

About the course

This qualification relates to those individuals who work either independently or in teams to establish and maintain permaculture systems for private clients, organisations or community entities. They perform tasks involving a broad range of skilled applications in a wide variety of contexts, which may involve application of some discretion and judgement in selecting equipment, elements in a design or contingency measures.

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

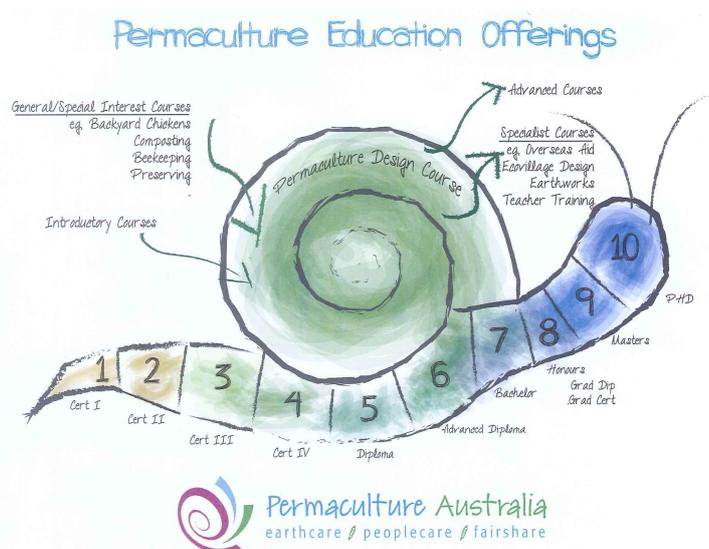
No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this qualification at the time of publication.

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

As this course is mainly face-to-face training there is little option for students to undertake electives, other than those listed here and what is on scope with Skills Strategies International (SSI)

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 a AHC33816 Certificate III in Permaculture (CIII) or higher course. The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) shows a CIII course as being Level 3. 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 AHC33816 Certificate III in Permaculture is one year. Learners will vary the time taken according to their entry skill level.

The recommended volume of learning is made up from:

1. Face-to-face training 200 hours
2. Independent learning, research, assignments, assessment tasks 500 hours
3. Practical skill development, workplace training 200 hours

Total 900 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 AHC21716 CII 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 enrollees 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

Fifteen units are undertaken for this qualification, and the make-up of this is described below. Again, electives are those which SSI can provide.

Core Units (5)

AHCPER301 Research and communicate information on permaculture principles and practices

This core unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to research permaculture principles and practices, develop research techniques to gather general information on permaculture and non-permaculture systems and appropriately communicate information within culturally diverse groups.

AHCPER302 Develop recommendations for integrated plant and animal systems

This core unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to develop recommendations for integrated plant and animal systems and requires the application of sound knowledge of permaculture and a broad range of plant-related and animal-related skills. All work is carried out to comply with workplace procedures.

This unit requires you research various species make suggestions of various plant and animal combinations to clients.

AHCPER303 Maintain integrated plant and animal systems

This core unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to maintain integrated plant and animal systems, undertake maintenance, and maintain records of activities. Maintaining integrated plant and animal systems requires a knowledge of permaculture activities appropriate to climate and soil types, plants and animals commonly found on permaculture properties, permaculture principles and practices and typical permaculture solutions for water catchment and storage and soil maintenance and improvement for plant and animal systems.

AHCPER316 Select plant and animal species for permaculture systems

This core unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to select plant and animal species for permaculture systems. It requires knowledge of permaculture needs analysis and bioregional analysis and plant and animal species and their interrelationships.

AHCWRK311 Conduct site inspections

This core unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct a site inspection, including verification of the location, ownership, orientation and boundaries of a site.

Electives (choose 10)

- Select 1 unit from Group A
- Select 6 units from Group B
- Select 3 units from Group B or C
- 1 unit may be selected from Group C 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 3.

