Kenmare Adult Education Centre

Horticulture
(QQI Level 5)

Major Award

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE COURSE?

There are a total of 9 subjects in this course and all are Horticulture related. (making up a **120 Credit** total required for the full certificate) You will find a brief description of each subject in this pack. As this is a Horticulture course much of the work is done in the Garden & Classroom but there may be occasions where work may need to be done at home. You need to be reasonably computer literate - able to send an email and word process to complete a project etc.

We do realise that many people will have other commitments in their lives outside of the course, but we need to have an **80% minimum** attendance rate for every subject. If you have to miss a class, you must inform your tutors and arrange to catch up with what you have missed. Tutors in turn will make every effort to stick to the timetable that is set at the start, and if they are unable to be there, will arrange for another tutor to take their class.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THIS COURSE?

Application is by way of **CV** and a completed **Application Form** (2 pages -included at the back of this pack) to be sent to: Kenmare Adult Education Centre, Bell Height, Kenmare, Co. Kerry. Selection for places is by means of **Interview** to be held on Thursday 14th September 2017 at the Kenmare Adult Education Centre. (We will let you know whether you were successful the day after interview) Course will begin on Monday 18th September 2017. (subject to getting sufficient number of applicants)

As there is a limited number of places on this course the emphasis will be on recruiting learners who can show that the want to successfully complete course. With this in mind we ask people to demonstrate this interest in the application process - which will be as much about life, and work experience, as formal qualifications.

APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS

If you are an applicant with a disability, or special learning need, you may qualify for non-standard entry on the basis that because of the disability, or special learning need, you are not in a position to meet the standard admission criteria. You should contact the centre before you submit your application form. Arrangements for non-standard entry are made on an individual basis.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The course will begin on Monday 18th September 2017 and finish in May 2018. The course will run 4 days per week (10 am – 2 pm) As far as possible we will not have classes during school holidays, mid-term breaks etc. but as this is a Horticulture course, which has a growing season, some attendance may be required. All classes will take place in the Centre except for the Work Practice which will be completed in an appropriate Horticulture environment. (Study, and IT support, will be available if needed)

IT LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF WORK - WILL THERE BE ANY FUN?!

There **is** a lot of work involved in this course both for tutors and learners – however, we plan to make things as easy for everyone as we can. Tutors will work as a team to make sure that all students are managing well and if any extra support is needed we ask people to tell us as soon as possible. We hope to include a few trips out during the course. We will keep you up to date at all times with what is happening on the course and in the Centre and want you to feel that this is Your course. If you have any ideas about how we could improve things do let us know and we will try to accommodate them.

WHAT IF YOU HAVE ALREADY GAINED SOME FETAC QUALIFICATIONS?

We have already offered some of the modules in this particular course in previous years and so some people may have already passed some of the subjects. If so, please let us know on your application form. (There may be cases where people can claim exemptions for certain subjects)

WHAT CAN I DO AFTERWARDS?

This course is designed as a stepping stone back into the workplace, or possibly start one's own business, or to Higher Education in a related area. If you have any questions about this, do let us know. Kerry Education & Training Board has an Education Guidance Service which is available to you.

WHAT IF YOU ARE CLAIMING SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS?

We understand from the Department of Social Protection (DSP) that doing this course should not affect any body's current social protection benefits. However, we do advise you to check this out yourself before you commit to the course. On the application form we ask what benefits you are currently claiming as these effects the funding that the Centre receives and also whether you will need to pay anything towards the cost of the course.

