

DIPLOMA IN SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPING



FACULTY OF
APPLIED
SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF
HORTICULTURE

01 JAN - 31 DEC 2026

Diploma in Sustainable Horticulture and Landscaping

NQF Level: 6

SAQA ID: 97807

Qualification Code: DISLDI

Location: M L Sultan Campus (Block B, 5th Floor)

Description of the Programme

One of the most rapid growth areas in the field of agriculture is that of horticulture. Horticulture includes producing, processing and marketing fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants (turf grass, flowers, shrubs and trees grown and used for their beauty).

Landscape horticulture includes the production, marketing, and maintenance of landscape plants. Ranging from simple garden design to more sophisticated architectural designs, landscaping involves the organizing and enriching outdoor space by placing plants and structures in an agreeable and useful relationship with the nature. Sustainable horticulture and Landscaping are dependent on a well-maintained biodiversity. Hence, biodiversity conservation is an integral aspect of horticulture with a major focus on plant conservation and landscape restoration.

The three-year diploma course in Sustainable Horticulture and Landscaping is aimed at producing graduates who are competent to plan, develop and manage sustainable plant nurseries and landscapes in a variety of contexts (commercial, community, and amenity), while ensuring sustainable and effective use of natural resources. It will empower young people with the necessary skills set to create and maintain sustainable environments within the various strata of South African society. The first two years are spent in formal study while the third year involves a six-month period of structured practical learning at the department's School of Horticulture training facility and a further six-month integrated learning project with suitable industry mentors developing the required competencies.

The Durban University of Technology has a long experience in preparing young people for entry into the horticultural industry. The function of DUT is to provide professional and technical training as well as facilities to enable students to study their particular subjects and gain maximum benefit. It is for this reason that at Durban University of Technology, all the horticultural aspects of the course are taught in the context of practical reality.

Career opportunities

There are various sources of employment for individuals trained in horticultural practices and Landscaping. These businesses include greenhouses, nurseries, Garden Centre's, golf courses, municipal parks departments, government departments, orchards, floral design shops, grounds maintenance operations, vegetable and fruit production and marketing, or self-employment. Horticulturists also work in the wholesale or retail trade (sales), as researchers, Ground's superintendents or Green Keepers.

Explanation of Points scale:

SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)

SYMBOL	HIGHER GRADE	STANDARD GRADE
A	8	6
B	7	5
C	6	4
D	5	3
E	4	2
F	3	1

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC)

%	LEVEL	POINTS
90-100	7	8
80-89%	7	7
70-79%	6	6
60-69%	5	5
50-59%	4	4
40-49%	3	3
30-39%	2	2
20-29%	1	1

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A person will only be considered for registration for an instructional programme approved by the Institution's Senate if the person complies with:

- The minimum admission requirements stated in DUT general handbook (refer to DUT website for general handbook).
- Institutional faculty, departmental and/or instructional programme specific rules; and

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK (HEQSF)

G7 rule: For Diploma:

"a National Senior Certificate (NSC) as certified by the Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi), with a minimum of achievement rating of 3 for English and a minimum achievement rating of 3 in four recognised NSC 20-credit subjects."

Entry Requirements (Diploma in Sustainable Horticulture and Landscaping)

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) (01 January 2009)		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) (PRE 2009)			NATIONAL CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL (NCV)	
NSC DIPLOMA ENTRY		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)			(NCV) LEVEL 4	
Compulsory Subjects	NSC Rating Code	Compulsory Subjects	HG	SG	NCV level 4 with statutory requirements for a diploma entrance with the following subjects:	Mark
English	4	English	E	D	English	50%
Mathematics OR	3	Biology	E	D	Mathematics OR	50%
Mathematics Literacy OR	4	Mathematics	E	D	Mathematics Literacy	50%
Life Sciences OR (or recognized equivalent)	4				Life Sciences OR (or recognized equivalent)	60%
In addition: TWO recognized NSC 20 credit subject as per G7 rule (As stated above)	3					

NB: The sum of an applicant's achievement rating for (Mathematics **OR** Mathematical Literacy) + (Life Sciences OR Physical Science) must be 7.

Additional Entry Requirements:

Preference will be given to those applicants who have had practical experience with a reputable horticultural concern or who have an agricultural or horticultural background.

OR

Admission Requirement based upon Work Experience, Age and Maturity

For admission to entry level DIPLOMA and certificate studies:

A person may, subject to such requirements as the Senate

may determine, be admitted to the Institution even if such a person is not in a possession of a National Senior Certificate, Senior Certificate, or an equivalent certificate, provided that:

- The person shall have reached the age of 23 in the first year of registration and shall have at least:
 - three years' appropriate work experience; and/or
 - capacity for the proposed instructional programme, which shall be assessed at the discretion of the respective Head of Department by a Senate approved admission assessment comprising of a DUT Standardised Assessment Test for Access and Placement (SATAP), Academic Literacies (Al) & English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and/or an appropriate subject or programme specific written assessment designed and marked by the relevant Department; and
- The relevant Faculty Board shall be satisfied that the person's standard of communication skills, ability to study successfully and/or work experience are such that the person, in the opinion of the relevant Faculty Board, should be able to complete the proposed instructional programme successfully. If required, the communication skills and study skills should be tested; and
- The person's application for admission in terms of work experience, age and maturity is approved prior to registration.

Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year inclusive of the date of scheduling writing a requisite eligibility assessment.

Tuition Fees

To assist you with your planning, the **2025** fees have been indicated. An increase for next year to accommodate the inflation rate can be expected.

PLEASE NOTE: DUT cannot be held liable for the fees in this brochure as the **2026** fees are not yet final.

First Year Curriculum

Name of the Module	Subject Code	HEQSF Level	SAQA Credits	2025 Fees
Semester One				
Plant Studies IA	PLSA101	5	12	R3340.00
Horticulture IA	HRTA101	5	16	R4450.00
Business Management IA	BSMA101	5	8	R2230.00
Estate & Grounds Management IA	EGMA101	5	8	R2230.00
Growth Media Studies	GRMS101	5	8	R2230.00
Cornerstone 101	CSTN101	5	12	R3910.00
Total				R18390.00
Semester Two				
Plant Studies IB	PLSB101	5	12	R3340.00
Horticulture IB	HRTB101	5	12	R3340.00
Business Management IB	BSMA101	5	8	R2230.00
Estate & Grounds Management IB	EGMB101	5	8	R2230.00
Ecology	ECLG101	5	8	R2230.00
IGE Elective	ICTL101	5	8	R2430.00
Total				R15800.00
TOTAL CREDITS SEMESTER 1&2			120	

Second Year Curriculum

Semester One				
Plant Studies IIA	PLSA201	6	8	R2230.00
Horticulture IIA	HRTA201	6	12	R3340.00
Business Management IIA	BSMA201	6	8	R2230.00
Integrated Pest & Disease Management IIA	IPDA201	6	8	R2230.00
Environmental Sustainability IIA	EVSA201	6	8	R2230.00
Sustainable Landscape Planning & Practice IA	SLPA201	6	12	R3340.00
Me, My World, My Universe IGE Elective	MWWMU101	5	8	R2430.00
Total				R18030.00
Semester Two				
Plant Studies IIB	PLSB201	6	12	R3340.00
Horticulture IIB	HRTB201	6	8	R2230.00
Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management IIB	ESBM201	6	8	R2230.00
Integrated Pest & Disease Management IIB	IPDB201	6	8	R2230.00
Environmental Sustainability IIB	EVSB201	6	8	R2230.00
Sustainable Landscape Planning & Practice IIB	SLPB201	6	12	R3340.00
Total				R15600.00
TOTAL CREDITS SEMESTER 1&2			120	

Third Year Curriculum

Semester One				
Plant Studies IIIA	PLSA301	6	16	R4450.00
Horticulture IIIA	HRTA301	6	16	R4450.00
Horticultural and landscape Operations IIIA	HLOA301	6	8	R2230.00
Sustainable Landscape Planning & Practice IIIA	SLPA301	6	16	R4450.00
FGE Compulsory community Dev & Engagement	ASCE101	6	12	R3900.00
Select One Module (IGE Elective) from the List Below				
World of Work OR	VWRK101	5	8	R2260.00
Leadership	LDSH101			R2430.00
Total				R24170.00
Semester Two				
Plant Studies IIIB	PLSB301	6	12	R3340.00
Horticulture IIIB	HRTB301	6	12	R3340.00
Horticultural and landscape Operations IIIB	HLOB301	6	8	R2230.00
Sustainable Landscape Planning & Practice IIIB	SLPB301	6	12	R3340.00
Total				R12250.00
TOTAL CREDITS SEMESTER 1&2			120	

Application

Applicants who wish to enrol for the programme must apply through the CAO system by no later than 30 September of the previous year.

CAO Online Application visit: <http://www.cao.ac.za>

CAO Contact Details

Private Bag X06
Dalbridge
4014
Tel: (031) 2684444
Fax: (031) 2684422

CAO Code: DU-D-SHL

Closing date for applications: 30 September 2025

For Further Information

Contact the Department of Horticulture
P O Box 1334
Durban
4000
Tel: (031)373 5233
Fax: (086) 674 0374/ (086) 743 6240
E-mail: SpheleleM@dut.ac.za

Financial Aid

For Financial Aid application for a DUT programme please apply online at www.nsfas.org.za or call the NSFAS call centre on 0860 067 327.

For an explanation on how to fill out the application form, please go to www.nsfas.org.za or contact the call centre on the number above.

Please note that completing a form does not guarantee Financial Aid. For further assistance, please consult the Department of Financial Aid and Scholarships on (031)373 2931/2557/2054.