



Horticulture candidate pack 2026



Contents

About Staa	3
What we do	4
Our learning spaces	5
City & Guilds Practical Horticulture (7573)	6
Our workshop programme	7
Horticulture tutor & assessor role description	8
Person specification	8
How to apply	9

About us

Staa is a local charity rooted in the heritage of Nottingham's historic St Ann's Allotments. Formed by tenants more than 25 years ago to protect and celebrate this unique space, our work has evolved from site management to education, heritage and community development.

Our activities focus on using green space to deliver educational, environmental, and personal growth opportunities. From heritage gardening and orchard management to workshops and events, we help people reconnect with land, nature and community.

Our charitable objectives are:

a) to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of St Ann's, Nottingham and the surrounding area, without distinction of sex, or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and the general public in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupation (in particular facilities for allotment and recreational gardening) with the object of improving the conditions of life for those who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances.

b) to advance the education of the public in allotment and recreational gardening and the protection and improvement of the natural environment.

c) the promotion for the benefit of the public of urban regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation, in particular the St Ann's area of Nottingham by all or any of the following means:

i) the relief of financial hardship.

ii) the advancement of education and volunteer experience.

iii) the maintenance, improvement or provision of recreational facilities.

iv) the preservation of buildings or sites' of historic or architectural importance.

v) the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities.

What we do



Family events at the Community Orchard

A beautiful safe-space where local people can explore, relax, play and learn. We run events with free, freshly-cooked food for families, toddlers, young people and school groups.



City & Guilds horticulture qualifications

We offer two routes through the qualification aimed at a wide range of people who are working or want to work in the gardening industry.



Practical volunteering

Volunteers support our work by maintaining our gardens for growing food and protecting wildlife, as well as preparing food for community events.



Heritage talks and tours

St Ann's Allotments is Grade II* Listed by Historic England and we share stories from the site's 800-year history.



Community harvest

We grow and harvest our own fresh fruit, veg and flowers to be donated to foodbanks and social cafes in the local area, as well as to make homemade meals for our own community events.



Our learning spaces

The majority of teaching is delivered on two of our beautiful and unique project sites on St Ann's Allotments; perfect for our students learning journeys. Teaching is hands-on and seasonal, rooted in sustainable growing practices and responsive to the rhythms of the site and our location provides a rich, real-world learning environment.

The Nursery

The Friday sessions are run on our largest learning site, The Nursery, home to our Community Harvest project. This space includes a 25 metre glasshouse and a variety of raised beds and accessible growing areas. The Nursery is where we cultivate fresh food and flowers for distribution within our local community.



The Heritage Display Garden (Oliver's)



The Saturday sessions are mostly based at our Heritage Display Garden, known for its rich history, Victorian summerhouse and rose garden. Affectionately known as "Oliver's" in honour of its last tenant Mr. Tom Oliver, it is a showcase for many different horticultural displays highlighting the history of St Ann's Allotments, and allotment gardening over the last century.

City & Guilds Practical Horticulture (7573)

Staa became an accredited centre for the City & Guilds Level 2 Practical Horticulture qualification (7573) in November 2023 and began delivery in April 2024. This nationally recognised qualification enables learners to develop the practical skills, knowledge and confidence required for employment or progression within the horticulture sector.

Delivery takes place on our project sites at St Ann's Allotments, providing a rich, real-world learning environment. We do also work in partnership with other organisations so that we can take students to other environments to expand on their learning. Teaching is hands-on and seasonal, rooted in sustainable growing practices and responsive to the rhythms of the site.

We currently run two routes through the qualification:

- Grow Your Own - Fridays, 9:30am - 2:30pm
- Pro Gardener - Saturdays, 10am - 3pm

Learners can achieve an Award, Certificate, or Diploma, depending on the number of units completed.

Units delivered include:

Assess soil texture and condition

Prepare soil for planting

Propagate plants indoors from seed

Prune fruit trees in winter

Plant identification



Our workshop programme

Alongside our accredited City & Guilds provision, we also run a programme of seasonal, in-house horticulture craft, and floristry workshops across our project sites at St Ann's Allotments.

Our skills based workshops are designed to be welcoming, practical and confidence-building. They provide an opportunity to meet others, share knowledge and discover new skills. Our project sites are a perfect environment to relax, learn and get creative in a natural setting.

Our workshops include:

- Cut flower and winter veg planning
- Tree pruning and grafting
- Foraging
- Jam making
- Wreath making
- Willow weaving



The role

To deliver high quality practical and theoretical training in horticulture to groups of students and learners of mixed abilities. You will build upon and create learning resources, assess learner competence in plant care, cultivation and related skills, provide feedback, monitor progress, and ensure awarding body quality standards are met.

Your responsibilities include:

- To plan, prepare and deliver high quality practical and theoretical training in horticulture to groups of students.
- Conduct practical assessments, provide feedback and track learner progress towards accredited qualifications and standards.
- Further develop strong relationships with employers and partner organisations to provide learners with a variety of off-site training opportunities and industry experiences.
- Supervise learning activities in workshops, field settings, and workplaces, adapting to diverse learner needs.

Person specification

Essential

- Horticultural knowledge (theory and/or practical) relevant to the planned course content.
- Level 2 qualification in horticulture.
- 5 years experience working in the horticulture industry or related field.
- Excellent communication and planning skills.

Desirable

- Level 3 or above qualification in horticulture.
- Experience of developing and delivering new learning programmes and activities.
- Assessor Awards/IQA awards.

How to apply



Get in touch

To apply, please complete and send:

- Your application form
- A short supporting statement explaining why you're interested and what you'd bring to our organisation
- EDI monitoring form

Email us at info@staa-allotments.org.uk

Deadline: Monday 23rd March, 12noon.

We're happy to have an informal chat before applying.