This course is being run the Back to Education Programme (BTEI) which means that anybody in receipt of a DSP payment, those with a Medical Card or people who have left education prior to Leaving certificate (or equivalent) are free. Those in employment and with their leaving certificate (or equivalent) may have to pay. (it is important, however, to contact the centre if you are not sure as each person's

situation differ) All students doing the course have to pay **€100** to cover the cost of plant materials, tea/coffee, printing, folders etc. (€50 deposit on receipt of application with other €50 on, or before, the 1st December 2017. If a student leaves the course within 2 weeks of the start date the €50 deposit will be returned. Refer to Kerry ETB student handbook if you have any further queries re fees. A copy is available from Centre office)

Requirements for the Major Award

To receive the full certificate in Horticulture (QQI Level 5/5M2586) a learner is required to successfully complete 9 subjects/component certificates. (**120 Credits*** in total made up of 9 subjects each having a value of either 10 or 15 credits)

Subjects for 2017 – 2018 as follows:~

- Work Practice (5N1433/15 Credits)
- Plant Protection (5N2546/15 credits)
- Plant Science (5N2528/10 Credits)
- Plant Identification and Use (5N2527/10 Credits)
- Soils Science and Growing Media (5N2530/10 Credits)
- Team Working (5N1367/15 Credits)
- Organic Production (5N2549/15 Credits)
- Organic Principles & Standards (5N2550/15 Credits)
- Biodiversity & Natural Environment (5N2553/15 Credits)

*The exception here is where a learner is seeking to use other (relevant) credits from either level 4 or Level 6 (maximum of such credits being 15 - two subjects at level 4 or one subject at level 6) FETAC/QQI Approval is required in such cases.

~There may be some to the subjects on offer for this course.

Note: The Major Award that will be conferred, for successful completion of this course, will be titled Horticulture. The Centre will be delivering this course from an Organic Perspective however, as we are an Organic Centre (Organic Trust: Licence No: **800**) and the reason for not delivering a completely organic course is that no such option is presently available within the QQI structure.

Plant Protection
(5N2546/15 Credits)

The Learners will be able to: describe the characteristics of common plant pests including insects, other arthropods, molluscs, nematodes, birds and mammals; describe the characterises of disease causing agents including fungi, bacteria, viruses as plant parasites; describe the characteristics of the causal agents of non-pathogenic plant disorders; review the effects, reproduction, spread and control of weeds; describe the range, formulation and uses of pesticides in horticulture; describe pests and disease control measures appropriate to specific situations including culture, chemical, biological and integrated control methods and legislative control practices including notifiable pests and diseases; identify a range of horticulture pests and diseases including their symptoms, types of damage and control measures; apply pesticide with a knapsack sprayer in accordance with recommended safe practice including selection of appropriate PPE, interpreting labels, assessing suitability of prevailing wind conditions, calibrating sprayer, measuring and mixing pesticide, application procedures, freeing blocked nozzles, washing out sprayer and keeping appropriate records and traceability; implement procedures to create and maintain a safe working environment including safety standards regarding lifting, carrying and handling plants, tools and equipment.

Plant Science
(5N2528/10 Credits)

The Learners will be able to: discuss typical plant external and internal anatomy to include the structure and function of cells and tissues, roots, stems, leaves and flowers and their modifications comparing monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants; illustrate the process of secondary thickening in the case of a young, dicotyledonous stem; outline the following plant processes, how they can be controlled and their relationship with environmental factors: photosynthesis; respiration; transpiration; mineral and water uptake; outline the life cycle and development of plants in respect of seed structure and germination including dormancy, the vegetative plant and vegetative propagation, the flowering plant and sexual reproduction and the fruiting plant fruit classification; describe the functions of plant hormones including auxins, cytokinins, gibberellins, abscisic acid and ethylene and the role of synthetic hormones in plant production; apply Mendel's laws of inheritance to mono hybrid crosses; outline the processes involved in conventional plant breeding including the production of first filial generation of hybrid seed; outline the main characteristics of micro-organisms to include

fungi, bacteria, and viruses and their role in the plant kingdom; investigate the system of plant classification including principles of classification, divisions of the plant kingdom, the binominal system of nomenclature and the naming of hybrids.

