

Overview of our Arborist Apprenticeship level 2

The University of Exeter Arborist Apprenticeship Scheme will elevate your career within the Agricultural environment. Upon completion of the apprenticeship you will have gained recognised qualifications and a diverse range of work experience within a Russell Group, UK top 10, University.

You will receive an excellent educational experience from our training providers, and will be immersed in real time on the job training at the University of Exeter whilst in your day to day role.

The work of an arborist involves diverse activities such as chainsaw work, aerial tree work, pruning, dismantling and using appropriate machinery such as brushwood chippers. Tree work can be physically demanding and involves working outdoors in all weathers.

An arborist will undertake aerial tree work but may also be ground-based. They do a range of tree work jobs with indirect supervision. They are capable of supporting the tree work team across a range of basic technical skills.

You will develop skills in caring for, maintaining, propagating and planting trees including some of the largest trees in the UK many of which are rare and unusual specimens, working in woodlands, estate and grounds maintenance activities.

Work activities will also include some general estate management activities helping to give a broad level of experience.

For the duration of the programme, Apprentices develop practical skills with you on-site and in the workplace and also attend our Training Centre in block sessions (each a week long, four times in the year of the Apprenticeship) where they work on the Technical Certificate, learn theory elements of the programme, and further develop their practical skills. These block training sessions include all food, facilities and accommodation and cost you, the employer, nothing.

With a focus on adding value, your role contributes to the efficiency of the University, through support of functional areas, working across teams and resolving issues as requested. Flexibility and responsiveness is required to enable you to develop a wide range of skills.

What are the entry requirements?

Apprentices must have achieved level 1 English and maths (equivalent to GCSE grades 3 to 1 or D to G) before taking their end-point assessment. They must also have taken level 2 English and maths (equivalent to GCSE grades 9 to 4 or A* to C).

What is the duration of my apprenticeship?

Dependent on the role you apply for at the University, your Apprenticeship will last **24 months**.

What Qualifications will I achieve?

The following license to practice qualifications would be required prior to end point assessment:

- ✓ Level 2 award in emergency first aid at work
- ✓ Level 2 award in safe use of brushwood chipper
- ✓ Traffic Management (NRSWA Unit 002 Signing, Lighting and Guarding) OR Sector Scheme 12D
- ✓ Level 2 award in chainsaw maintenance
- ✓ Level 2 award in crosscutting timber using a chainsaw
- ✓ Level 2 award in felling and processing trees up to 380mm
- ✓ Level 2 award in accessing a tree using a rope and harness
- ✓ Level 3 award in aerial tree rescue operations

- ✓ Level 3 award in aerial cutting of trees using free fall techniques
- ✓ Level 2 award in safe use of mobile elevated work platform
- ✓ Level 3 award in use of a chainsaw from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)

- ✓ Apprentices without Level 1 English and maths will need to achieve this level and take the test for Level 2 English and maths prior to taking the end-point assessment.

What topics could I study?

- ✓ using and maintaining a chainsaw
- ✓ felling and processing trees
- ✓ climbing trees using a rope and harness, and using elevated platforms
- ✓ recognising different types of trees and shrubs
- ✓ identifying and managing pests, diseases and tree defects

All units must be continually assessed by the tutors and internally verified. An External Quality Assessor from the awarding organisation may sample portfolios and test administration to ensure Centre compliance with Quality Assurance procedures and correct interpretation of the national standards.

When on your college day-release, you will be supported by your Skills Trainer/tutors. You will spend the remainder of the week in the workplace. Whilst at work, your Skills Officer will visit you and carry out assessments.

What is it like to study and how will I be assessed?

On programme assessments will be combined to make a portfolio that will not be graded, but will form the basis of the end point structured interview. These elements are:

- A quarterly appraisal system to monitor the progress of the apprentice, provide feedback and guide development. The appraisals shall include particular reference to apprentice development of skills following passing the certificates to practice qualifications.
- A diary with quarterly entries maintained by the apprentice that demonstrates development through the apprenticeship period.
- Knowledge tests related to seasonal aspects to include tree and shrub identification, principal decay fungi identification, important and common pest/disease/disorder identification.
- Practical tests related to seasonal skills acquired during the apprenticeship period.

Final end point assessments shall be composed of four elements:

- A holistic project - giving the apprentice the opportunity to undertake a business- related project over a one-week period away from the normal workplace
- A structured interview with an assessor - exploring what has been produced during the apprenticeship and the project plus testing additional knowledge not covered elsewhere. This will be based on the apprentice diary and knowledge assessments (portfolio) completed during the apprenticeship
- Multiple choice online knowledge tests
- Practical tests

The qualification combines knowledge and practical work with employment experience. The course reflects the skills and knowledge needed to pursue a career in Trees and Timber.

What can my apprenticeship lead on to?

Your apprenticeship at the University of Exeter will help you progress in your career through grounds team roles into a management role. On successful completion of your apprenticeship there may be opportunities to take up a permanent role at the University.