE as a base.

Garden study excursions

Some garden visits are scheduled during the attended study blocks to areas within easy reach of Edinburgh. Students are also required to see a range of gardens throughout the course within their locally accessible area.

Dates and times 2019–2021

Year 1

Term	Dates	Units
Spring/Early Summer	March - July 2019	1. History of British garden design
Autumn/Winter	September - December 2019	2. Italian gardens and their influence

Year 2

Term	Dates	Units
Spring /Early Summer	January - July 2020	3. Victorian Horticulture 4. Historical aspects of gardening
Autumn/Winter	September - December 2020	5. Conservation of gardens and designed landscapes

Dates and times outlined above are for guidance only, as students will progress through the course at different rates. Material for each unit will be available online from the relevant start date.

Attended study blocks schedule 2019–2021

All attended study blocks will take place on-site at RBGE with some visits to local sites of interest. Full details will be given following Registration to the course.

Some timings, topics and activities may alter but will be confirmed nearer the time.

Attended Study Block 1

Day	Times	Topic	Location
Friday 8 th March 2019	10.00 – 16.15	Landmarks in Garden History; Resources and Researching (1)	RBGE
Saturday 9 th March 2019	10.00 – 17.00	Resources and Researching (2); garden visit	RBGE
Sunday 10 th March 2019	10.00 – 15.45	Botanical nomenclature workshop; RBGE historical walk	RBGE

Attended Study Block 2

Day	Times	Topic	Location
Thursday 4 th July 2019	10.00 – 17.00	Research using maps & collections; Map regression walk	Meet at RBGE
Friday 5 th July 2019	10.00 – 16.30	Guest speaker; Period planting	RBGE

Attended Study Block 3

Day	Times	Topic	Location
Wednesday 24 th June 2020	10.00 – 17.00	Garden visit	Meet at RBGE
Thursday 25 th June 2020	10.00 – 17.00	Guest speaker; Tutorials/workshop activity	RBGE
Friday 26 th June 2020	10.00 – 16.30	Guest speaker; Tutorials/workshop activity	RBGE

Attended Study Block 4

Day	Times	Topic	Location
Friday 23 rd April 2021	10.00 – 17.00	Historical gardening practices I	Meet at RBGE
Saturday 24 th April 2021	10.00 – 16.00	Guest speaker; Historical gardening practices II	RBGE

Assessments

For the award of RBGE Diploma in Garden History, all five units must be successfully completed and all assessments passed by the end of August 2021 following the completion of the course.

Revision quizzes: There will be no 'closed-book' tests but for each unit there will usually be a short online quiz that will consist of short or multiple choice questions which must be completed before moving on to the next unit. These will go live at the end of each unit and the completion date is two weeks after the issue date. A map regression exercise will be set for the Conservation of Gardens and Designed Landscapes unit. The revision quizzes plus the map regression exercise will count for **10% of the Diploma**.

Garden history timeline: The compilation of a visual display of landmark events in garden history cross-referenced to other chosen subjects (for example political events, science, architecture, art, music). This enables garden historic events to be viewed in their chronological contexts at a glance. This assessment will be nominally linked to Unit 1. **15% of Diploma marks.**

Historic garden reports: This assignment requires the student to compile a report on three historic gardens, each of a different style and historic period. **25% of Diploma marks.**

Note: additionally, students will create blogs on three gardens of their choice to post on the class forum. Advice will be given about how this is done.

Portfolio of 'period' plants: A compendium of 30 plants to increase plant knowledge and provide the student with an appreciation of the range of plants available in historic periods, their dates of introduction, associated collectors, and their use in gardens. **20% of Diploma marks**

Specialist study on a topic of your choice: An illustrated essay of up to 3000 words that allows you to draw together your learning and interest in almost any aspect of garden history. It is also possible to link this essay into your plant portfolio or historic garden reports to produce a larger, thematic thesis. **30% of Diploma marks**

The Diploma will be awarded at Pass, Merit and Distinction levels; the thresholds for each grade are:

Referral	under 50%	Merit	60 – 74%
Pass	50 – 59%	Distinction	over 75%

For all assessments a maximum of three attempts are allowed (1st, 2nd and re-sit).

