



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Garden Design Skills

Unit code: F21N 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide specialist knowledge and skills which will allow candidates to design and present a garden in detail.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Explain the project management process.
- 2 Design detailed garden features for integration into a garden design scheme.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the delivering centre, however, it would be beneficial if candidates had completed Higher National Unit F1J8 34 *Garden Design Concepts*.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving* and *Numeracy* at SCQF level 6, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: This Unit can be assessed by means of two assessments, a series of structured questions for Outcome 1 and a project to include scale drawings for Outcome 2.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Explain the project management process

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Presentation skills
- ◆ Project management
- ◆ Role of the designer
- ◆ Role of the client
- ◆ Role of contractor
- ◆ Onsite operations
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can explain:

- ◆ the project management process
- ◆ the roles of those involved in the design, construction and management of a project
- ◆ presentation techniques which can be used for a chosen garden design scheme

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a series of structured questions to cover the Knowledge and Skills specified above and to meet all Evidence Requirements.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Garden Design Skills

Outcome 2

Design detailed garden features for integration into a garden design scheme

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Lighting schemes
- ◆ Drainage schemes
- ◆ Irrigation schemes
- ◆ Decking
- ◆ Retaining structures
- ◆ Paving
- ◆ Timber structures
- ◆ Scale Drawing
- ◆ Relationship between selected features and overall design scheme

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ design a minimum of two features for a selected garden scheme
- ◆ produce scale drawings of the selected features
- ◆ describe how the selected features relate to the overall design for the selected garden
- ◆ present the design feature for a selected garden scheme

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by means of a project to cover the Knowledge and Skills specified above and to meet the Evidence Requirements. The project should include relevant scale drawings.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F21N 35
Unit title: Garden Design Skills
Superclass category: SA
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Garden Design Skills

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit aims to build on the skills and knowledge gained in the HNC Units *Garden Design Concepts, Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features* and *Landscape Specification and Estimation*. It should provide an opportunity to expand upon the knowledge gained in these Units and explore detailed elements within the garden design process.

The content of this Unit can be delivered flexibly to reflect the interests and approaches at a particular centre.

- (a) Outcome 1 should instruct candidates on the process of project management and factors involved at each stage including looking at issues such as the management of client relations, sourcing contractors and the tendering process. This Unit will expand the knowledge of the process of design, supervision and management of a garden scheme.
- (b) Outcome 2 will look at the design and construction of specialist elements or techniques appropriate to garden design schemes. Drawings would normally be prepared to illustrate the candidates understanding of the subject area.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit should be delivered through lectures, tutorials and practicals. Visiting speakers will be invited to illustrate the alternative viewpoints of those involved in the design, implementation and management of garden design projects. Candidates should be encouraged to explore presentation and construction techniques which can be used to enhance the role of the garden designer.

In Outcome 1 candidates should be encouraged to explore presentation methods and techniques through practical exercises. In Outcome 2 practical exercises and visits to professionals should be used to ensure that candidates understand the detailed requirements for design of the given elements.

The following texts or equivalents are appropriate for the Unit:

- ◆ Blake, J., (1999), *'An Introduction to Landscape Design and Construction'*, Gower Press Ltd
- ◆ Bradbury, A., (2006), *'Successful Presentation Skills'*, Kogan Page Ltd
- ◆ Connor, S., (2005), *'Presenting with Power: Never again be boring, overcome those nerves — Deliver with style'*, How to Books
- ◆ Fortlage, C., Phillips, E.T., (1992), *'Landscape Construction'*, Gower Publishing Co. Ltd
- ◆ Littlewood, M., (1999), *'Landscape Detailing: Vol. 1 Enclosures'*, Butterworth-Heinemann
- ◆ Littlewood, M., (1999), *'Landscape Detailing: Vol. 2 Surfaces'*, Butterworth-Heinemann
- ◆ Littlewood, M., (2000), *'Landscape Detailing: Vol. 3 Structures'*, Butterworth-Heinemann
- ◆ Spain, B., (2005), SPON's estimating costs guide to minor landscaping and external works, Taylor and Francis
- ◆ Tutt, P., Adler, D., (1992), *'New Metric Handbook: Planning Design and Data'*, Butterworth Architecture
- ◆ Wiles, R., (1995), *'Garden Structures'*, Mitchell Beazley

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Garden Design Skills

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving* and *Numeracy* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Open learning

Elements of this Unit could be delivered by distance or flexible learning. It is probable that candidates would need to attend the centre for tutorial sessions.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Garden Design Skills

Candidates will gain a greater understanding on the roles and relationships of parties involved in the garden design and implementation process. Candidates should learn how to manage clients and contractors and appreciate the process from their viewpoints. The management of projects can be as crucial as the design and therefore candidates should realise the importance of all stages of the process from design to successful completion onsite.

This Unit will allow practical and theory sessions to deepen candidates understanding of the detailed design of garden features. This will include an appreciation for the role of other professionals in the process. Visits and visits by subject specialists will augment teaching and practical sessions as required.

In order to complete this Unit successfully, candidates will be required to achieve a satisfactory level in all pieces of coursework, normally these would be in the form of structured questions and a project including the submission of drawings.