



# Horticulture

Prospectus | Career Guide



**We're here to help you  
get to where you want to be.  
We'll inspire you, increase your  
opportunities and raise  
your ambitions so you're ready  
to take the next step.  
Start here, go anywhere**

**together**

**we are Ayrshire College**



# Accessibility

Ayrshire College is fully committed to challenging discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, promoting inclusion and celebrating the diversity of all of its students, staff, visitors and partners.

To request a copy of this information in another format please contact us:

Tel. 0300 303 0303

Email. [marketing@ayrshire.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@ayrshire.ac.uk)



[www.ayrshire.ac.uk](http://www.ayrshire.ac.uk)

Ayrshire College is a registered Scottish charity. Reg No SC021177

## #weareAyrshireCollege



# Why choose College?

Help with first steps towards your career

Change your career

Access further study at University

Start an apprenticeship

Help to start your own business

Study locally

Excellent facilities

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“ Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. ”

# Build your future at Ayrshire College.

Our campuses offer modern facilities with exciting learning spaces, to help you learn in a way that suits you. There are social spaces on each campus, including refectories and coffee shops, where you can relax and catch up with friends.



**Modern Learning  
Resource Centres**

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**Coffee Shops  
and Refectories**

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**Training  
Restaurants**

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**Training Hair and  
Beauty Salons**

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**Motor Vehicle  
Garage**

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**Gym and  
Multi-Sport Pitches**

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**Horticulture  
Centre**

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**Aeronautical and  
Engineering Centre**

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**Science Labs**

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**Construction and  
Trades Centre**

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**Training Hospital  
Ward**

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**Training Nursery**

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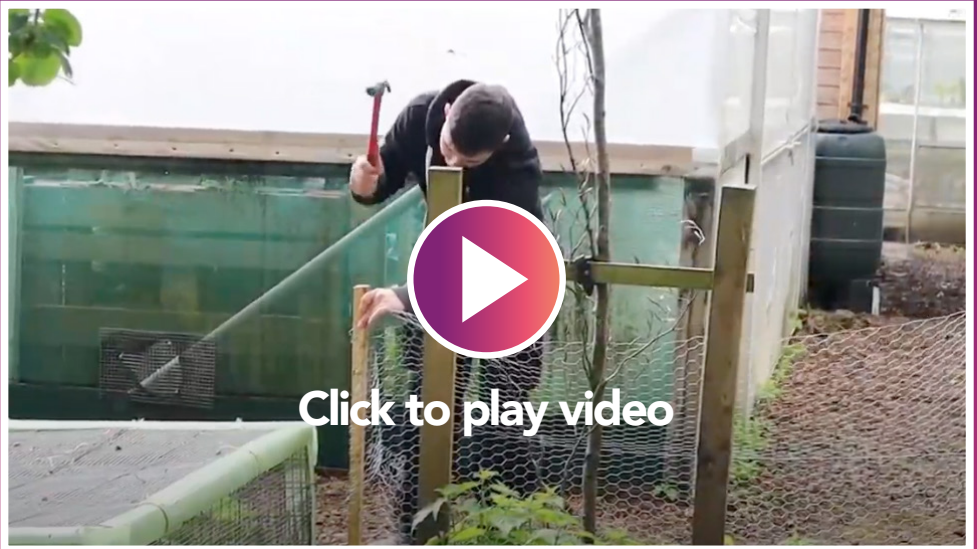
**Recording  
Studio**

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**Photography and  
Broadcasting Studio**

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## Grow your career in Horticulture!

This is a growing industry, and we're not just talking about the plants.

More and more people are entering this field, for the fresh air and for the opportunity to express themselves creatively.

Can you dig it? Start here.

**#weareAyrshireCollege**





## Did you know?

Our excellent partnership links have resulted in our students getting to work straight away in real working environments, with courses based in the Craigengillan Estate and Dean Castle Country Park.

Our courses are mainly practical, with just a small amount of theory. You'll be outside in all weather, so pack your boots and experience the good, healthy feeling you get from hands-on outdoor activities.

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# Why choose Horticulture?

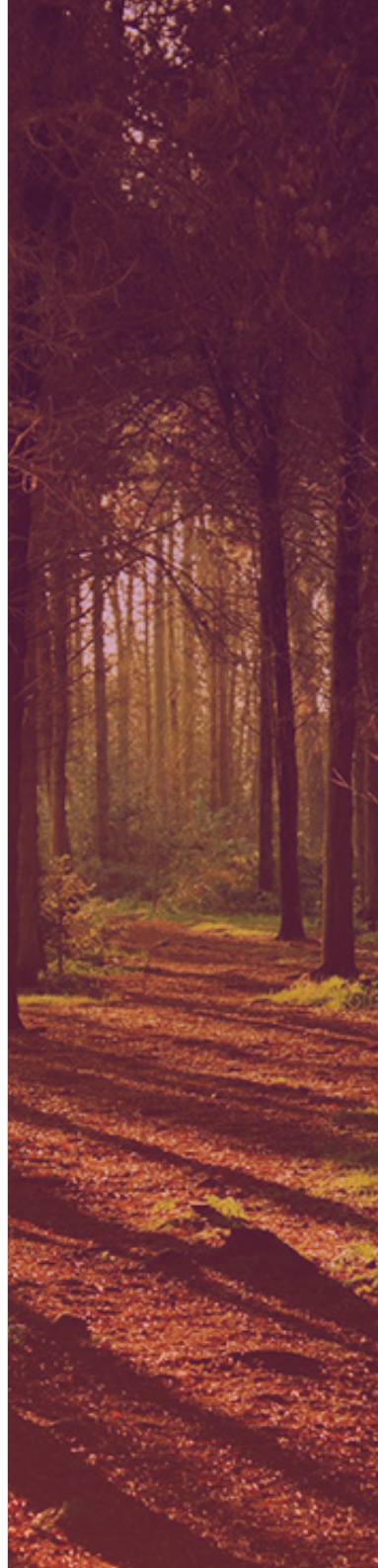
**Enjoy the fresh air.** You won't be stuck behind a desk all day! Instead you'll be working in the great outdoors.

