

SKILLS FOR LIFE & WORK: RURAL SKILLS - NATIONAL 4

What are the aims of this course?

This course focuses on developing generic employability skills needed for success in the workplace through a variety of practical experiences in the Rural Skills area.

Rural Skills allows candidates to begin to develop some of the basic practical skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to work in most of the land-based disciplines — areas such as horticulture, landscaping, agricultural crops, animal care, agricultural livestock and equine industries. The course also provides the opportunity to explore the very diverse employment prospects that exist in land-based industries.

What will I be learning about in this course?

Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of estate maintenance, land-based industries, soft landscaping as well as crop production and gain practical experience in those areas. They will learn about the workplace and the employee's responsibilities, such as time-keeping, appearance, customer care and safe working practices.

What skills will I develop?

- Practical skills such as using tools for estate maintenance and crop production
- Working with others
- Communication
- Numeracy & Literacy
- Information technology
- Problem solving
- Self-evaluation

What learning & teaching approaches will I experience?

A large part of the course will be based on practical learning experiences. The school garden will be used for practical tasks, providing a great opportunity for students to plan, carry out and review projects collaboratively. Classroom based lessons will focus on research tasks, during which students work individually and also in small groups. There will also be workplace visits for first-hand experience of various land-based industries.

How will I be assessed?

Assessments include the demonstration of safe working practices using tools and equipment for estate management and crop production. Students will also produce a folio that includes evidence of practical tasks as well as group and individual research projects.

What might this course lead to in the future?

Successful learners may progress to Scottish Progression Award in Rural Skills at National 5, SVQs/ NVQs in Appropriate Land-based sector vocational areas, programmes in Further Education Colleges, vocational training or employment.