Horticulture in Australia is a $7 billion industry. It is extremely diverse and comprises of fruit, vegetables, nuts, nursery, cut flowers and turf. It is the fastest growing industry in agriculture and skilled graduates are required to take on exciting and diverse roles in research and management.

**Course Description**

The Bachelor of Agribusiness Horticulture focuses on the production of horticultural crops, postharvest handling and the management and marketing of horticultural products.

Students study units such as marketing, economics, finance and international trade combined with the principles of horticulture, soil management, intensive horticultural production systems, crop husbandry and post harvest handling and quality control of horticultural products.

This course is designed for people who wish to work or conduct research in the fields of plant propagation and cultivation, crop protection, postharvest handling, plant breeding and plant physiology.

**Career Opportunities**

Horticulture graduates are prepared for leadership roles within the horticultural industry and in the wider agribusiness sector including, research and development, management of horticultural businesses (flowers, vegetables, fruit orchards and production nurseries), postharvest handling as well as management of parks and gardens. Graduates also gain employment in environmental management and land rehabilitation roles or in finance, sales and marketing roles in industries servicing the horticulture industry such as fertilisers, chemicals and irrigation.

Graduates of this degree can undertake further studies in a Master of Philosophy (Horticulture) or PhD.

agrienvi.curtin.edu.au
All about: Horticulture

Entry Requirements
TER 2008 – 76.85
Mature Age – STAT, elements E, V or Q.
Agribusiness Enabling Course
WACAC – At least 4 As, nothing lower than a B.
TAFE – Completion of an accredited diploma, advanced diploma or associate diploma.

Duration
3 years full-time or equivalent part-time.

Location
Bentley.

Real World Practice
Throughout the degree students studying at the Bentley campus have access to a state-of-the-art Horticulture Laboratory to enhance their studies. Students are also required to participate in field trips to apply their knowledge and skills in various horticultural environments. Students learn in the field and can apply the knowledge learnt to real world scenarios.

In the final year of the degree students spend 12 weeks undertaking professional practice. They develop their management skills whilst working in a horticultural organisation anywhere in Australia or overseas. This hands-on placement provides students with essential experience that ensures they are job ready upon graduation.

Professional Recognition
Graduates may be eligible for membership of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science [AIAS], the Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) and The Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Gardens.

International Students
International Students studying in Australia on a student visa can only study full-time. Specific entry requirements that must be met. Please refer to www.international.curtin.edu.au or phone +61 8 9266 7331 for further information, as some information contained in this booklet may not be applicable to international students. Australian citizens and permanent residents and international students studying outside Australia may have the choice of full-time, part-time and external study. Information about TISC only applies to Australian residents.

Graduate Profile
Darren Clifford
Rural Finance Officer, Landmark
I grew up in Wagga Wagga in NSW, where I completed both my primary and secondary education. I developed a keen interest in Agriculture from a very young age and it wasn’t until I moved to Perth 13 years ago that I decided to go back to university.

For me it was an easy choice to study at Muresk. I wanted to gain employment in the agribusiness sector in Western Australia and I knew that Muresk had a great reputation within the industry.

Being a mature age student was certainly challenging but I found the staff at Muresk to be extremely helpful and friendly. The degree I completed gave me a broad view of the agribusiness sector, whilst the professional practice unit in third year assisted me in securing a full-time job upon graduation.

I am currently working as a Rural Finance Officer for Landmark in Midvale. In my job I have found that the coursework I studied as a part of my degree has been extremely relevant and useful. Completing a Muresk Agribusiness degree has certainly improved my career opportunities.

Curtin Horticulture Research Laboratory
The Horticulture Research laboratory is located adjacent to the Bentley campus. The laboratory is utilised for research, with a major focus on enhancing the shelf life, quality, nutritional value and yield of horticultural crops, as well as solving specific post-harvest problems during storage and distribution in both domestic and export markets.

The facility provides an excellent platform for students to undertake research into horticultural problems facing many Western Australian growers, such as colour development in Pink Lady apples for the domestic and export markets, improving the aroma of Kensington Pride mangoes and extending the shelf life of Australian plums.

Salary Trends
The average maximum wage in the Horticultural Industry is $95,000, with an average Industry wage being $60,224. If the Agribusiness/ Agriculture career path is chosen the industry maximum wage average is $104,000, whilst the average Industry wage is $57,608.

Source: Salary data obtained from mycareer.com.au

June 2008.

For more, contact:

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Part time and external study is only available to Australian resident students and International students studying outside Australia.

Full details of units and course structure can be obtained by contacting the above or electronically from: http://handbook.curtin.edu.au

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Source: Salary data obtained from mycareer.com.au

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