

Higher National Certificate & Diploma in Golf Course Management



A student's 'course guide' to achieving an internationally recognised qualification that will launch your career into the world of golf management.

1. Understanding the Impact of Time, Tradition and Technology -

There is no better place to study golf's development than where it all began over 500 years ago; and where it continues to evolve.

You will be following in the footsteps of all the great golf course architects who came and continue to come to the 'Old Course' in St. Andrews to study just how the forces of nature shaped the modern game.

You will also gain privileged access to the decision makers that continue to shape the game today.

There is no requirement to have any prior experience of working in the golf industry to study for this qualification.

However, what's absolutely necessary is a passion for the subject and a willingness to seize the opportunities this course provides.

- 2. Your development journey** – Being supported by a 'home club' whilst completing your HNC & HND is ideal. Having a strong relationship with your club throughout your studies allows you to apply your learning and complete assessments using your own real-world examples, completing your HNC in March working with them throughout the summer months, then returning to SRUC for the HND in September.

In 2018 50% of the HNC graduates choose to work at 'Top 100' or Championship Courses e.g. Carnoustie Links Trust and St. Andrews Links Trust (hosts of the 2018 Open and Senior Open Championship). A further 40% choose to work in top venues across Europe and 10% returned to their home club.

Feedback from graduates, and the wider golf industry, confirms that there are clear and strong progression paths for all dedicated learners. World class industry experience is crucial to you achieving your potential and attending SRUC will open a lot of doors within the industry, as a lot of our industry's current leaders came through ours as they started of their careers. After making the choice to study at SRUC your prospects of gaining vital experience at a world class, Open Championship venue, European Tour or PGA tour venue will increase dramatically.

- 3. Golf Club and Course managers helped to shape the HNC/HND program** - Our tutors are in regular contact with key industry figures and decision makers throughout Scotland and the world.

Your learning journey has a clear industry focus on: the environmental benefits of golf, the efficient redesign of courses, and the economic challenges of maintaining the best possible playing surfaces. All require a highly skilled turfgrass professional both on and off the course, able to deliver on time and on budget. Your industry knowledge and understanding will make you a valuable team member upon graduation, and prepare you for leadership positions.

- 4. We teach in English** – If English is not your first language don't worry support is available, in class and throughout your assessments. Our course tutors have extensive experience of supporting learners from around the world, and our dedicated language learning support team will help you build your self-confidence with a bespoke programme.

- 5. Everyone is an individual** - All applications are judged on their merits. The overriding criteria in the selection process is; will the future learner benefit from the course? Can they be supported to achieve the academic requirements? And finally (and most importantly) can they demonstrate their passion for the subject?

You may have no prior experience, this should not hold you back from applying. Through our extensive contacts development opportunities can be arranged. Your background may qualify you for accreditation of prior learning, giving you the extra time needed to build your skills on the course.

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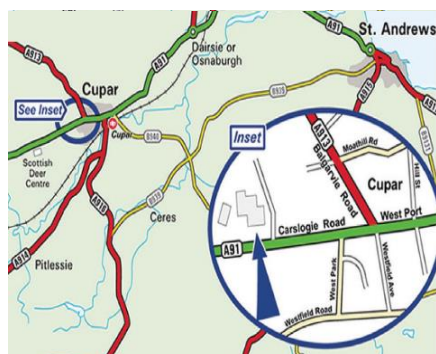
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Demonstrating your knowledge – The style of assessment varies depending on the subject being studied. Each assessment has been designed to enable you to showcase your understanding of the topic alongside embedded core skills, for example information technology, project management and communication, all essential to your progression within our industry.

A combination of structured reports, practical exercises, group projects and oral presentations will be used to determine your overall assessment grade.

"Everyone is different SRUC Elmwood understood this. You will always be treated as an individual, this starts at the beginning of the application process."

Learning differences such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia or Autistic Spectrum Disorder should not be a barrier to learning. SRUC is committed to equal opportunities. The overriding principle is, with support can the learner fulfil the academic requirements and benefit from the course. Some of our past students have accessed help from the Study Support team within the Elmwood campus to great effect. Please contact the Study Support team in advance of your application so that any adjustments it would be reasonable to make can be investigated.



Where we are based – SRUC Elmwood campus in Cupar is in the heart of Fife, which makes it very accessible by road and the rail network. Cupar is on the mainline railway network and Edinburgh is our closest airport (a 45-minute drive). There is a regular bus service to St. Andrews and Dundee.

8.



Live on campus – SRUC Elmwood has a student residence on campus with 72 self-catering single bedrooms. Just a three-minute walk from the main building. It will also be amongst the most economical accommodation options available locally. You can access the facilities at any time of the day. If you plan to stay on campus, budget around £350 per month for accommodation.

9. What's covered – The HNC/HND programme has been designed by the faculty at SRUC Elmwood and is validated by the SQA to support your entry or progression within the golf sportsturf and related industries. Your journey will start with the basic building blocks of soils and turf grasses and will be completed with an understanding of the 'Integrated Management of the Golf Course Environment'. On the way you will gain a greater understanding of all aspects of managing a golf course facility such as selecting equipment, keeping you and your team safe and communicating with your patrons and all key stakeholders. Go to www.sruc.ac.uk/golf to find out more.

SRUC HNC/HND Graduates

Gary Finnerty, Golf Course Superintendent
Carya GC, Belek, Turkey
(Graduated 2002)



"Thanks to the wonderful education I received during my NC, HNC and HND at Elmwood college, together with the incredible Ohio State University Program which gave me the opportunity to work in America, Australia, Asia, Africa and throughout Europe. I was learning from the greatest people in the industry."

