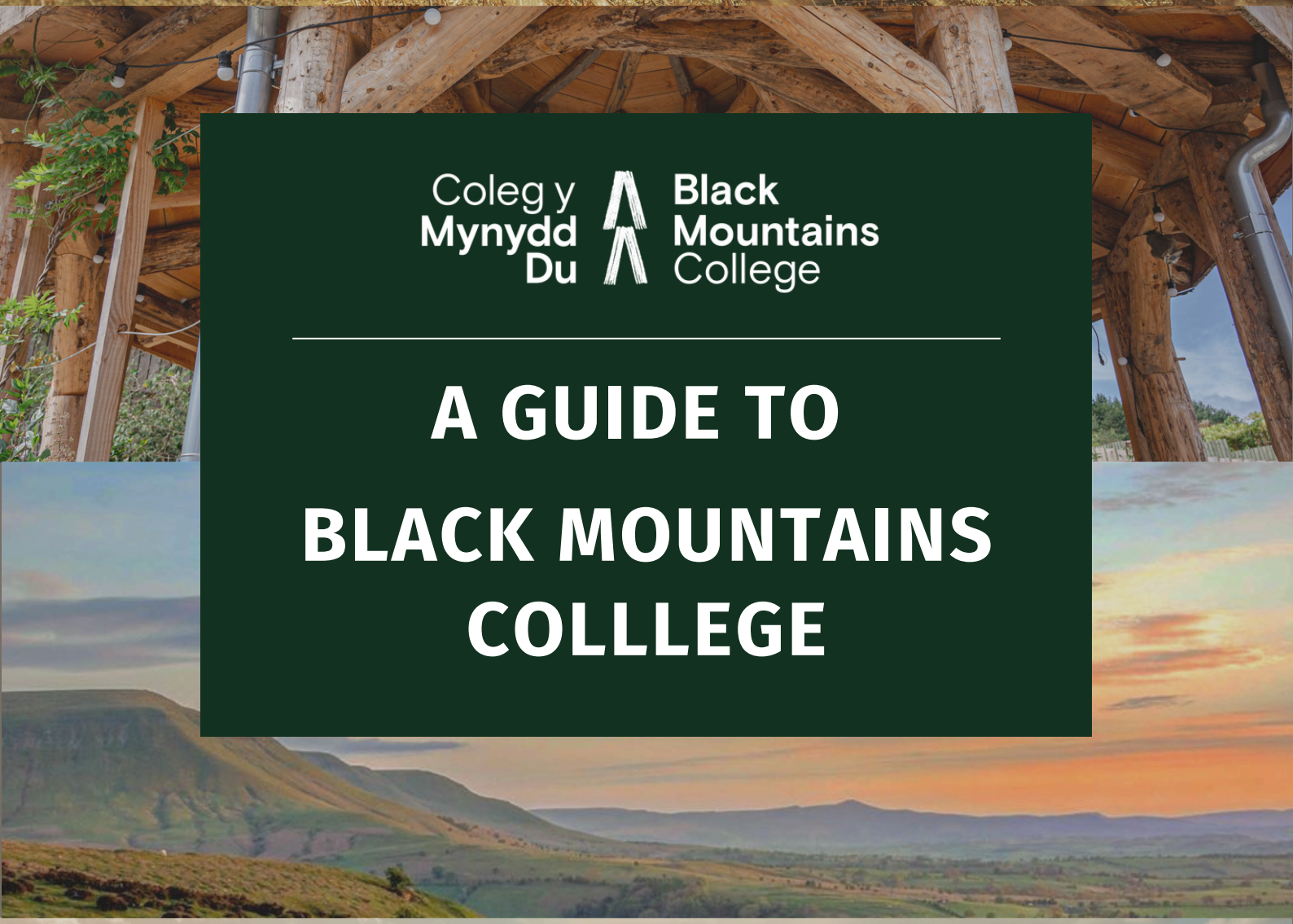


Coleg y Mynydd Du
Black Mountains College

A GUIDE TO BLACK MOUNTAINS COLLLEGE





WELCOME

There is nothing quite like Black Mountains College: a college founded as a direct response to the transformative changes that are happening to our climate, our ecosystems and to us as humans who live as part of them. We are dedicated to empowering you to develop relevant and necessary skills to create systems change with others, in response to the need for climate action and adaptation, whatever your background or talents and whichever career you pursue.

Offering higher education, further education and short courses, BMC is not just an academic institution; it's a dynamic platform for fostering sustainable and regenerative futures. Black Mountains College is open to all. Join us and help pioneer more sustainable futures.

