

Why you should
recommend a

career in landscaping



Photo: Garden Club London

Photo: Isola Garden Design Ltd

Welcome to the exciting world of landscaping.

Almost anywhere a building has been constructed a landscaper will be involved in the design, planning, laying out, construction and maintenance of gardens and green spaces.

Landscapers love the outdoors, are practical and creative and recognise the importance their work has on saving the environment along with the impact their projects have on people's lives.

With the industry being so broad and diverse, there are roles and opportunities for many people, both school leavers and career changers.

This pack contains a breakdown of the main roles within the landscape industry and the sheets are designed to help provide up to date and accurate information that can be distributed to pupils, clients and interested parties.

The landscape industry directly **employs over 196,000?** people contributing £6.8 billion to the UK economy.

Think it isn't a professional career? **Wrong!**

Think it's only for the less academic and those that didn't do very well at school? **Wrong!**

Landscapers get the **opportunity to develop a broad range of skills**, the foundation of which comes through education and training. Every green space around us involved a landscaper, from Wembley Stadium to Olympic Park, landscapers are incredibly proud of the prestigious work they do.

The landscape industry has **roles that suit many people's capabilities** from entry level qualifications right up to degree level. from English, Chemistry, Biology, mathematical and analytical skills. They are creative problem solvers, providing opportunities to progress well within the industry.

Photo: Langlea Garden Design & Construction



Photo: Greenfingers Landscape Ltd

Landscape design



This aspect of landscaping brings together creative flair and problem solving. Landscape/garden designers are responsible for measuring sites, producing scale plans, artist's impressions for changing the landscape, and producing tenders for construction. You could take this a stage further and go on to study landscape architecture and design large-scale gardens, parks and outdoor spaces.

Landscape/Garden Designer

Duties

Visiting clients, producing client briefs and proposals, accurately taking and recording measurements and dimensions, sample and record soil type and condition, producing scale garden, planting and maintenance plans for a range of clients and settings, putting together tenders for construction.

Skills

- ✓ Good plant and materials knowledge
- ✓ An understanding of the build process
- Problem solving
- ✓ Use of scale and different mediums
- ✓ Use of IT
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Creativity.

Abilities

- Good communication
- Both written and verbal
- Flexible
- Reliable
- Managing time and meeting deadlines
- Attention to detail.

Education

Diploma in garden design, Postgraduate diploma in garden design, Master of Arts Garden Design.

Landscape Architect

Duties

Planning, designing and managing open spaces including both natural and built environments, including parks, gardens and housing estates, city-centre design, sporting sites and motorway construction. This would include producing Scale plans, presenting them to clients and overseeing the construction of the projects, through tenders for work and materials.

Skills

- ✓ Project management
- ✓ Client and public liaison
- ✓ Site assessment
- ✓ Site surveying
- ✓ Preparation of scale plans and working drawings
- ✓ Construction plans
- ✓ Using CAD and other design software
- ✓ Plant and landscape construction knowledge.

Abilities

- Managing time and meeting deadlines
- Effective communication
- Organisation
- Multi-tasking
- Planning and priority setting
- Attention to detail.

Education

An undergraduate degree plus a one year postgraduate diploma, a year out working with a landscape practice.

'It's a very interesting and challenging career, no two days are the same and I am stretched creatively on a regular basis. I can be meeting new clients, then meeting contractors who are building one of my designs to check progress on a project. Another day I'll be working on CAD creating a design or I could be sourcing plants and then planting them in a garden'.

Anthea Harrison
Owner of the award winning Anthea Harrison Garden Design Ltd



Photo: The Outdoor Room Ltd

Hard landscaping



Photo: UK Skills competition



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42% of BALI (British Association of Landscape Industries) members cited hard landscaping as the single area they struggled to recruit for. As the name suggests this involves working with hard materials and use of them in landscape construction.

Hard landscape Operative

Duties

This will include site clearance and preparation, installation of walls, retainers, raised beds, patios, paths, fencing, drive ways and hard standings, ponds, water features and pools, garden buildings, greenhouses/poly tunnels, pergolas, installing statues and garden art, land drain and water drainage systems, Irrigation systems, outdoor lighting and artificial turf in both commercial and domestic projects.

Skills

- ✔ Implementing designs and schemes of work
- ✔ Measuring and marking out
- ✔ Safely operating tools and machinery
- ✔ Maintenance of machinery and tools.

Abilities

- Being physically fit
- Working outside (whatever the weather)
- Good communication and listening skills
- Following instructions
- Able to work independently and/or part of a team
- Demonstrate initiative
- Good organisation
- Willingness to learn/continue training.

Education

Level 2 full time horticulture/landscaping qualification, apprenticeship and certificates of competence.

Hard landscaping Supervisor

Duties

To oversee the scheduling of hard landscape work and make sure deadlines are met, supervising landscape team in completion of tasks, providing advice and assistance to the team, client and manager liaison, receiving and distribution of material's, recording hours worked and work performed, tracking project budgets, Identifying team member training needs.