Plant Identification & Use (5N2527/10 Credits)

The Learner will be able to: explain the binomial plant nomenclature system and why it is used; explain terms such as EU plant passport, phytosanitary certificate, plant standards and specifications and regulations when dealing with plant health issues; use a botanical key to identify a range of plants; apply full scientific name when identifying plants to include hybrids and cultivars; identify a wide range of common trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, fruit and vegetables at different times during their growing season to include plants in leaf, in flower, in fruit and winter twig; identify a wide range of common weeds found in a range of horticultural situations to include lawns, cultivated areas, ornamental beds and nursery areas; identify a range of common poisonous plants; identify a range of common alien invasive plant species; select plants suitable for a range of different planting situations to include bedding displays, including annuals, biennials, bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes: small garden, different soil types, climbing, ground cover, hedges, bedding plants, fruit and vegetables; implement procedures to create and maintain a safe working environment including safety standards regarding lifting, carrying and handling plants, tools and equipment.

Soil Science and Growing Media (5N2530/10 Credits)

The Learners will be able to: explain the origins of soil to include parent rock types and the role of physical, chemical and biological factors in soil formation; investigate the structure and composition of a variety of soil profiles; summarise the characteristics of the major soil groups found in Ireland; describe the physical characteristics of soil and non-soil growing media including its components, texture, hydraulic conductivity, air filled porosity, potting mixes, hydro culture and suitability for various crops; outline the chemical characteristics of soil and growing media including pH and its effects on nutrient availability, cation exchange capacity, buffering capacity and liming requirements; explain the role and principles of drainage including saturation, field capacity, permanent wilting point, capillarity and available water; relate macro and micro elements to plant nutrition including their function, deficiency and toxicity effects, organic and inorganic sources, role of liquid feed, slow and controlled release fertilisers to include interpreting a soil analysis report; use a range of techniques to assess the physical properties

and nutrients status of soils and growing media including soil sampling, pH and SC measurement and results interpretation; implement procedures to create and maintain a safe working environment including safety standards regarding lifting, carrying and handling plants, tools and equipment.

Organic Production
(5N2549/15 Credits)

The Learners will be able to: identify approaches to sourcing seeds and other material inputs for organic systems of production; examine markets and marketing of organic crops and products to include conducting a market survey, preparing a point of sale leaflet, explaining costing structures and identifying any potential issues; design a crop rotation plan to organic standards for potatoes, brassicas, legumes, and root crops to include varietal selection and sourcing, nutrient management and appropriate weed, pest and disease control; produce an organic fruit, vegetable or protected crop from propagation to point of sale including all relevant cultivation practices; compile a fruit or vegetable production programme for a given site to provide a range and continuity of supply taking into account location, soil type, rotation requirements, water supply, availability of protected structures, pest and disease considerations and crop supply demands; implement procedures to create and maintain a safe working environment including safety standards regarding lifting, carrying and handling plants, tools and equipment.

Organic Principles & Standards
(5N2550/15 Credits)

The Learners will be able to: outline the origins, aims and development of the organic movement in Ireland and internationally and the roles of various approval certifying bodies; explain the principle features of organic production including environmental and economic considerations, systems both outdoors and under protection, standards, terms, symbols used and derogation from the certifying bodies; explain the processes of organic certification, including the role of national and certification bodies, application, entry, record keeping, inspection and updating of standards and labelling requirements; describe general standards for organic crop production to include requirements for record keeping, soil management, rotation practices, manure management and application, supplementary nutrients; describe the resources available for organic conversion including grants and sources of advice and support; identify suppliers of organic inputs and markets for organic produce; evaluate the requirements for organic conversion including labour requirements, equipment, machinery, costing and price structures; prepare an outline of an organic conversion plan, devising a cropping

programme for the fertility building phase of organic conversion and a crop rotation programme for a horticultural holding; implement procedures to create and maintain a safe working environment including safety standards regarding lifting, carrying and handling plants, tools and equipment.

Biodiversity & Natural Environment (5N2553/15 Credits)

The Learners will be able to: explain environmental terminology including ecology, community, population, habitat, succession, ecosystem, sustainability, food chain and food web, carbon and nitrogen cycles; describe the role of water quality including organic pollution, eutrophication, toxic pollution and the hydrological cycle; describe the effects of human activities on the environment to include exhaustion of natural resources, climate change, habitat destruction, pollution, loss of biodiversity, invasive alien species; explain the role of biodiversity and common threats at genetic, specific and ecosystem levels; review the main provisions of the Wildlife Act; use the tools necessary to describe a habitat including use of keys, Braun-Blanquet scale, quadrats, and linear surveys; prepare an environmental survey of a complex site to include at least three of the following elements – hedgerow assessment to include structure, species composition, coactivity, diversity and associated features, water quality assessment to include invertebrate biodiversity, Q values and some chemical indicators such as pH or P, investigation of epiflora of walls, investigation of colonisation of waste ground, investigation of succession on disturbed ground, or any other suitable activity; implement procedures to create and maintain a safe working environment including safety standards regarding lifting, carrying and handling plants, tools and equipment.

Teamworking (5N1367/15 Credits)

The Learners will be able to: examine the concept, features, types and impact of teamworking within diverse formal and informal structures, for organisations, systems and individuals; analyse the roles, responsibilities, characteristics and skill of team members, including leaders, coaches and trainers; analyse the elements and stages of team development; summarise key opportunities and challenges of inter-and-intra- teamwork or of multi-team environments; participate in setting team objectives and subsequent evaluation, to include control mechanisms such as on-going feedback and documentation, and performance measurement; participate in core teamworking activities, to include negotiation, problem-solving, finding solutions, decision making and conflict resolution; demonstrate appropriate

communications, problem-solving and negotiation techniques in a range of teamworking situations and roles, to include leadership roles and giving and receiving feedback; monitor personal strengths and weaknesses as a team participant, including interpersonal communications skills and problem-solving skills.

Work Practice
(5N1433/15 credits)

The learner will be able to: summarise the distinguishing features of the organisation, institution or workplace to include its status (public, private, voluntary, other) size, organisation structure, main aims and its overall work, staff client engagement and management practices; comment on current issues, challenges and trends affecting the organisation, institution or workplace, to include as appropriate, local national, global, economic and social or ethical issues; summarise the main legislation and regulations relevant to the place of work; to include health, safety and welfare at work, employment, equality and matters related to the specific vocational context; explain the organisation's internal and external policies and procedures pertinent to own role and role of others; conclude a minimum 2 month work practice placement undertaking a range vocationally specific tasks and activities; select information required for a range of work-tasks and activities; select information required for a range of work-based tasks, to include analysis of information and application of knowledge to new situations; work independently carrying out a range of vocationally specific activities and tasks in the organisation, institution or workplace, seeking advice and general direction as appropriate; contribute positively as a member of an organisation or team; maintaining time-keeping personal presentation, meeting deadlines and adherence to health, safety and other relevant regulations and practices; execute work practice tasks and responsibilities in a professional and safe manner; reflect on personal work practices, to include feedback from supervisor(s) or mentors on personal performance, achievements and challenges; review personal and professional learning to include identifying strengths and weaknesses, learning and career opportunities within the vocational field and within the organisation, institution or workplace.

We invite people to come and talk to us and have a look at the Centres garden.

A **Student Tunnel** in place specifically to facilitate growing.

KENMARE ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE
Horticulture Course
(2017 – 2018)

APPLICATION FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER:

1. Explain in 300-400 words why you would like to do this course

2. **Previous Qualifications** (including FETAC qualifications)

Subject **Level** **Year awarded** **Centre***

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**If you did the course in Kenmare Adult Education Centre and are not sure of the exact details, do call us as we will have your details on record. If you did a course elsewhere we will need evidence of that if you wish to claim exemption from a particular subject.*

3. Social Welfare Benefits

Please let us know what benefits, if any, you are currently claiming.

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Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This form (these two pages only) and an up to date CV should be posted or delivered to: Kenmare Adult Education Centre, Bell Height, Kenmare, Co. Kerry, (or email to info@kenmareaec.ie) to arrive not later than 1 PM on Friday **8th September 2017**.