



Garden Design Diploma & Early Portfolio Development

Donna Sutton

Award Details

I was awarded a bursary by the Merlin Trust which I used towards my garden design professional diploma with the British Academy of Garden Design. The course provided intensive and comprehensive knowledge in garden design principles, plant knowledge, practical application and direction on how to setup and build your own garden design business. Although the in person tuition element of the course concluded on 7th March, there is a three-year period in which to complete the required assignments to achieve the diploma. This structure allows me to continue developing my skills while applying my learning in real-world settings.

Outcomes

From this experience, I have:

- Successfully completed my first assignment, achieving a distinction
- Gained extensive knowledge in garden design principles and processes
- Set up my own garden design and maintenance business
- Begun applying my learning directly to client projects
- Built confidence in creating and presenting professional garden designs

This experience has enabled me to transition quickly from learning into practice, strengthening both my technical skills and confidence as a garden designer.

Next Steps

Building on this what I have learnt, I plan to continue developing my design portfolio over the coming months while alongside completing further course assignments. I am also keen to take on larger and more complex projects, allowing me to expand my experience and refine my design style as I work towards achieving my diploma and growing my garden design business.