Climate breakdown affects all sectors of societies and economies and cannot be addressed through the lens of one subject. That is why our innovative higher education programme consists of a single degree – **BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology and Systems Change**, with optional pathways to allow you to shape your own learning journey. From the arts to agroecology, from neuroscience to new approaches to economics. Combining insights from arts and sciences, political economy, and creative and professional practice, with opportunities to learn at different venues and professional placements in the Bannau Brycheiniog.

Our vocational further education offerings in **Coppicing & Greenwood Trades**, **Forestry & Arboriculture**, **Regenerative Horticulture** and **Nature Restoration**, provide students with practical skills in real-life contexts. These each include a core programme that links questions of equity and diversity with different ways of learning and knowing, as well as broader concepts of environmental and economic justice.

Black Mountains College is a proudly Welsh institution, and our degree is informed by the Welsh language and culture, historic environment, and Wales's reputation as a trailblazer on sustainability. With the choice between two campuses, you'll be learning in nature and in the community of Talgarth in the heart of the national park, or in the mining town of Treherbert, Rhondda Cynon Taff.

We are delighted that you are considering joining us here at Black Mountains College. We can't wait to help you unleash your potential to build more sustainable futures.

Ben Rawlence
CEO of Black Mountains College

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ABOUT US



At Black Mountains College, we believe in education that empowers people to build resilience in the face of the climate and ecological crisis.

Our approach is built on rethinking traditional learning to foster the skills, creativity, and systems thinking needed for a more sustainable future.

Our countryside-based campus is a living classroom, with access to biodiverse landscapes that inspire and challenge our students to connect deeply with nature. Students learn in a range of classrooms, farms, woodlands and community venues across the local area.

These teaching spaces provide welcoming indoor environments where students can focus on theory, discussion and planning alongside their practical training.

OUR CAMPUSES



TALGARTH

Our Talgarth campus is the centre of our teaching. Regenerative Horticulture and Nature Restoration are based at Troed yr Harn farm, while Coppicing & Greenwood Trades and Forestry & Arboriculture take place in our Talgarth town workshop. Our BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures degree is taught at the newly refurbished Old School.

TREHERBERT

Our Treherbert campus is embedded in the local community. Here, you can study our Level 2 in Forestry & Arboriculture, Regenerative Horticulture and Nature Restoration.. We make use of various community buildings and local woodlands, working in partnership with Welcome to our Woods.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Our student support services include advice, guidance and direct support and our team can help with a wide variety of aspects of student life, whether these are related to your studies, your career aspirations or something more personal. This includes:

- Careers advice and guidance about progression
- Personal tutoring
- Financial advice and hardship support
- Accommodation support
- Wellbeing / counselling / health advice
- Accessibility services

ACCOMMODATION

For students enrolled in Talgarth-based courses, BMC offers a range of accommodation options, from shared spaces to self-contained housing. Living in the historic-market town provides the chance to form a tight-knit community with like-minded peers and engage in collaborative learning outside the classroom.

REVIEW OUR ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS HERE

STUDENT FINANCE

We are committed to making education as accessible and affordable as possible. Whether you're enrolling in our Higher Education programme, or Further Education courses, there are a range of financial support options to help you manage the cost of your studies.

If you need personal guidance, feel free to reach out to our **Student Journey team**—we're here to help.

Review the options that may be available for your course on our website:

READ MORE ABOUT STUDENT FINANCE HERE



STUDENT LIFE



At Black Mountains College (BMC), student life is as unique and transformative as the education itself. Whether you're studying for a degree in **Sustainable Futures** or completing a vocational **Diploma**, your time here will be connected to nature, community, and hands-on learning.

You will join like-minded students and staff who will also bring new ideas to challenge and develop your thinking. The college is set within its context; we are part of the communities of Talgarth and Treherbert in and around the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, both of which offer a range of opportunities for you to learn and explore.

Classes are small, fostering strong relationships between students, lecturers, and support staff. Whichever course you choose, you'll find yourself working on group projects, participating in discussions, and developing solutions together.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Our campuses offer the opportunity to live and learn in some of the most beautiful regions in the UK. The outdoors is your classroom, with lessons and projects often involving working directly with the land, with integrated walks, practical tasks and workshops.



Life at BMC goes beyond lessons. You can participate in community-led initiatives and groups such as local projects, community orchard or woodland groups, therapeutic horticulture groups, book clubs, or join our student society.