Prizes

Each year there will be awarded The Brian Halliwell Prize for the best 'Period Plant Portfolio'. This prize is sponsored by Brian Halliwell, a highly respected horticulturist who worked at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and subsequently at Kew where he was Assistant Curator of the Alpine and Herbaceous Department for over 20 years. He has been widely consulted in relation to garden restoration and has a passionate interest and belief in the use of plants of the period for historic garden restoration and creation projects.

There is also a RBGE Prize for the top student of the course.

The Gardens Trust Membership

The Gardens Trust was formed in 2015 following the merger of The Garden History Society (founded in 1966) and the Association of Gardens Trusts in England. The Gardens Trust recognises the value and relevance of garden historical study and the need to conserve the most important examples of these fragile creations. We are delighted that this course has been formally supported by The Gardens Trust.

In accordance with this association, all students will be members of The Gardens Trust for the duration of the course so will have access to all the facilities of this highly respected organisation.

Students will receive notices from the organisation and the Trust magazine <http://thegardenstrust.org/>. Naturally it is hoped that all students will be inspired to continue their membership of the Trust after completion of the course.

For students resident in Scotland we also recommend looking at the organisation, Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage (SGLH) for their activities and membership <http://sglh.org/>

Application procedure

An application form can be found at the back of this handbook. Please send completed forms to the RBGE Education Office by Friday 18th January 2019.

Spaces on this course are limited. Candidates will be selected on the basis of the answers given to the questions on the application form. Applicants may also be invited by Philip Lusby (Course Director) for an interview or contacted by telephone for any points of clarification.

If all applications are of a sufficient high standard, spaces may be allocated based on the order that applications were received.

Successful applicants will be informed in writing within 2 weeks of the application deadline and will be asked to pay a deposit of £500 to secure their place.

Course fees

The tuition fee for the Diploma in Garden History 2019-21 is £2,500. Fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full by the start of the course.

Fees include:

- Full access to our suite of garden history learning resources on PropaGate Learning, RBGE's online learning resource for duration of the course. These include course notes, presentations and revision quizzes.
- Tutorials, discussion forums and assessments available online and in person.
- Garden visits, tours/instruction at the National Library of Scotland – Map Collections, and Historic Environment Scotland – Search Room as part of the RBGE Study weekends.
- Membership of The Gardens Trust
- A copy of *Three Centuries of Garden Lists* (2009) by Brian Halliwell

Additional costs to be borne by students:

- Travel to and from Edinburgh, plus accommodation while you are here.
- A computer with reliable internet access

What if I change my mind?

You will receive a full refund within the 14 day cooling off period, but if you have started the course within this time, the following conditions apply:

Diplomas and Certificates

You are eligible to a full refund within 14 days minus the value of the learning materials available.

Any exceptions to the refund policy outlined above will be considered on a case by case basis and will be at the discretion of the Education Department.

Refunds after 14 days

We do not offer refunds after 14 days of payment except in exceptional circumstances and this would be at the discretion of the Education Department. If you wish to exercise your right to cancel within the 14 days, you must inform us of your decision within the cooling off period. Cancellation by email or by post is effective from the date on which you send us your message.

Fees will not be refundable should you not complete or pass the course.

Terms and Conditions

- Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) reserves the right to cancel this course.
- RBGE cannot be liable for additional costs incurred by the student (travel, accommodation etc) in the event of cancellation.
- If the course does not go ahead any money paid to RBGE would be refunded in full.
- There is a time limit of three years to complete the course in order to achieve the Diploma. For every additional year (after the initial two years) a fee of £250 is payable.
- We recommend that all students travelling to Edinburgh take out travel insurance for the duration of the trip to Edinburgh. Please check with your insurer whether your flights and accommodation would be covered in the event of a cancellation.



Application Form

Please complete this form thoroughly. You may be invited by Philip Lusby (Course Director) for an interview or contacted by telephone for any points of clarification.

Please send your completed form by **Friday 18th January 2019** to:
Education Administrator (Dip GH)
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
20a Inverleith Row
Edinburgh
EH3 5LR

Or you can send a scanned copy of this form by email to: education@rbge.org.uk

1. Personal Details

Title: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / Other

Name: _____

Contact Numbers:

Address:

Daytime:

Evening:

Mobile: _____

Email Address: _____

Existing Qualifications and Professional Background (in brief)

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

For office use only:				
Date application received			Reference Number	
Offered place	Yes / No	Date:	Place accepted	Yes / No Date: