

The Diploma

Bringing learning to life



IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND-BASED STUDIES

“Land-based industries have been, and will continue to be, integral to the UK and it is therefore important that they are catered for by the National Curriculum. The Diploma’s applied learning aspect is completely in tune with our industry and will give students a realistic picture of the careers on offer here.”

Bob Fiddaman,
Farmer and President of
European Agriculture
Social Dialogue Committee



Be part of a growing industry

Environmental and land-based industries generate a lot of wealth and provide many jobs around the world. In the UK, the sector is worth around £8.9 billion a year and employs over 720,000 people in England.

The sector offers many different types of work. It includes water and waste management, food production, sports turf, leisure and tourism, land management, landscape architecture, forestry, animal health and welfare as well as environmental conservation. Many in the sector run their own business. So, there are tremendous opportunities for budding entrepreneurs.

Some careers in the sector, like environmental sciences, can command high salaries and lead to international travel and work opportunities.

With the increase in environmental awareness this sector is increasingly influential and is an ideal choice for those who want to make a difference to the future of their world.

GATHER ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

The Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies will give you first-hand experience of the opportunities, occupations and career paths offered by the sector. The Diploma has been developed to give you a broad understanding of the current needs of the sector's diverse businesses.

You will learn through doing and this will give you a clear idea of what working life might be like. It will also help you question and challenge outdated stereotypes of what this sector is all about.

What will I learn?



The Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies focuses on three main themes across all levels:

Productive and working environments: This looks at the limited resources of our natural environment, our impact on it, how it influences us and how these resources are used.

Plants and animals: This explores how we use plants for commercial, recreational and conservation purposes and animals for food production, recreation, work or companionship.

Developing the sustainable environment: This theme will explore the impact we have on our environment, and how important it is to use environmentally friendly 'green' practices.

HOW IS THE DIPLOMA MADE UP?

Principal learning (subject learning you have to do)

The core subjects within Environmental and Land-based Studies are at the heart of the Diploma. These will introduce you to the essential things you need to know about the sector. You'll learn about the issues that are affecting the industry today, how it works and what skills you need to have to work within it.

ACTIVITIES YOU MIGHT DO IN YOUR PRINCIPAL LEARNING

These are just some examples of the kind of learning you'll be doing.

FOUNDATION DIPLOMA	HIGHER DIPLOMA	ADVANCED DIPLOMA
<p>Productive and working environments You'll learn about the different work environments in the natural world. You could, for example, identify common soil types and carry out basic soil tests.</p> <p>Plants and animals You'll learn about different animal habitats. You could, for example, survey a pond, identify the wildlife and prepare a report for the local council explaining how it would be affected if the pond was drained.</p> <p>Developing the sustainable environment You'll learn about the different sources of energy we use. You could, for example, carry out a simple energy audit on your school or college.</p>	<p>Productive and working environments You'll learn about the threats to natural environments. You could, for example, learn about the types of organism that cause disease and damage to plants, the economic problems this causes and how hygiene and healthcare addresses the threat.</p> <p>Plants and animals You'll learn a lot about the animal and plant kingdoms. You could, for example, identify and classify common plants and animals.</p> <p>Developing the sustainable environment You'll learn about how human lifestyles affect the environment. You could, for example, analyse the impact a community like your school is having on the environment and work out how to protect it better.</p>	<p>Productive and working environments You'll learn about the kinds of businesses that operate in this sector. You could, for example, work in a team to plan a business strategy for an environmental-based business.</p> <p>Plants and animals You'll learn how to manage animals and plants in the wild. You could, for example, identify the ways in which stocks of wild animals and plants are managed to maintain their health and vigour.</p> <p>Developing the sustainable environment You'll learn about ways in which businesses can improve their sustainability. You could, for example, survey a park and design a solution to improve its sustainability.</p>



**05. THE DIPLOMA IN ENVIRONMENTAL
AND LAND-BASED STUDIES**

ADDITIONAL AND SPECIALIST LEARNING (CHOICES YOU CAN MAKE)

At each level, you can develop your particular interests in Environmental and Land-based Studies. You can do this by taking specialist courses relating to your chosen subject and career ambitions. You could, for example, learn about food science, horticulture skills or working safely in agriculture.