There are also regular opportunities to attend workshops, talks, and skill-sharing or volunteering events that support personal development and community resilience.

Once you are a student, you'll receive updates from us via email or on our Facebook Group page with details of any local events, work or volunteer opportunities.





FURTHER EDUCATION





OUR COURSES



LEVEL 2

COPPICING & GREENWOOD TRADES

Talgarth



LEVEL 2

FORESTRY & ARBORICULTURE

Treherbert



LEVEL 2

REGENERATIVE HORTICULTURE

Talgarth or Treherbert



LEVEL 2

NATURE RESTORATION

Talgarth or Treherbert

Level 3 courses:



LEVEL 3

NATURE RESTORATION

Talgarth



LEVEL 3 90-CREDIT DIPLOMA

FORESTRY & ARBORICULTURE

Talgarth



LEVEL 3

REGENERATIVE HORTICULTURE

Talgarth

LEVEL 2

COPPICING & GREENWOOD TRADES

Our Coppicing and Greenwood Trades course will help you to develop skills and knowledge for a successful and rewarding career in the trees and timber sector.

A hands-on vocational course designed to equip you with practical skills in traditional woodland management and greenwood crafts. This unique programme allows you to work directly with the land, learning environmentally conscious methods of managing woodlands with minimum impact, improving biodiversity, and honing your craft skills with sustainable greenwood use.

LOCATION

Talgarth

TUITION TIME

3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 Year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

*Known as C&G Work-Based Trees & Timber.

WHAT IS COPPICING?

Coppicing is an ancient form of woodland management that uses nature's ability to regenerate continually to harvest wood from a living tree. It involves periodically cutting trees down to ground level which promotes vigorous regrowth, creating a sustainable supply of wood which can be used to produce both products and energy.

Coppicing is also fantastic for increasing the lifespan of trees, improving tree health and promoting biodiversity!





WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will resurrect old coppice woodlands by restoring them, and plant trees to create new ones. Topics covered include the following, each will have a particular focus on sustainability:

- Plant trees
- Identify tree species and their properties
- Sharpen and maintain edged hand tools
- Carry out maintenance of a chainsaw and cutting system
- Cut, process and extract coppice
- Fell and process trees
- Control pollution incidents
- Process coppice materials and greenwood products
- Cross-cut timber using a chainsaw
- Monitoring and maintaining health and safety
- Prepare and produce charcoal
- Hedgelaying

Within this course, students will also undertake a Chainsaw Maintenance and Felling Training Course, providing you with an additional, sought-after licence. There's also a brand new opportunity for an additional qualification – First Aid + Forestry. Should you opt to complete this training, there will be a registration fee which is currently TBC.

WHY STUDY SUSTAINABLE COPPICING AND GREEN WOOD WORK SKILLS?

You will study in beautiful and unique woodland settings. This course is ideal for students who want to further their experience of working in forestry to increase their ability and confidence, or for anyone with a passion for nature, craft, and sustainability.

After successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- Progress towards a career as a self-employed or salaried Tree Surgeon, Woodworker, Forestry Worker, Woodland Conservation Officer, or Countryside Ranger
- Move onto a Level 3 course or higher in Green Woodworking and Coppicing, Forestry and Arboriculture, or Land Management
- Use transferable skills for employment opportunities in the trees and timber sector
- Use this qualification towards entry to the BMC undergraduate course, BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology and Systems Change

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm waterproof clothing and shoes for working outdoors, and chainsaw safe trousers, boots, helmet, and gloves.

LEVEL 2

FORESTRY & ARBORICULTURE

Our Forestry and Arboriculture Level 2 will help you to develop skills and knowledge for a successful and rewarding career in the trees and timber sector.

Perfect for those looking to work outdoors, care for natural landscapes, and learn the skills needed to manage trees, woodlands, and green spaces sustainably. You'll study outdoors in the Rhondda Valley, and gain practical skills that are in high demand. This course is ideal for anyone wanting an introduction to the forestry and arboriculture industry.

LOCATION

Treherbert

TUITION TIME

2 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 Year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

***Known as C&G Work-Based Trees & Timber. (General Woodland and Forestry Treework)**

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will cover a wide range of essential and relevant skills, with a particular focus on sustainability and health and safety.

Within this course, students will also undertake an external Chainsaw Maintenance and Felling Course, providing you with an additional, sought-after qualification.





