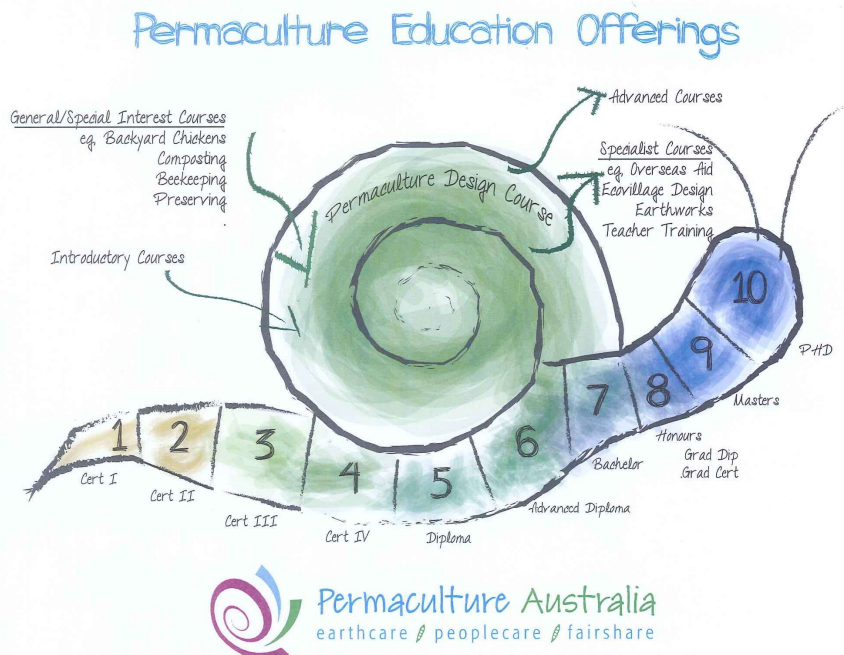# AHC42116 CIV Permaculture

About the course

This qualification relates to individuals who work as project supervisors and designers for private clients or organisations. They require high level permaculture design skills, and knowledge in a broad range of areas in keeping with permaculture's multi-disciplinary nature. They may be involved in supervising individuals and teams of people on urban and rural work sites and in community projects.

The qualification is suited to learners who wish to work at the supervisory level within permaculture design projects, and may involve the supervision of others and working with people of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Participants of this course need to have access to a permaculture site for practical and study purposes and be able to work for clients on designs and projects. You will also need access to some specialised equipment and tools, such as a dumpy or laser level, and these considerations are mentioned in the unit descriptions that are listed later. There are twelve units in this course, and a brief description and selection of these is detailed later in this document.

Permaculture education

The various permaculture courses are laid out in the following diagram. Many people undertake a Permaculture Design Course and then wish to further their education and training, and enrol in an AHC33816 CIII Permaculture or higher course. The Australian Qualifications Framework shows a CIV course as being Level 4. These types of courses can take anywhere from six months to two years.

Duration of course and amount of training

The expected duration of the AHC42116 Certificate CIV Permaculture is one and a half to two years. Learners will vary the time taken according to their entry skill level.

The recommended volume of learning is made up from:

1. Online training 400 hours
2. Independent learning, research, assignments, assessment tasks 515 hours
3. Practical skill development, workplace training 185 hours

    Total 1100 hours

Learners integrate knowledge and skills at different rates and have varied time commitments which affect their ability to spend time completing self-paced and other directed work. These conditions will affect the pace with which learners can complete the course.

Skills Strategies International will provide blended learning according to the following breakdown:

Extra support learners who need additional time to integrate the learning will be supported with coaching and mentoring, and thus will get further individual support. Support will be provided by the facilitator and within the learner groups/network that will be formed in the online class.

Learners are encouraged to submit assessments between the delivery of units. i.e submit Unit 1 before Unit 2 etc. However, some combination of assessment tasks can be completed and submitted when some units are clustered, and similar tasks are undertaken at the same time. Any learners who are struggling will be offered to re-sit the assessment task at no extra charge.

