

Who is this course for?

The course is designed specifically for those staff responsible for education and allied disciplines in a botanic garden. You may be working in, or planning to work in, the field of biodiversity, botanic garden or environmental education or education for sustainable development

Candidates must have good conversational and written English, and a knowledge of the appropriate technical terms.

Whilst aimed primarily at colleagues from developing countries, participants from other countries are encouraged to apply.

What are the course objectives?

- To explore the key issues relating to environmental education.
- To enhance participants skills and understanding so that they can effectively design and implement educational programmes for appropriate audiences.
- To facilitate the development of educational strategies related to each participant's institutional context.
- To develop contacts and communication channels with other professionals working in environmental education and education for sustainable development.

Costs

Course Fee: £2,300

The course fee covers:

- all tuition
- course notes
- external trips and visits.

Grants are available from a variety of bodies and help in locating these can be provided by the RBG Kew and BGCI. However, it is the responsibility of each participant to secure their own funding and to inform the course organisers. Funding is currently being sought to provide bursaries for this course. Please note, the course fee does not include accommodation or subsistence costs.

Accommodation

Participants will be sent, on request, a list of suitable accommodation in the area. Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation and the costs of accommodation are not included in the course fee. Estimated cost of accommodation for 2008 is about £120 per week, which is subject to change.

Subsistence

Participants will also need funding to cover subsistence costs. This is to cover all meals, and any additional transport. Estimated subsistence cost for 2008 is £100 per week, which is subject to change.

Social events

For many participants this will be their first time in the UK. The course will endeavour to offer a range of opportunities for social outings and events. This may include visits to museums, theatres or tours of London.

Further information

For an application form, please download from the websites (see below) or contact:

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The mission of Botanic Gardens Conservation International is: To mobilise botanic gardens and engage partners to secure plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet.

The mission of Royal Botanic Gardens Kew is to enable better management of the Earth's environment by increasing knowledge and understanding of the plant and fungal kingdoms – the basis of life on earth

Kew

PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES



International
Diploma Course in

Botanic Garden Education



WORLD HERITAGE SITE

International Diploma Course in Botanic Garden Education

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew) offer a five-week training course in botanic garden education.

Course rationale

Botanic gardens, with their amazing varieties and numbers of plants, are superb centres for environmental education. The millions of visitors to botanic gardens each year provide an invaluable opportunity to raise public awareness about plant conservation, the environment and sustainability.

As concern grows for the detrimental effects that human activity is having on the environment, the need for botanic gardens to become more involved in education has never been so critical.

To support environmental education programmes and to work towards the implementation of Target 14 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), BGCI and RBG Kew have developed an international diploma course in education for botanic garden staff.

The course aim is to equip participants with the skills and strategies needed to communicate effectively with their varied audiences, using interactive learning, practical activities and the application of skills to the participants' individual working context.

The course programme includes input from education practitioners, researchers, subject specialists and guest speakers with site visits to museums and gardens running exciting educational programmes. Participants will also have plenty of opportunity to learn by exchanging ideas and experiences with each other.

Course endorsement

This course has been enthusiastically welcomed and endorsed by a range of international bodies.

What does the course cover?

By the end of the course, participants will have an understanding of all the aspects required to create educational strategies for their site. To facilitate this, the course includes the following topics:

- An overview of teaching and learning in botanic gardens
- An exploration of the history and development of education for sustainable development, including environmental education
- Identification of target groups, including informal and formal audiences
- Interpretation – principals and practice
- Life long learning strategies – working with teachers, school children, adults and communities
- Marketing
- Intellectual and physical access – ensuring equal access for all
- Fundraising
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Networking, partnerships and collaboration
- Strategic planning
- Project mangement
- Individual project work.

This course consists of a four-week taught module, followed by a one-week project based module. All participants will be expected to complete and submit a project within four months of completing the course. The project provides a practical focus for the taught element and acts as a basis for the application of skills and knowledge obtained from the course.

How is the course taught?

Through a combination of lectures, workshops, seminars, practical activities and field visits, this course enables participants to develop their skills in a range of botanic garden education strategies.

Lecturers include recognised authorities in their fields, with staff from a range of disciplines at the RBG Kew, BGCI, other international institutions and organisations and UK universities.

Course notes will be produced to accompany the course. All course notes and lectures will be in English. Participants should therefore have a good command of English, including knowledge of the appropriate technical terms.

The course is intense and participants will be expected to undertake study and prepare pieces of work outside of course hours.

How is the course assessed?

For the award of the International Diploma in Botanic Garden Education, participants will be assessed by:

- A written project
- An examination with short answer and multiple choice questions
- A reflective journal, produced during the course.

All assessments are moderated by an external examiner.

All candidates will receive a certificate of attendance. Candidates who successfully complete their project will receive the International Diploma in Botanic Garden Education.

