

Urban Greening for a Biodiverse West of England Skills Bootcamp

An engaging 10-week interactive Skills Bootcamp designed to empower urban greening professionals in the West of England with the leadership, practical, and strategic skills to design, implement, and scale nature-based solutions enhancing biodiversity, securing Biodiversity Net Gain, and driving meaningful environmental and community impact in urban spaces.

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Shaping Greener Cities through Biodiversity-led Design

Our Urban Greening for a Biodiverse West of England Skills Bootcamp is a dynamic, hands-on programme designed to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools to transform urban spaces into thriving, biodiverse environments.



Delivered by UWE Bristol, this course explores the planning, design, and long-term delivery of green infrastructure such as green roofs, street trees, and sustainable drainage systems using real-world examples from the UK and beyond.

Shaping Greener Cities through Biodiversity-led Design

Participants will gain a deep understanding of how urban greening enhances environmental quality, supports climate adaptation, and improves health and wellbeing. Through a blend of expert-led sessions, interactive workshops, and field-based learning, the bootcamp empowers learners to drive nature-positive change in their communities and workplaces.



Our 10-week, 90% funded for SMEs and 70% funded for Large Organisations programme

By investing in the skills of those driving urban greening, we're investing in the future resilience, biodiversity, and sustainability of the West of England's natural and built environments.

If you're ready to lead impactful nature-based projects and enhance your role in delivering greener, more liveable urban spaces - this Skills Bootcamp will help you get there.

Who is it for?

This Skills Bootcamp is specifically designed for professionals, project leads, and innovators working to enhance biodiversity and climate resilience in urban environments across the West of England.



Benefits to you as an individual

- Build in-demand knowledge of urban greening, sustainable design, and ecosystem services. Gain practical, hands-on experience through site visits, mapping exercises, and design activities.
- Apply what you learn to your current role, contributing to greener, more sustainable spaces.
- Earn a UWE Bristol digital credential to showcase your skills and enhance your career progression.

Benefits to the employer

- Equip your team with up-to-date expertise in urban greening, biodiversity enhancement, and green infrastructure policy.
- Demonstrate your organisation's commitment to sustainability and climate action.
- Empower staff to deliver tangible, visible improvements in projects and community spaces.
- Strengthen your organisation's ability to meet environmental regulations and planning requirements.

What will I learn?

Across the ten weeks you will explore themes, including:

Understanding urban ecology and co-benefits for people

Understanding of BNG requirements

Identifying objectives for biodiversity and habitat opportunity mapping

Understanding interactions between GI and BNG

Identifying opportunities, and negotiating, for planning to secure BNG

Ensuring long-term maintenance/stewardship

Programme structure

Live sessions



The Urban Greening for a Biodiverse West of England Skills Bootcamp is delivered through 10 weeks of tutor-led sessions, including workshops, seminars, and site visits. You'll gain practical skills in urban ecology, habitat mapping, and Biodiversity Net Gain, with tools you can apply immediately in your work.

Mentorship and 1:1 support



You'll have access to mentorship from experts to provide a space to discuss personal experiences and learning as you utilise your new skills and evaluate their impact. Additionally, our Skills Bootcamp Team will be there to support you throughout the programme.

Peer network



Access to a peer network and industry contacts through the live sessions and roundtable discussion.

Developing an action plan



You'll develop an individual action plan to explore your goals, apply your learning and develop a clear roadmap to achieve them.

Session Outline

Session 1 Introduction to the Bootcamp and Urban Nature

Begin your journey into urban greening with an inspiring introduction to the Skills Bootcamp. This session outlines the programme structure, expectations, and learning outcomes, while establishing the critical importance of urban biodiversity. Through case studies and interactive workshops, you will examine current policy contexts and begin developing a personalised action plan to contribute to greener, more resilient cities.



Session 2 Typologies of Biodiverse Green Infrastructure

Explore the various typologies of green infrastructure that shape urban ecosystems. This session introduces green roofs, living walls, street trees, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), and greenspaces, highlighting their contributions to ecological health, climate resilience, and public wellbeing. You will gain practical experience in mapping and analysing local green infrastructure using real-world data and digital tools.

Session 3 **Standards for Biodiverse Development**

Examine the planning frameworks and standards that underpin biodiverse urban development. Key tools such as Biodiversity Net Gain, the Urban Greening Factor, and the West of England Nature Recovery Toolkit will be introduced. Using case studies and applied exercises, you will learn how to evaluate and enhance green infrastructure provision in both professional and community contexts.



Session 4 **Introduction to Designing for Biodiversity**

Discover how urban development can actively support nature recovery through informed and strategic design. This session introduces priority habitats, biodiversity objectives, and planning approaches aligned with local and national policy. You will begin shaping your own design responses using real-world examples and design codes.