Jon Palmer, Director of Golf
The Grange GC, Dublin,
Ireland
(Graduated 2003)



"Without any hesitation I would state that Elmwood has been one of the key influences in my career to date. The insight, experience & quality of studies gave me the drive and desire to succeed in this industry

My thirst for quality education, largely gained from my time in Elmwood has catapulted my career in to Club Management where my Course Management background is proving invaluable"

SRUC HNC/HND Graduates

Andy Matzner
Course Manager, Golfclub
Starnberg
(Graduated 2001)



“As a Course Manager and Consultant in the golf industry in Europe I owe a debt to the basics I learned in my studies at Elmwood.

Elmwood provides an amazing network which stays with you throughout your lifetime and keeps me focused on continuing my professional development.”

Kristel Mulle-Vaik
Course Manager, NIITVÄLJA
Golf Course, Estonia
(Graduated 2015)



“I can’t stress enough how proud I am to be a part of the R&A Scholars family. The support and networking is priceless. I would have never met as many people without being a Scholar and there’s always the opportunity to ask advice or share ideas.”

10. Continuing your studies and other opportunities graduates have pursued -

Your learning will not end when you graduate with your HNC/HND, many past students will tell you it is only just beginning. By the end of your studies we hope that SRUC has played an important part in your lifelong learning journey inside and outside the sportsturf industry. Past graduates are now working as Greenkeepers, Course Managers and Superintendents, course designers, Club Managers and event management amongst other ventures. Your next step might be to return to your home course, travel the world working within golf or take your studies further. So, whatever you choose SRUC will always be here to support your next step within our alumni network.

Golf Management BA (Hons)

HND Golf
Course
Management

HNC Golf
Course
Management

NC
Greenkeeping

SVQ 2 or SVQ3
Sports Turf

PDA
International
Golf Course
Management

11. Learning about Warm season turfgrasses -

While our specialist subject, as you might expect, is in our local environment and grasses, our subject matter experts have a vast amount of experience working within the game globally. If chosen by you, there is a established progression plan for you to gain hands on experience in a warm season environment by partnering with **Ohio State University**. After completing your HNC you could gain experience on placement at top venues across the USA; Merion GC, Congressional GC, Pebble Beach Resort amongst others, then returning to us to complete your HND.

12.

Build networks – The friends that you make while studying will become invaluable and can be trusted to be a support network as you move forward in your career. Throughout the golfing world and especially at greenkeeping conferences you will meet many, many graduates of SRUC Elmwood. So, your network goes way beyond your classmates; it reaches back throughout all the alumni of SRUC Elmwood with whom you have a shared learning experience.

14. Dunhill Championship – Our students experience a European Tour event, from inside the ropes, working on three of the greatest golf courses in the world: Old Course, Kingsbarns and Carnoustie. This experience led to our students being offered employment at these historic venues joining some of the most prestigious greenkeeping teams in the world. Learners from SRUC Elmwood also took part in bunker rebuilding programmes ahead of the 2018 Open Championship at Carnoustie Links Championship Course, learning how to build a revetted bunker from scratch.

13. Playing Golf and having fun –

SRUC has its own GEO Certified® golf course and practice facility near the Elmwood campus at Stratheden. Membership is free for our students. There are lots of other local courses to explore: St. Andrews with its ten golf courses, Anstruther GC, Kingarrock GC, Kingsbarns GC, Crail Golfing Society, The Golf House Club, Lundin Links, Leven GC, Scotsraig GC, and Ladybank GC (plus many more) are all within 40 minutes drive from campus.

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15. Anyone is just a phone call away – This is especially true in the golf industry and if your campus is in the heart of the home of golf key industry stakeholders are only a short drive away too.

During 2017/18 our HNC class was honoured to meet and be given presentations by David Roy, Secretary Manager at Crail Golfing Society, Paul Murphy Course Manager, Fife Golf Trust, Wendy Cole Manager Sustainability, R&A, Sandy Armit Owner, Double AA John Deere Dealership, Michael O'Keeffe, Programme Manager, Ohio State Programme, Ohio State University, Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping, St Andrews Links Trust, Innes Knight Course & Facility Manager, Kingsbarns Golf Links and Derek Robson Head Greenkeeper at The Duke's, Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa. They all gave their time and knowledge freely and without limit.

Our classes are scheduled to enable all learners to be able to attend the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition held annually in Harrogate and the BIGGA Scottish Conference in Perth, giving you the additional opportunity to make and meet friends throughout the industry.

17. R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship – The growing environmental and economic challenges are placing increased demands on the professionals within the game. We need to manage our environment by being mindful of 'sustainability', playing our role in the great tradition of the game and passing on something of greater value to the next generation. The R&A is dedicated to supporting the next generation of greenkeeping professionals and wants to play a role throughout your career, accelerating your growth within the game.

SRUC is proud to partner with the R&A to offer an incomparable opportunity in the world of golf. The R&A Greenkeeping scholarship gives you access to an exceptional peer network that will help to propel your career through events and opportunities only available within the scholarship network

To be considered for this opportunity you need to demonstrate your passion for game through your professional development and willingness to learn from every opportunity, delivering the highest standards both personally and professionally.

18. How to get in touch with SRUC –

Our website can be found at:
www.sruc.ac.uk/golf

Thank you for taking an interest in studying with us at SRUC Elmwood. If you have any questions or to talk about your study options please get in touch with course tutor Ian Butcher by phone 0044 (0)1334 658952 or email ian.butcher@sruc.ac.uk



16. Funding, Bursaries and Course Fees – How you support yourself and pay for your studies is often the first question you need to answer after deciding to study at SRUC Elmwood. To support yourself and make sure you are aware of all the option available we have a specialist team that can assist you with all your funding questions and queries.



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