**Grow.** You'll be able to see the fruits of your labour grow right in front of your eyes as you plant all kinds of flowers, and fruit and veg.

**It's for anyone.** Many people choose to enter this industry later in life. Don't just wonder 'what if', sometimes the grass is greener on the other side!

**“ Following a career in horticulture or any outdoor profession is not just a job, but is an opportunity to do something that you love. It is an important career choice that is vital to the health and wellbeing of local communities and makes the places where we live far more attractive. ”**

Anneke Freel,  
Outdoor and Countryside Manager  
East Ayrshire Leisure





# Careers

- Tree Surgeon
- Countryside Ranger
- Conservation Gardener
- Groundsperson
- Landscape Operative
- Garden Centre Worker
- Nursery Worker
- Forestry
- Landscape Designer
- Arborist
- Florist
- Horticultural Therapist
- Golf Course Attendant
- Researcher/Laboratory



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Being able to develop a plan and see it grow in front of your eyes gives you an enormous sense of pride. There's a variety of roles out there that require someone with a keen eye for detail and who's ready to adopt a hands-on approach.



“ It’s been a great environment to work in. It’s ideal preparation because we get to learn the names of so many plants and how to best take care of them.”

Kai Taylor,  
NQ Garden and Landscaping

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# What are employers looking for?

**There is high demand for horticulture workers, especially during busy growing periods. Here are some of the main skills and qualities employers are looking for.**

## **Love working outdoors**

Of course, your office is the outdoors so an appreciation of working outside in all weathers is required.

## **Fit**

You may find yourself working on some physically demanding tasks so you should be reasonably fit.

## **Safety conscious**

Always wearing the correct personal protective equipment and being aware of your surroundings is a must.

## **Fine with heights**

Particularly for our tree surgeons, you'll need to be comfortable working at height.

## **Creative**

Many of the jobs in this industry require someone who is able to put their creativity to use to produce something that looks stunning.

## **A learner**

There's so much to learn in this area, so you should have an inquisitive mind when focusing on specific environmental areas.

## **Planning skills**

You could be involved in planting, maintaining, weeding, cutting across vast areas, so being able to plan will help you get ahead.



Enterprising  
Students

# Could you be one of our **Enterprising Students?**



The Ayrshire College Foundation provides funding of grants up to £5,000 for students of Ayrshire College who are interested in developing ideas to start up their own business.

To help us inspire more students to be enterprising, we are working in partnership with Bridge 2 Business to support idea development.

You could join the many students we have supported so far, including former engineering student Greig Allan.

Visit our Entrepreneurs Blog to learn more.

Click here  
to visit our  
blog



**“ The knowledge and skills I’m learning on my engineering course help me understand how things work and how to solve problems. This will help me in the manufacturing side of our business. ”**

Former engineering student, Greig Allan

# Start here...

By now you'll have realised we're looking for people who are happy to work outdoors.

For our Gardening and Horticulture Skills course you'll also need: Three National 3s or equivalent.

For our Introduction to Woodland Skills course you'll also need: Four National 5s or equivalent

For our Tree Surgery course you'll also need: Four National 5s or equivalent.



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## Courses available in:

- Introduction to Gardening and Horticulture Skills
- Introduction to Woodland Skills and Rural Estate Management
- NPTC Tree Surgery

Click here  
to see all  
courses



# Go anywhere...

Once you've progressed to SVQ Level 6, you'll be ready for full-time employment.

Based on your knowledge, you may feel comfortable moving into self employment. Otherwise, there are opportunities available with Forestry & Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry, local authorities, landscaping companies and garden centres.



## Still unsure?

Contact our Student Services team and speak to one of our advisors who will be happy to help you.

You can book an appointment to see the Advisor for your curriculum area either in person, over the phone or by email:

[studentservices@ayrshire.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@ayrshire.ac.uk)

Tel no. 01294 555 333



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# Go for it!

You're just two steps away from starting your career in Horticulture...

## Step 1...

**Click here** to see our full list of courses at [www.ayrshire.ac.uk](http://www.ayrshire.ac.uk)

## Step 2...



**Apply online now** or download our Application Guide **here**

Full-time courses start in January and August. Apply as soon as you can because our courses fill up quickly!



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