Entry requirements

There are no specific course entry requirements or prerequisites, but it is recommended that potential students should have undertaken a AHC33816 CIII Permaculture and/or Permaculture Design Course (PDC). These courses do provide good background understanding about permaculture ethics, principles and practices.

Current skills are discussed with learners prior to enrolment. New enrolees will be asked to undertake a LNN Skills Requirement Task to demonstrate their skill competence with language and numeracy. This task is made from some of the appropriate skills that need to be demonstrated from some of the core units.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Learners are able to have their competency from prior learning and work experience recognised in this qualification through the following arrangements:

Learners can apply for RPL or credit transfer of existing units achieved.

Course Structure

Twelve units are undertaken for this qualification, and the make-up of this is described below.

Core Units (5)

AHCPER401 Provide advice on permaculture principles and practices

This core unit provides the skills and knowledge to provide advice on permaculture principles and practices. It requires knowledge of permaculture principles and practices, skills in identifying client needs and requirements, providing advice on permaculture practices, and in researching and relating detailed permaculture information and advice to clients.

AHCPER404 Plan and implement permaculture works

This core unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to plan and implement permaculture works through preliminary planning, scope of works, work health and safety policies and procedures, equipment and materials, works schedules, specifications and environmental impacts. Activities also include organising and directing works implementation, so you would be expected to supervise and organise others during the implementation.

AHCPER405 Select appropriate technology for a permaculture system

This core unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to select appropriate technologies for permaculture systems. It includes identification, research, evaluation, selection and communication of sustainable technology for permaculture applications. Ideally, you might be able to investigate various technologies as part of a design report.

AHCPER406 Identify and analyse bioregional characteristics and resources

This core unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to research, extract and provide information on bioregional characteristics and resources. It requires the ability to process a request for such information, identify information sources, organise self and others, ensure information meets request, prepare and finalise reports. This unit complements the design work where a bioregional assessment is required.

AHCPER413 Evaluate suitability of species as solutions for permaculture applications

This core unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to evaluate suitability of species as solutions for permaculture applications. It requires knowledge of botany, zoology, ecology and climate science and the ability to research species in detail and make recommendations for a particular scenario. All work is carried out to comply with workplace procedures.

This unit applies to individuals who analyse information and exercise judgement to complete a range of advanced skilled activities and demonstrate deep knowledge in a specific technical area. They have accountability for the work of others and analyse, design and communicate solutions to a range of complex problems.

Electives (choose 7)

- Select 1 unit from Group A
- Select 4 units from Group B
- Select 2 units from Group B or C
- 1 unit may be selected from Group B or this or any other endorsed Training Package or Accredited Course. Selected units must be relevant to job outcomes in Permaculture and must be chosen to ensure the integrity of the qualification outcome at AQF level 4

Group A (choose 1)

AHCPER402 Design a rural permaculture system

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to design a rural permaculture system. It requires the ability to negotiate with clients to develop a permaculture design brief, undertake site analysis, develop design concepts and produce final design documentation.

You will need access to surveying equipment, such as a dumpy or laser level, as well as a selection of measuring tapes – 5 to 8 m and a 30 to 50 m, a compass and a GPS. String, marking paint, survey pegs and an abney level may also be required (if slope has to be measured).

OR

AHCPER403 Design an urban permaculture system

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to design an urban system. It requires the ability to negotiate with clients to develop a permaculture design brief, undertake site analysis, develop design concepts and produce final design documentation.

You will need access to surveying equipment, such as a dumpy or laser level, as well as a selection of measuring tapes – 5 to 8 m and a 30 to 50 m, and an abney level (if slope has to be measured).

Group B (choose at least 4)

AHCPER402 Design a rural permaculture system (If not taken as a core unit)

AHCPER403 Design an urban permaculture system (If not taken as a core unit)

AHCPER407 Design harvesting and storage systems for permaculture products

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to design harvesting and storage systems for products to meet year round supply of fresh and stored produce. It requires the ability to determine harvesting and storage system requirements, identify requirements for maintaining optimum condition of permaculture products and preparing a harvesting and storage plan. Setting up a storage area is useful for products you make but it is not required, especially if you are providing a harvesting and storage plan for a client.