You will cover the following topics:

- Tree identification and their properties
- Chainsaw maintenance and use
- Cross-cutting and tree felling
- Producing wood fuel in a forest
- Creating greenwood products
- Traditional woodland management techniques
- Tool sharpening and maintenance
- Site structure maintenance and repair
- Vegetation and pest control
- Environmental conservation
- Sharpen and maintain edged hand tools
- Construct, maintain and repair signs/way markers
- Work with and consult the local community

WHY STUDY FORESTRY AND ARBORICULTURE?

You will study in beautiful and unique woodland settings. This course equips you with the knowledge and skills to work sustainably with nature, contributing to the conservation and management of our natural landscapes. There's also a brand new opportunity for an additional qualification – First Aid + Forestry. Should you opt to complete this training, there will be a registration fee which is currently TBC.

After successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- Progress towards a career as a self-employed or salaried Tree Surgeon, Forestry Worker, Woodland Conservation Officer, Woodworker, or Countryside Ranger
- Move onto a Level 3 course or higher in Forestry and Arboriculture, Land Management, Green Woodworking and Coppicing, or Environmental Conservation
- Use transferable skills for employment opportunities in the trees and timber sector
- Use this qualification towards entry to the BMC undergraduate course, BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology and Systems Change

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm waterproof clothing and shoes for working outdoors, and chainsaw safe trousers, boots, helmet, and gloves.

Please Note: This course is subject to change.





LEVEL 2

REGENERATIVE HORTICULTURE

Our Regenerative Horticulture Level 2 will help you to develop skills and knowledge for a successful and rewarding career in this sector.

This practical course encompasses organic, permaculture and no-dig principles, which work in harmony with nature for a sustainable future.

Outdoor learning is backed up with classroom theory covering botany, soil science, food production, and ornamental horticulture.

LOCATION

Talgarth or Treherbert

TUITION TIME

Treherbert - 1 Day Per Week

Talgarth - 3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

***Known as C&G Practical Horticulture Skills.**

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Our focus is on sustainability and ecology, with an emphasis on the soil biome—understanding the critical role of soil ecology and why no-dig methods are essential for preserving and enriching this environment.

Dive into permaculture, keyline design, agroforestry, organic principles, and four-season vegetable production. Cover the basics of plant science, including plant evolution, hormone functions, and morphology. These aspects, along with the official modules, form the bedrock of sound practices and are crucial in addressing climate challenges by helping the land sequester more carbon.





Topics covered include the following, each will have a particular focus on sustainability:

- Assess soil texture & condition
- Prepare ground or area for planting
- Apply fertilisers to plants
- Plant trees (Treherbert only)
- Plant out container grown plants (Talgarth only)
- Care for a planted area (Talgarth only)
- Plant out plants in rows by hand
- Propagate plants indoors from seed
- Prune free standing fruit trees in winter
- Propagate plants by stem cuttings
- Identify damage caused by plant pests
- Identify plant diseases and disorders
- Carry out a site survey in 2-dimensions

Topics may differ slightly depending on your chosen location and may be subject to changes.

WHY STUDY REGENERATIVE HORTICULTURE?

This course is ideal for students who want to further their experience of working in horticulture to increase their ability and confidence. You will study in beautiful, real-life training settings.

After successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- Progress towards a career as a self-employed or salaried gardener, landscaper or garden designer
- Set up or work in a market garden or plant nursery, or work in parks and green spaces
- Find work in plant science & technology, or go down the route of a horticultural teaching assistant or technician yourself
- Move into a Level 3 Horticulture course at BMC or with another provider
- Use this qualification towards entry to the BMC undergraduate course, BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology and Systems Change
- Move on to other relevant higher education courses such as Garden Design, Plant Science, Ethno Botany, Agriscience or Arboriculture

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm clothing, waterproofs and waterproof shoes or boots for working outdoors.

Please Note: This course is subject to change.





LEVEL 2

NATURE RESTORATION

This course involves a combination of classroom-based learning, practical fieldwork, and assessments to ensure competency in various conservation tasks.

We aim to support each learner to prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change in relation to building resilience into the natural environment. This course is aimed at individuals interested in starting a career in conservation, looking to enhance their existing skills in environmental stewardship, or make a difference to the world.

This course is accredited by Lantra.

LOCATION

Talgarth or Treherbert

TUITION TIME

Treherbert - 2 Days Per Week

Talgarth - 3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

***Known as C&G Work-Based Environmental Conservation.**

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Nature is under threat from climate change and pressures from unsustainable land use practices. Nature Restoration Level 2 is designed to equip learners with the foundational knowledge and practical skills necessary for contributing to nature restoration and conservation efforts.