Skills

- ✔ Extensive working knowledge of landscape construction
- ✔ Leadership
- ✔ Clean driving license
- ✔ IT and administration
- ✔ Problem solving
- ✔ Technical expertise
- ✔ Adaptable
- ✔ Possess sound written and numeracy skills.

Abilities

- Effective communication
- Organisation
- Multi-tasking, planning and priority setting
- Attention to detail, meeting deadlines, delegation, flexibility and confidence.

Education

Level 3 full time horticulture/landscaping qualification, apprenticeship and certificates of competence.

Hard landscaping Project Manager

Duties

Meet client specifications, tender and report writing, brief supervisors, client liaison, check project specifications and quality, work with team supervisor, ensure risk assessments, method statements and Health and Safety is in place, vet sub-contractors, order materials, produce work schedules, ensure profit margins are met, report to company heads, deal with site disciplinary matters, accountability for staff and resources.

Skills

- ✔ Extensive working knowledge of Landscape construction
- ✔ Leadership
- ✔ Effective interpersonal and Communication skills
- ✔ Clean driving license
- ✔ IT and administration
- ✔ Problem solving
- ✔ Technical expertise
- ✔ Adaptable
- ✔ Experience in a supervisory role
- ✔ Possess sound written and numeracy skills.

Abilities

- Well presented
- Punctual
- Good mannered
- Effective communication
- Organisation
- Multi-tasking, planning and priority setting
- Attention to detail
- Meeting deadlines
- Delegation, flexibility and confidence.

Education

Level 2-3 Horticulture/landscaping qualification, Level 5 management qualification and certificates of competence.

'I love the variety of skills needed to create beautiful gardens. No two days, or gardens are the same. I believe professional Landscapers really are craftsmen, as they adapt their unique skillset to varying situations. As well as providing opportunities for development, its diverse nature, allows progression into different avenues. Personally, 15 years on, landscaping is still as fulfilling as ever'.

Jake Catling

Owner of the award winning The Landscaping Consultants

Photo: Isola Garden Design Ltd



Soft landscaping

Photo: Isola Garden Design Ltd

Photo: In-Ex Landscapes Ltd

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This aspect of landscaping focuses on the living parts of the landscape, the softer elements of landscaping involving ground preparation, turf and planting, that complements the hard landscaping. The softer elements of landscaping involving ground preparation, turf and planting and professional gardening.

Soft landscape Operative

Duties

Cultivation and preparation of ground and soil, laying turf, sowing seed, positioning plants, planting trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs and annuals, providing initial aftercare.

Skills

- ✔ Implementing designs and schemes of work
- ✔ Measuring and marking out
- ✔ Safely operating tools and machinery
- ✔ Maintenance of machinery and tools.

Abilities

- Being physically fit
- Working outside (whatever the weather)
- Good communication and listening skills
- Following instructions
- To be able to work independently and/or part of a team
- Demonstrate initiative
- Good organisation
- Willingness to learn/continue training.

Education

Level 2 full time horticulture/ landscaping qualification, apprenticeship and certificates of competence.

Soft landscaping Supervisor

Duties

To oversee the scheduling of soft landscape works and make sure deadlines are met, supervising landscape teams in completion of tasks, providing advice and assistance to the teams, client and manager liaison, receiving and distribution of material's, recording hours worked and work performed, tracking project budgets, Identifying team member training needs.

Skills

- ✔ Extensive working knowledge of soft landscape tasks
- ✔ Leadership
- ✔ Clean driving license
- ✔ IT and administration
- ✔ Problem solving
- ✔ Technical expertise
- ✔ Adaptable
- ✔ Possess sound written and numeracy skills.

Abilities

- Effective communication
- Organisation
- Multi-tasking
- Planning and priority setting
- Attention to detail
- Meeting deadlines
- Delegation, flexibility and confidence.

Education

Level 3 full time horticulture/ landscaping qualification, apprenticeship and certificates of competence.

Soft landscaping Project Manager

Duties

Carry out clients specifications, tender and report writing, brief the Supervisors, liaise with client and ensure amendments are conveyed to the supervisor, check work is meeting specifications and of a high quality, work closely with team supervisor, ensure relevant risk assessments, method statements and Health and Safety is in place, vetting sub-contractors, ordering materials and resources, produce and distribute work schedules, ensure projects achieve projected profit margin, reporting to company heads, to deal with any site disciplinary matters, accountability for staff and resources.

Skills

- ✔ Extensive working knowledge of soft landscape tasks
- ✔ Leadership
- ✔ Effective interpersonal and communication skills
- ✔ Clean driving license
- ✔ IT and administration
- ✔ Problem solving
- ✔ Technical expertise
- ✔ Adaptable
- ✔ Experience in a supervisory role
- ✔ Possess sound written and numeracy skills.

Abilities

- Well presented
- Punctual
- Good mannered
- Effective communication
- Organisation
- Multi-tasking, planning and priority setting
- Attention to detail
- Meeting deadlines
- Delegation, flexibility and confidence.