Session 5 **Designing for Target Species**

Focus on the ecological requirements of specific urban wildlife species, including pollinators, birds, and bats. Learn how to undertake ecological assessments and develop targeted habitat designs, particularly for challenging sites such as brownfield land. Hands-on workshops will equip you to evaluate and enhance biodiversity outcomes in site appraisals.



Session 6 **Green Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation**

Investigate how nature-based solutions can help cities adapt to the effects of climate change. This session explores flood mitigation, urban heat reduction and drought-tolerant planting design. You will apply climate-resilient strategies to your own portfolio work, with a dual focus on environmental and community resilience.

Session 7 **Designing for People**

Understand the interconnection between biodiversity, public health and social equity. Learn how to design inclusive greenspaces that support mental and physical wellbeing while fostering stewardship and pro-environmental behaviour. Through collaborative workshops, you will assess existing greenspaces and propose enhancements that balance human and ecological needs.



Session 8 **Embedding Learning into Practice**

Translate learning into meaningful professional practice. This creative session uses LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® to explore challenges and opportunities in implementing urban greening strategies. A site visit to exemplary local developments will provide inspiration and practical insights for applying course principles within your organisation or role.



Session 9 **Funding and Governance**

Explore the financial and governance mechanisms that support long-term nature-positive development. Learn how to develop a compelling business case for biodiversity interventions and evaluate stewardship models that promote sustainability over time. This session will also provide guidance on strengthening your personal action plan.



Session 10 **Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance**

Conclude the Bootcamp by planning for long-term success. This session covers the development of monitoring frameworks and 30-year maintenance strategies that ensure ongoing ecological value. Final workshops will support the completion of your portfolio, equipping you to lead meaningful urban greening initiatives with confidence and clarity.



What is my commitment as a Learner?

For our Skills Bootcamp, you will be required to:

- ✓ **Attend all live sessions, held in-person**
- ✓ **Complete self-study activities between sessions**
- ✓ **Commit to your action plan and set goals for personal development**
- ✓ **Provide mandatory personal and employment data for up to six months following completion of the Skills Bootcamp**

What is my commitment as an Employer?

Employers are able to utilise this Skills Bootcamp to upskill existing staff and provide development opportunities within their organisation. As an employer, you will be expected to:

- ✓ **Release your employee(s) to attend all sessions.**
- ✓ **Provide opportunity in the workplace for your employee to develop skills acquired from the Skills Bootcamp.**
- ✓ **Attend a short online employer interview to understand the Skills Bootcamp requirements and the employer agreement document.**
- ✓ **Pay the 10% (SME) or 30% (Large Organisation) programme fee contribution.**
- ✓ **Within six months of completion, provide one of the following:**
 - A salary increase linked to new skills
 - An interview for a promotion or new responsibilities
 - Additional responsibilities aligned with their new skills
 - Evidence of role enhancement based on Skills Bootcamp learning

Programme dates and fees

October 2025 Cohort

Session 1	Wed 5 Nov, 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)
Session 2	Wed 12 Nov, 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)
Session 3	Wed 19 Nov, 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)
Session 4	Wed 26 Nov, 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)
Session 5	Wed 3 Dec, 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)
Session 6	Wed 10 Dec 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)

Session 7	Wed 7 Jan, 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)
Session 8	Wed 14 Jan, 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)
Session 9	Wed 21 Jan, 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)
Session 10	Wed 28 Jan, 09:30-16:30	Frenchay Campus (in-person)

Fees



This Skills Bootcamp is heavily subsidised, with the government covering 90% of the total cost for eligible learners applying through their SME employer and 70% for those applying through their large Organisation employer. The full course fee is £3,518.10, but SME employers pay just 10% – only £351.81 per learner. Large Organisation employers pay just 30% - £1,055.43 per learner.

Please note: This Skills Bootcamp is currently open only to applicants sponsored by SME employers. If you're an independent learner or employed by a larger organisation, please contact us on bootcamps@uwe.ac.uk so we can notify you about future availability.

Funding eligibility

Due to funding restrictions, all learners must meet the following criteria:

- Be aged 19+, live and/or work for an organisation based in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset or North Somerset (we will consider applicants living close to these boundaries).
- Not currently in full-time or part-time education.
- Have the right to live and work in the UK.
- Have not registered and attended (including partial completion) any other Skills Bootcamp in the current financial year from any provider.
- Have your employer's agreement to attend and achieve the required outcomes.

The Skills Bootcamps Programme is funded and managed by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, and delivered by UWE Bristol (The University of the West of England) and Sustainable Ventures.



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If you have any questions, please email the team at bootcamps@uwe.ac.uk or call 0117 3286357.