You'll learn key skills for a career promoting environmental recovery and resilience, studying habitat management, wildlife identification and monitoring, countryside access and surveying.





Topics covered include the following, each with a particular focus on sustainability:

- Health & safety in land-based settings
- Land-based industries
- Habitat management
- Safe use of tools, equipment & machinery
- British wildlife
- Public land access
- Woodland habitats
- Urban habitats
- Coastal habitats
- Tree planting site preparation & tree identification

Through conservation projects, students gain practical experience in land restoration and design, alongside essential health and safety practices for fieldwork. Learn to solve real-world problems in relation to conservation and prepare for a career after your course.

WHY STUDY NATURE RESTORATION?

You will study in beautiful real-life countryside settings. Whether you are new to countryside, nature, and environment work, or have some knowledge and basic skills, this course will help you to develop a successful career and make a real difference in national parks, local authorities, and wildlife trusts.

After successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- Use this qualification as an introduction to careers such as: Countryside Ranger, Conservation Officer, Nature Recovery Advisor, Surveyor, Ecologist, or Environmental Consultant
- Move into a Level 3 course in Nature Restoration, Environmental Conservation or Land-Based Studies
- Start a career working with a National Park, Wildlife Trust, or in nature restoration or land management companies
- Use this qualification towards entry to the BMC undergraduate course, BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology, and Systems Change

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm waterproof clothing and shoes for working outdoors, and a pair of wellies.

Please Note: This course is subject to change.





LEVEL 3

FORESTRY & ARBORICULTURE

Our Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Forestry & Arboriculture is designed for those looking to deepen their skills in traditional woodland management, sustainable forestry and land-based practices.

This qualification provides the knowledge, hands-on training, and practical experience needed to thrive.

Please note that you will need to have your basic chainsaw certification and some prior experience to study this course.

Don't have this? Try our **Level 2 qualificatio**n instead to obtain this first.

LOCATION

Talgarth

TUITION TIME

3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 Year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

***Known as C&G Level 3 90-Credit Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture.**

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Through practical modules in key areas such as woodland planning and protection, silviculture, tree planting, chainsaw use, and more, students will gain the knowledge and confidence to manage woodlands responsibly, support nature recovery, and explore a meaningful outdoor career.

With the opportunity to lead your own investigative project and work alongside local woodland groups, this course is ideal for anyone looking to combine practical skill-building with ecological understanding and real-world impact.

This course is a blend of practical outdoor and classroom work. Your projects can be highly practical if you choose!





You will cover the following topics:

- Complete a project exploring a topic related to the land-based sector
- Develop an understanding of woodland and forestry management
- Learn about key principles involved in working with trees and woodlands
- Build practical outdoor and woodland-based skills
- Gain awareness of safe working practices when using tools and equipment
- Learn methods used to observe, assess, and monitor trees and woodland areas
- Explore the establishment and care of trees and other woody plants
- Understand the environmental, social, and recreational value of woodlands
- Become familiar with equipment and machinery used in land-based work
- Develop awareness of relevant legislation and responsibilities related to working with trees and the natural environment

Assessments at Level 3 are in the form of report writing, research, verbal assessments, and practical observations. There are no exams, but there is a fair amount of desk work - at least 50% of the course.

WHY STUDY FORESTRY & ARBORICULTURE?

You will study in beautiful and unique woodland settings. This course is ideal for students who want to deepen their current knowledge & experience of working in forestry while opening doors to further study and employment opportunities. There's also a brand new opportunity for an additional qualification – First Aid + Forestry. Should you opt to complete this training, there will be a registration fee which is currently TBC.

After successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- Start a career in the sector as an Arboricultural Officer, Woodland Manager, Conservation Ranger, Estate Worker, Tree Surgeon, Surveyor, Coppice Worker, or Craftsperson
- Progress to Level 4 and above qualifications in Forestry or Coppicing
- Use this qualification towards entry to the BMC undergraduate course, BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology and Systems Change
- Explore a career in timber and woodland product sales or business development
- Set up your own businesses in woodland consultancy, tree surgery, coppicing, or greenwood crafts.

This recognised qualification opens doors to careers or further study in forestry, conservation, rural crafts, and arboriculture, with opportunities to work for forestry companies, conservation organisations, local councils, national parks, estates, environmental charities, or as a self-employed professional.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm waterproof clothing and shoes for working outdoors, and chainsaw safe trousers, boots, helmet, and gloves.

Please Note: This course is subject to change.

LEVEL 3

REGENERATIVE HORTICULTURE

Our Level 3 in Regenerative Horticulture is designed for those passionate about sustainable growing, environmental impact, and creating thriving ecosystems.