AHCPER408 Implement and monitor animal health and welfare programs for a permaculture system

This unit provides the skills and knowledge to implement and monitor animal health and welfare programs for a permaculture system. It requires the ability to provide information to clients and animal owners about animal welfare, facilitate the participation of others in complying with animal health and welfare guidelines, implement and monitor enterprise programs for animal care, deal with animal emergencies and maintain animal health records.

You should have access to animals, even pets such as chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits, or stock (sheep, goats) to enable you to monitor their health and welfare over several months.

AHCPER409 Manage a permaculture seed bank

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to manage a permaculture seed bank. It requires the ability to plan seed collection, implement seed collection and maintain a seed collection in storage. Managing a permaculture seed bank requires knowledge of plant biology, handling and extraction of seed, treatment and documentation, collecting ethics, protocols and legislative parameters and storage techniques.

You will need to collect, treat, store and provide (give away or sell) seed to others, even if it is to family members or community groups who would benefit.

AHCPER410 Recommend approaches for sustainable community and bioregional development

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to recommend approaches for sustainable community and bioregional development. It requires the ability to identify the potential for sustainable community and bioregional development, develop processes to consult and to communicate with stakeholders.

His unit is ideal if you are, or can be, involved in a community garden, school or other project that involves local community members. It should be a real project that involves meetings, planning and recommendations.

Group C (choose at least 1, but possibly 2)

AHCBUS402 Cost a project

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to cost a project. You will need to provide a projected cost for a project and to make adjustments to this if required. All work must be carried out to comply with organisational requirements, work health and safety legislation and codes, sustainability practices and in consultation with the management team.

This unit applies to individuals who take responsibility for their own work and provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable and sometimes unpredictable problems.

AHCORG403 Manage organic soil improvement

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to manage organic soil improvement. All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, work health and safety, animal welfare and biosecurity legislation and codes, and sustainability practices.

This unit applies to managers on farms that are managed according to the principles of organic agriculture. Work is likely to be done independently and according to the requirements of the National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce. All work is done in an environmentally appropriate manner and according to workplace information, principles of organic agriculture and/or agro-ecology, work health and safety requirements and enterprise guidelines.

This unit applies to individuals who take responsibility for their own work and for the quality of the work of others within know parameters and use discretion and judgment in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.

AHCSAW401 Set out conservation earthworks

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to set out standard structures using specialised pegging and marking techniques, for erosion and sediment control earthworks.

This unit is ideally suited for those in rural settings and/or working in rural designs and implementation.

Educational and support services

In accordance with the *Standards for RTOs 2015,* support will include:

- Identifying particular requirements (such as literacy, numeracy, English language or physical capabilities) learners would need to complete the course, and
- Developing strategies to make support available where gaps are identified.

This may include providing:

- Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) support.
- Assistive technology, including skype and other face-to-face online meetings.
- Additional tutorials, worksheets, course notes and/or
- Other mechanisms, such as instructions on using technology for online delivery components.

In addition to the above, the following support will be available to learners:

- Purchase of a number of permaculture textbooks and DVD's.
- A range of worksheets and internet resources.
- Student resource materials, containing reading and writing activities.

The following processes will be applied for students considered to be "at risk":

- Additional tutorial and counselling time.
- Extra time allocated for assessment tasks.
- Observation checklists and antidotal notes by assessor, in lieu of written answers.

The following learning resources will be available to ensure learners are able to obtain and absorb the required skills and knowledge required prior to assessment:

- Moodle – online platform for course delivery.
- Extensive reference list of books, magazines, DVD's, videos, CD ROMS.
- Websites, including BOM information and worldwide permaculture websites.
- Suggestions of a number of local sites to visit, demonstrating both new and established gardens and structures. This can be arranged through local permaculture networks and associations
- Samples or photographic examples of prepared products, bioregional resource lists, soil testing procedures and result tables and their interpretation will be available upon request.
- Most units have an introduction powerpoint slide presentation to provide an overview of the topic and to discuss relevant concepts. These have narration.
- A range of maps, photographs, handouts and worksheets.