Group A (choose 1)

AHCPER307 Establish a rural permaculture system

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to establish a rural permaculture system from a permaculture design, as well as knowledge of a broad range of integrated plant and animal systems, earth shaping skills, soil improvement, water harvesting and work site coordination skills.

OR

AHCPER308 Establish an urban permaculture system

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to establish an urban permaculture system from a permaculture design, as well as knowledge of a broad range of integrated plant and animal systems, urban retrofitting skills, soil improvement, water harvesting and work site coordination skills.

Group B (choose at least 6, up to 9)

AHCPER309 Install and maintain permaculture water systems

This unit provides the skills and knowledge to install and maintain permaculture water systems, organise resources for installation work, set out and prepare site, install water system components, complete installation work, commission water system systems and communicate with work team members, supervisors, contractors and consultants.

AHCPER310 Install structures for permaculture systems

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to install permaculture structures and features. These structures and features may include fences, trellises, animal housing, sheds, pergolas, appropriate technologies and other constructed features.

AHCPER312 Plan organic garden and orchard systems

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to plan organic garden and orchard systems. It requires the application of horticultural and permaculture knowledge including permaculture principles, plant types, conditions and requirements to establish orchards for optimum production.

AHCPER313 Coordinate preparation and storage of permaculture products

This unit provides the skills and knowledge of permaculture product preservation techniques; planning for the preparation of permaculture products; handling and storage requirements of permaculture products and their treatment, storage and presentation requirements.

AHCPER314 Read and interpret property maps and plans

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to read and interpret property maps and plans, take information from maps and use maps in field situations.

AHCPER318 Plan propagation activities for a permaculture system

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to plan propagation activities for a permaculture system. It requires the application of permaculture principles, seasonal propagation opportunities, organic principles and plant growth science.

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.

AHCPER319 Test, improve and maintain healthy soil in a permaculture system

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to test, improve and maintain healthy soil in a permaculture system. It requires knowledge of soils and their components, testing methods, nutrient action and soil improvement systems.

AHCPER320 Manage plant pests, diseases and disorders in a permaculture system

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to manage plant pests, diseases and disorders in a permaculture system. It requires knowledge of healthy permaculture systems and the pests, diseases and disorders that might need management. It includes focussing on solutions in an integrated design, rather than reacting to infestations.

Group C (choose at least 1)

AHCWRK302 Monitor weather conditions This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to monitor and interpret weather and climate conditions and assess the likely impact.

This unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work. They complete routine activities and work in a range of known contexts.

Optional unit

This unit can be undertaken as an additional unit to enable you to complete the Permaculture Demonstrator Skills Set (AHCSS00048), which will allow you to deliver CI and CII Permaculture courses.

AHCPER321 Demonstrate permaculture practices to small groups of learners

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to demonstrate permaculture practices to small groups of learners. Demonstration of techniques related to animals, plants, structures, energy, resources and community development are covered in a non-threatening and experiential setting. It is intended for school teachers and those who demonstrate permaculture skills to small groups of learners in different situations and contexts.

This unit is primarily undertaken on an additional training weekend.

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 active "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. This is applicable for units AHCPER301, AHCPER303, AHCPER316 and AHCPER321 (The AHCSS00048 Permaculture Demonstrator Skill Set).
- 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.
- A range of maps, photographs, handouts and worksheets.

Delivery of course

The course is undertaken mainly face-to-face where students can receive and/or access reading material, notes, worksheets, review questions, short audio and/or visual presentations, and then the assessment tasks for each unit. Where necessary, delivery will be undertaken online through ZOOM. This will be assessed on a monthly basis in relation to COVID restrictions or directives or if the assessor determines online delivery is suitable.

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 theory, discussion, demonstration and practical skills development. You will undertake surveying, measuring, reading and producing maps and drawings, researching plants, animals and integrated systems, Workplace Health and Safety, investigating water systems and testing soil samples.