Education

Level 2-3 Horticulture/landscaping qualification, Level 5 management qualification and certificates of competence.

'I love my job because horticulture is so all-encompassing, it allows me to express my creativity by using plants as my form of media. Whether you have a science, art as an interest or simply just like to be busy with your hands, there's always something in horticulture and landscaping that suits.'

Jodie Fedorko
Soft Landscape Designer/Horticulturist for the award winning
Leicestershire Garden Design Company

Maintenance



Photo: Greenfingers Landscape Ltd

Once the final plants are planted, the job doesn't end there. Maintenance will include the care of plants through pruning, feeding, managing pests and diseases, removing competition and plant replacement. This also extends to lawns and grassed areas making sure footballers and golfers continue to play. There is also use of a range of machinery for these operations.

Landscape Maintenance Operative

Duties

Mowing, strimming, edging, hedge and plant pruning, application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers, weeding, brush clearance, soil cultivation, collection and disposal of site waste, lawn care (scarifying, aeration, seeding, fertilising, weed and pest control), planting and plant removal.

Skills

- ✓ Safely operating tools and machinery
- ✓ Appropriate care and maintenance of machinery and tools
- ✓ Maintaining work logs.

Abilities

- Being physically fit
- Working outside (whatever the weather)
- Good communication and listening skills
- Follow verbal and written instructions
- Be able to work independently and/or part of a team
- Working at heights
- Demonstrate initiative
- Good organisation
- Willingness to learn/continue training

Education

Level 2 full time horticulture/landscaping qualification, apprenticeship and certificates of competence.

Landscape Maintenance Supervisor

Duties

To oversee the scheduling of maintenance work and make sure deadlines are met, supervising the maintenance team in completion of tasks, providing advice and assistance to the team, client and manager liaison, receiving and distribution of material's, recording hours worked and work performed, tracking project budgets, Identifying team member training needs.

Skills

- ✓ Extensive working knowledge of landscape maintenance
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Clean driving license
- ✓ IT and administration
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Technical expertise
- ✓ Adaptable
- ✓ Possess sound written and numeracy skills.

Abilities

- Effective communication
- Organisation
- Multi-tasking
- Planning and priority setting
- Attention to detail
- Meeting deadlines
- Delegation, flexibility and confidence.

Education

Level 3 full time horticulture/landscaping qualification, apprenticeship and certificates of competence.

Landscape Maintenance Project Manager

Duties

Carry out clients specifications, tender and report writing, brief the supervisors, liaise with client and ensure amendments are conveyed to the supervisor, check work is meeting specifications and of a high quality, work closely with team supervisor, ensure relevant risk assessments, method statements and Health and Safety is in place, vetting sub-contractors, ordering materials and resources, produce and distribute work schedules, ensure projects achieve projected profit margin, reporting to company heads, to deal with any site disciplinary matters, accountability for staff and resources.

Skills

- ✓ Extensive working knowledge of Landscape maintenance
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Effective interpersonal and communication skills
- ✓ Clean driving license
- ✓ IT and administration
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Technical expertise
- ✓ Adaptable
- ✓ Experience in a supervisory role
- ✓ Possess sound written and numeracy skills
- ✓ Staying abreast of industry updates, trends and regulations.

Abilities

- Well presented
- Punctual
- Good mannered
- Effective communication
- Organisation
- Multi-tasking, planning and priority setting
- Attention to detail
- Meeting deadlines
- Delegation, flexibility and confidence.

Education

Level 2-3 Horticulture/landscaping qualification, Level 5 management qualification and certificates of competence.

'The Horticultural sector is a friendly, supportive and enjoyable industry to be a part of. As a young person in an ageing industry it's often difficult to establish yourself, but the landscaping community take you seriously, support you and most importantly understand that young people are the future of Horticulture and the landscaping industry. A career in the landscaping sector is challenging and enjoyable'.

William Innes-Taylor BSc (Hons)
MCIHort, ACIHort Project Manager with Tim Wells Nursery



The British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) and its members recognise the importance of introducing new talent into the landscaping industry in order to sustain, build-on, and develop this remarkable and rewarding sector.

BALI is delighted to promote GoLandscape, an education, skills and careers initiative, designed to inform and inspire new recruits and combat industry issues, including a severe shortage of skilled labour.

GoLandscape will aim to provide a wealth of inspiring and educational career advice on landscaping jobs to young people and career changers.

The advice will be mapped to the UK Government's curriculum for the land-based sector and linked to the Trailblazer Apprenticeship Standards. BALI has played

an instrumental part in lobbying at a parliamentary level and establishing Trailblazer Apprenticeship Standards as recognised qualifications in land-based colleges throughout the country.

The British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) is the UK's largest Trade Association for professional Landscape Designers, Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Contractors, and suppliers of industry products and services.

Established in 1972, it has a membership of over 900 organisations and individuals.

Visit golandscape.co.uk for more information and sign up to our newsletter to stay-up-to-date.

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