This course blends theory and practical skills, giving you the confidence and competence to work with nature to grow food, design landscapes, and manage habitats and estates in an environmentally responsible way.

We place an emphasis on soil science, as soil health is foundation of regenerative land management, sustainable food production, increased carbon storage, and improvements in water holding capacity to help reduce climate change impacts.

LOCATION

Talgarth

TUITION TIME

3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 Year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

***Known as C&G 90-credit Diploma in Horticulture**

WHAT IS REGENERATIVE HORTICULTURE?

Regenerative Horticulture combines soil ecology with the design principles of permaculture, organic production, and ‘no-dig’ techniques to create sustainable growing systems that enhance biodiversity and feed us with nutrient dense foods.

Soil ecology is the foundation of horticulture and the soil biome should be a fully functioning web of micro and macro organisms that provide the plants we grow with a full array of nutrients and immune system services to enable healthy growth.





WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Each topic is designed to build your confidence and competence by developing both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in a variety of real-world situations, with a strong focus on minimising environmental impact and working in a sustainable way. Health and safety is central throughout, teaching you to maintain safe working practices to protect both people and the environment.

You will study the following key areas:

- Principles of Plant Science
- Principles of Soil Science
- Investigative Project in Land-Based Sector
- Principles of Organic Crop Production
- Landscape & Garden Design
- Horticultural Production Techniques: Outdoors
- Manage Plant Propagation Activities
- Identification, Planting and Care of Trees
- Tree and Shrub Pruning and Maintenance

As a Level 3 student, you will be expected to complete independent study alongside your timetabled sessions. Tutors recommend allowing around one day per week, or more if you are new to the subject or do not hold a relevant Level 2 qualification.

WHY STUDY REGENERATIVE HORTICULTURE?

This course is ideal for students who want to deepen their current knowledge & experience in horticulture and land-based industries, while opening doors to further study and employment opportunities. Make a positive impact on the environment and build a sustainable career!

Graduates can pursue careers or setup their own businesses in:

- Organic production horticulture (growing fruit and veg)
- Landscape or garden design
- Nursery stock production and management
- Consultancy or education
- Regenerative agriculture

You can also continue your education in related fields, such as:

- Our own BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology & Systems Change
- Permaculture, Sustainable Land Management, Botany, Agroecology, Environmental Science and Conservation or Landscape Architecture

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm clothing, waterproofs and waterproof shoes or boots for working outdoors.

Please Note: This course is subject to change.

LEVEL 3

NATURE RESTORATION

Our Level 3 Diploma in Nature Restoration is designed for people who want to move beyond practical conservation skills and develop the knowledge, confidence and leadership needed to plan, manage and deliver real environmental restoration projects.

You'll study wildlife conservation and sustainable land use at a more advanced level than at Level 2.

This course will blend theory with practical skills, helping you to develop the confidence and competence necessary to design and restore landscapes, and manage habitats and estates in an environmentally responsible way.

LOCATION

Talgarth

TUITION TIME

3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 Year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

***Known as C&G Level 3 90-Credit Diploma in Countryside Management.**

Working across our farm, woodlands and partner sites, you'll take part in genuine restoration projects while exploring the ecological, social and practical challenges involved in caring for landscapes. Throughout the year you'll develop skills in habitat management, ecological surveying, project planning, community engagement and environmental leadership, preparing you for employment or further study in the conservation and land-based sectors. Our course also has a strong focus on health and safety, biosecurity, waste management, and relevant legislation.





WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This course develops the practical skills needed to restore habitats, manage environmental projects and promote sustainable land management.

- **Investigate Land-Based Nature Restoration** – Explore a real-world environmental challenge and develop practical solutions through an investigative project.
- **Explore Woodland Management** – Discover how healthy, resilient woodlands are managed for biodiversity, climate and people.
- **Restore Woodland Habitats** – Learn practical approaches to improving woodland habitats and supporting native species.
- **Transform Farm Habitats** – Explore how farming landscapes can be managed to create space for wildlife and restore nature.
- **Put Livestock to Work for Nature** – Discover how grazing animals can be used as a powerful tool in conservation and habitat management.
- **Restore Grassland Habitats** – Learn how to manage grasslands to support wildflowers, insects, birds and wider biodiversity.
- **Care for Upland Landscapes** – Explore the challenges of restoring and managing upland habitats, from moorlands to peatlands.
- **Restore Freshwater & Wetland Habitats** – Understand how rivers, ponds, wetlands and other freshwater environments can be protected and restored.
- **Protect & Restore Coastal Habitats** – Discover how coastal environments can be managed to support biodiversity and respond to changing conditions.