Or you might choose a GCSE or A level in subjects like biology and chemistry, which would help you get onto a university course.

You can also broaden your course by taking an additional subject that reflects another of your interests and career ambitions – like a language, a science or creative writing.

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS IN ENGLISH, MATHS AND ICT

Like all Diploma students, you'll develop a good standard of English, maths and ICT. These subjects are essential to succeed in any business or learning environment.

PERSONAL, LEARNING AND THINKING SKILLS

All Diploma students will develop personal, learning and thinking skills, such as team-working, creative thinking and self-management. These are vital skills in both life and work, and will be useful to you in the future, no matter which path you take.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Your Diploma will give you the opportunity to do at least 10 days' work experience. This is a great way to use the skills you have learnt in the classroom, and experience what work is like from the inside.

STUDENT PROJECTS

During your Diploma, you'll complete a student project to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that you have learnt. This could be a written piece of work, like a report into the damage that food production can do to the environment, or it could be a practical piece of work, like a video to show how energy can be saved in your home.

What a **Diploma** will lead to

A Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies will give you the skills you need for either university or work, and is a first step towards a career in the sector.

It could lead you to a university degree in subjects like Environmental Science or Horticulture.

Alternatively, it could help you begin a career in the sector or even take a first step in starting up your own business. This could be anything from a florist to a small-holding.

However, the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies doesn't mean you have to opt for a career in this sector. Because a Diploma teaches a mix of subjects, it will give you the skills that will be welcomed by colleges, universities and employers, no matter what you choose to do.

Case study

THE YEAR IS 2010. THIS COULD BE THE EXPERIENCE OF ONE DIPLOMA STUDENT.

**MEET LEANNE,
A DIPLOMA IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND
LAND-BASED STUDIES STUDENT**

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Leanne, 18, from Chester, is studying for an Advanced Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies.

‘I’d always enjoyed volunteering at my local nature centre – helping to care for the animals and welcoming members of the public. I’m also a keen horse rider and I love the prospect of working outside in the fresh air. But I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do. My tutor said that the Diploma would give me a good idea of the job opportunities there are, so I thought it sounded just right for me.’

WHAT I WILL LEARN...

There are principal learning units which I have to study as part of the course. This will ensure that I’ll learn how to use my skills in a real-life context. I’m also interested in using my learning to make a difference in the world.

For the specialist learning part of my qualification I’m hoping to study animal behaviour in relation to horses.

I’M LOOKING FORWARD TO...

I would love to do my work experience at a racing stables. I’d like to learn all the different aspects involved from animal health and welfare to training and customer service.

THE FUTURE...

I’d like to go on to take a degree in Countryside and Environmental Management before finally deciding on a career path – but it will probably have something to do with horses.

This case study is an illustration of how and why a student might decide to do a Diploma. It does not refer to a real individual.

“The Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies will be a credible route through into higher education because the course will give students lots of the skills and attributes which higher education admissions tutors are looking for. Students will enter education with a head start over many who have come with more traditional and conservative backgrounds.”

Professor Brian Chalkley, Director of the Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Plymouth





Want to find out **more?**

To find out more about the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies, speak to your teacher or careers adviser. You can also find more information about Diplomas on these websites:

www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas
www.connexions-direct.com
www.diplomaelbs.co.uk

DOWNLOADING THIS LEAFLET

If you'd like to download this leaflet, go to
http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/explore_more/media_centre

FINDING A COURSE IN YOUR AREA

If you'd like to find out where you can study for this Diploma in your area, go to
http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/where_to_study

or have a look at the prospectus showing all courses in your area: follow the link on www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/

You can download this leaflet or order copies online at www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications Search using reference DCSF-00492-2008.

You can also order more copies by calling 0845 60 222 60; textphone 0845 60 555 60. Please quote reference 00492-2008LEF-EN.

For further information, see www.teachernet.gov.uk/diplomas

For more information about the new 14–19 curriculum, visit www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19

Information about the structure of Diplomas and resources to support their delivery by schools and colleges are available from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority at www.qca.org.uk/diploma

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