Delivery of course

The course is undertaken initially through Moodle, an online portal where students can access reading material, notes, worksheets, review questions, short audio and/or visual presentations, and then the assessment tasks for each unit.

Many of the units have common knowledge training sessions, but opportunities may exist for local on-site training where you can further develop your skills for practical tasks. The course, then, is a mixture of online lessons, discussion, demonstration and practical skills development. You will undertake surveying, measuring, reading and producing maps and drawings, researching plants, animals and appropriate technology, customer service, Workplace Health and Safety, designing, and investigating bioregional characteristics and community development projects. This all leads to writing reports and producing integrated design work for clients.

Depending on the units chosen you may also be asked to cost a project, setting budgets, developing a bill of quantities, quoting, and undertaking project cost analysis.

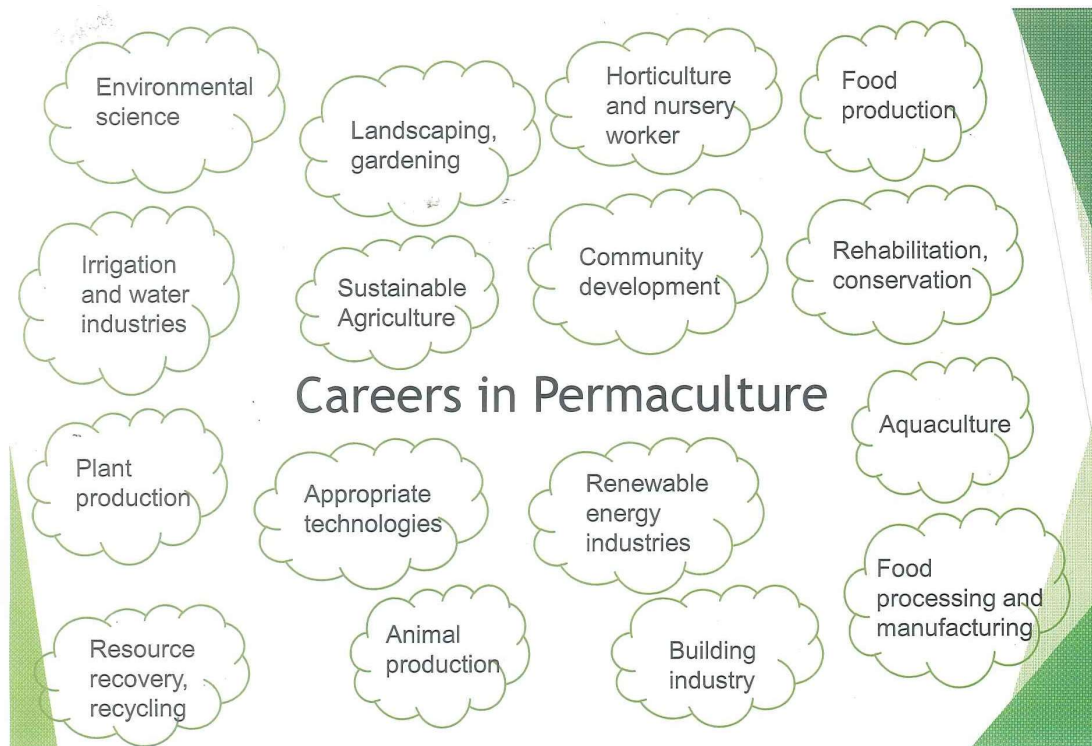## Employment and further education

Study Pathways

The further study pathway available to learners who undertake this qualification is AHC52116 Diploma Permaculture. Pathways that lead to tertiary education courses are being developed.

Employment Pathways

The following employment pathways are available to students who complete this qualification:

Supervisors and designers in community gardens, nurseries, landcare initiatives, farms and small holdings. The broad range of employment opportunities can be seen in the figure below, as permaculture embraces all aspects of sustainable living practices, so employment can be found in energy, water, food production, community development, horticulture and sustainable building materials and practices.

Careers in Permaculture

Course fee (2022) = $2150

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