WHY STUDY NATURE RESTORATION?

This course is ideal for those looking to progress into careers such as:

- Nature Restoration Officer
- Conservation Ranger
- Countryside Ranger
- Habitat Restoration Practitioner
- Ecological Survey Assistant
- Environmental Project Officer
- Woodland or Estate Management
- Community Nature Recovery Projects
- Environmental Charity or NGO roles
- Positions in Land Management

It also provides an excellent foundation for higher education or for developing your own environmental enterprise or community project.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm clothing, waterproofs and waterproof shoes or boots for working outdoors.

Modules and content may be subject to change

ABOUT OUR DIPLOMAS

Our learning model, applied across all courses, integrates the head, hands and heart, multi-sensory protocols, outdoor learning and multiple ways of knowing.

As a part of their course, further education students studying in Talgarth undertake the **Change in Practice module**, which is 1-day per week and incorporates environmental science, where you will learn about earth cycles and ecosystems, as well as communication, research and business skills. These sessions will be supplemented with various activities, day trips, guest lectures, and projects relating to your subject, where you will work with local organisations to complete practical work. You will use your project experience to imagine a venture and create a business plan.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

At Black Mountains College, there are no exams! You will produce a portfolio of evidence throughout the year and be assessed via observations or brief oral tests. Level 3 courses will require some report writing.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Black Mountains College is open to all. We have no formal entry requirements, but you will need to complete a short interview demonstrating your passion and potential. Agroecology students generally require access to a car due to the remote locations of possible work experience placements. Level 3 Diploma's require IT skills and to be able to work at A level standard.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Tuition fees are fully covered by the Welsh Government for all UK residents and does not need repaying, regardless of your income! You must only be aged 16+ (with no upper age limit) and a UK resident to be eligible.

Although tuition is fully funded, you will still need to be able to cover your own living expenses for the duration of your study. There may be some options to support you, which are all dependent on household income and attendance.

READ MORE ABOUT STUDENT FINANCE - TALGARTH COURSES

READ MORE ABOUT STUDENT FINANCE - TREHERBERT COURSES





HOW TO APPLY

We know that submitting an application for a programme of study can be a big undertaking. You can save your application for up to 30-days and return to it, if you wish to complete it in stages.

For advice on completing an application please see our **frequently asked questions**. If you need assistance, contact StudyFE@blackmountainscollege.uk.

Applications for our Further Education courses: please have a copy of your ID ready to upload before starting your application.