Employment and further education

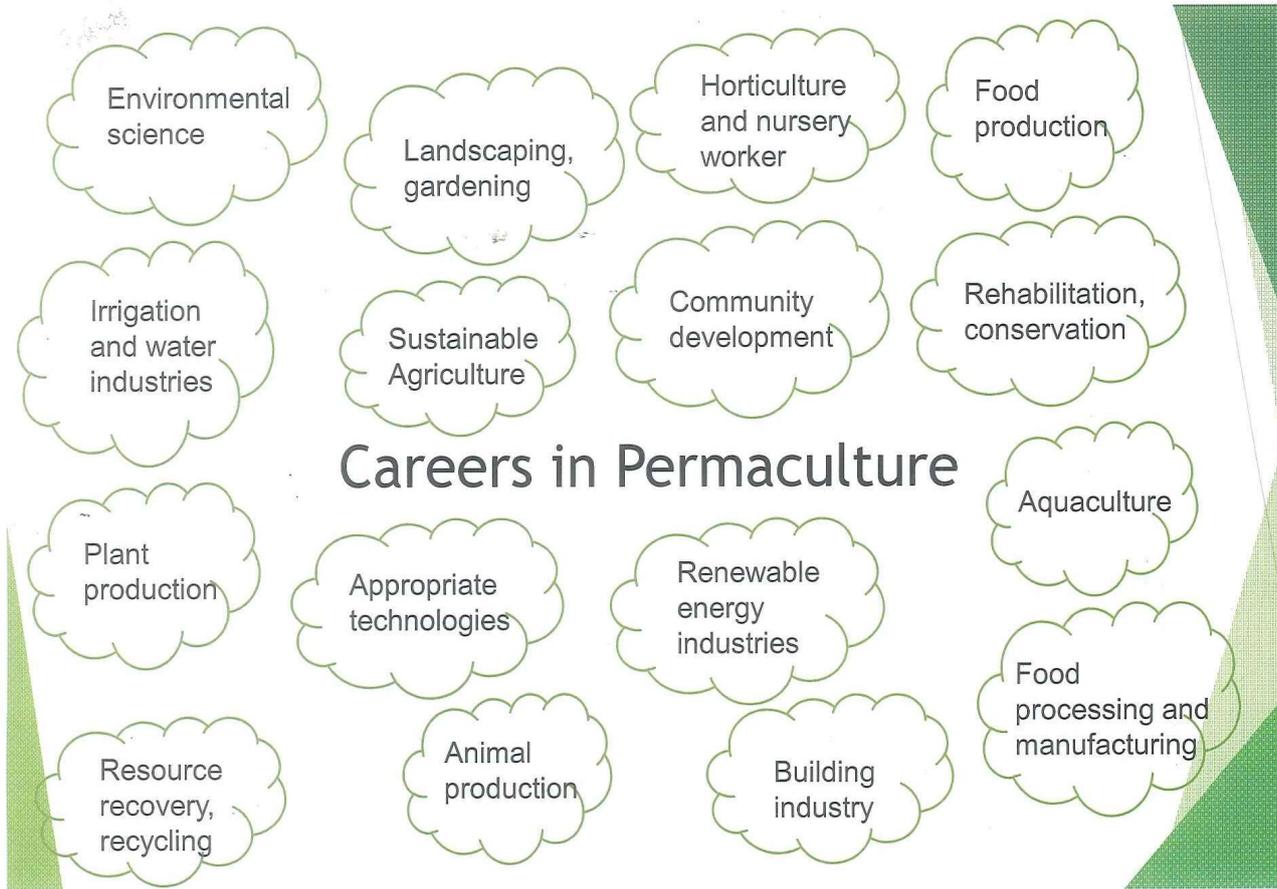
Study Pathways

The further study pathway available to learners who undertake this qualification is AHC42116 CIV Permaculture and AHC52116 Diploma Permaculture. Pathways that lead to tertiary education courses are available.

Employment Pathways

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

Workers 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.



Course fee (2023) = \$2,750.

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