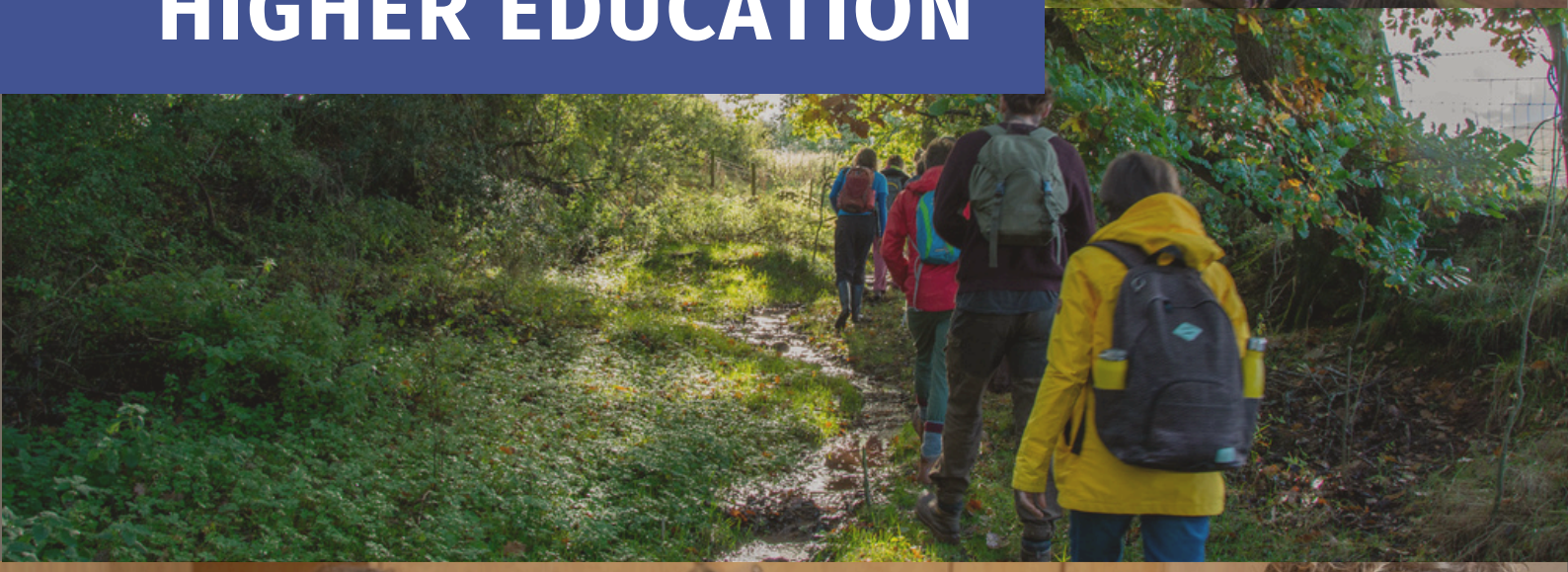
APPLY NOW







HIGHER EDUCATION





BA (HONS)

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: ARTS, ECOLOGY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology and Systems Change is in partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University and you can apply for 2027 entry here.

Created as a response to the climate and ecological emergency, the BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology and Systems Change is designed to foster confidence, creativity, critical thinking and emotional intelligence.

We help you find your talents and then apply them in service of a more equitable world within planetary limits.

LOCATION

Talgarth

TUITION TIME

3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

3 Years

MINIMUM AGE

18 Years Old

COURSE OVERVIEW

Our degree is designed to cultivate knowledge, practical skills, confidence, creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence—the essential tools for driving meaningful change.
The interdisciplinary programme aims to nurture agents of change—individuals who:

- Apply their talents and skills to create a more equitable world within planetary boundaries.
- Are equipped with the ability to communicate, collaborate, and innovate to reimagine and reshape the systems that define our world.

- Are part of developing solutions to the challenges facing nature and human societies.
- Are prepared for a changing world and a climate-impacted future.

The programme is inspired by Wales' pioneering Well-being of Future Generations Act, a legally binding law requiring public bodies to prioritise long-term sustainability, by ensuring today's decisions do not compromise the quality of life for future generations.



YEAR 1

The first year of your three-year programme focuses on the question: How can we learn in a changing world?

You will learn about how humans have treated the Earth historically and imagine alternative futures.

The first year is composed of six mandatory core modules in three areas:

- Systems Change
- Learning how to learn
- Creative Practice

YEAR 2

Focuses on the question: How can we address some of the world's most urgent challenges?

In this year you will consolidate the learning from year one and start to build your specialisms in context and practice.

In addition to the mandatory modules, you will choose one option from:

- Agroecology for Food System Transformation
- Sociotechnical Systems for Future Generations
- Creative Practice

YEAR 3

Will be structured around a question of your choice, arising out of your studies in Years 1 and 2, and the specialisms you have chosen in Year 2.

You will pursue your question through an Individual Research Project and in a module that allows you to undertake a work placement, civic engagement project or create a new venture in a related field.

The module **'What next? Global and Local Systems Change'**, will help you frame your aspirations after graduation within the context of global and local developments, and to develop a portfolio (including a CV, social media profile, presentation skills and introduction to relevant networks) that will prepare you for life after your degree

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We have an open admissions policy designed to encourage the widest possible access and participation for those that would like to enter higher education. Admission is based on portfolios and interviews, not grades alone. We look for potential to contribute to change, not prior achievement.

You will need to submit a reference alongside your application – your reference should be provided by someone who knows you academically or professionally (not a friend or relative) and can comment on relevant skills, experiences, and attributes. Forms are available to download our website.

Interested to learn more? Speak to one of our dedicated **Student Journey Team** members.

HOW TO APPLY

You can either apply for our Degree directly via BMC at any time during the year, or via UCAS before 13th January.

Find us on UCAS: Cardiff Metropolitan University/Black Mountains College – BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology, and Systems Change.

APPLY ON UCAS

APPLY DIRECT

We can support you in completing your application form directly, or if you're ready and know that BMC is for you please fill in a direct application form

APPLY DIRECT

VIEW OUR FULL DEGREE PROSPECTUS

ANY QUESTIONS?

FURTHER EDUCATION

studyFE@blackmountainscollege.uk

HIGHER EDUCATION

studyHE@blackmountainscollege.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

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