

If you hope to graduate from Horticulture in 2021, you need to completely understand this:

HORT 2302 & HORT 2306 – FAQ: **Summer Work Experience What's it all about?**

HORT 2302, Horticulture Work Experience, and HORT 2306, Work Experience Report are required by all students for graduation in the School of Horticulture Technology Diploma and Bachelor of Horticulture Science Degree programs. Their primary objectives are to demonstrate to future employers that KPU graduates not only have a broad yet in-depth academic grounding in the key subject areas required by all horticulturists, but also a reasonable practical understanding and experience of their chosen area of industry specialization. This was a key objective of the programs determined by industry representatives when all the programs were originally developed, and remains a critical piece of the KPU School of Horticulture credentials that makes our programs so well respected by industry partners and so valuable for you, the student.

What is required?

You need to find a job. Typically this takes place in the summer between your first and second years, but it can be done anytime. **Just remember that you will not be eligible to graduate from your chosen program in Spring of 2021 if you have not completed the HORT 2302/06 credits.** This is non-negotiable.

How much time do I have to do?

HORT 2302 is completed with documentation (employer's/supervisor's letter or pay stubs with company name) indicating that 455 hours or more of work. This is about 12 weeks of full-time (40 hours) employment. In horticulture, it is very easy to put in 40 hours per week in the summer, so there should be no problem meeting this requirement in one go. You therefore have time to complete this and take a couple of weeks' vacation in between semesters two and three.

How do I find a job?

You are responsible for finding the work. It is not a 'placement'. However, faculty announce lots of opportunities during the spring semester as they hear about them from employers, and can give you some suggestions if you're stuck. Also, check out job postings on the www.kpu.ca/hort website.

When should I do this?

Start in January by getting your résumé and a 'general' cover letter organized. Get advice from the Student Resource Centre (Rm 2070, Langley, or on all other campuses). Begin looking for work in February. This might seem early, but this allows you to get the job you want, not just what's left.

Can I use time I did in a job before starting my program?

Yes. If you have confirmation from a previous Horticultural employer about the number of hours that you worked and that position is deemed suitable for HORT 230x credits by faculty, then you should be able to use that as a form of prior learning.

How do I know that a particular job is suitable for HORT 2302/06 credits?

Once you've a job in mind, talk to the faculty member overseeing HORT 2302 and HORT 2306, Maria Valana. She'll decide if it will enable you to meet the course learning outcomes.

Can I use work from more than one employer?

Yes. You don't have to get all your hours from one single employer. Sometimes employers lay off summer staff before they originally expected to. This is likely to be for reasons beyond their control (for example a 'slow' summer of sales in garden centres). Or perhaps you want to experience different aspects of employment and can find work in different places. Make sure you get all employers to provide you confirmation of the number of hours worked, and keep track of the total.

Be careful however. Jumping from job to job may reflect poorly on your résumé in the eyes of future (permanent) employers. They will question the reasons why you moved often and this may affect your chances of getting your dream job. As a guide, a couple of different summer jobs could be useful, but more than that is probably not wise.

Do I have to do paid work?

In theory yes. But ultimately, the intent is to make sure that you fulfil the major learning objectives of the course. You may be able to do this in a non-profit or volunteer position. Check with your faculty.

Can I work abroad?

Of course. In fact, this would be great! Previously, students have worked in England, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Australia. If you want to do this, please make sure you get suitable work permits and/or visas sorted out well in advance of heading overseas.

How do I prepare this summer for Fall 2020 HORT 2306 class?

As you work hard at your Horticultural job this summer, keep a notebook or phone list of things that you see as essential to your operation. Use tact in getting info from your boss and ask for permission to do this stuff first. Boss may not be OK with you using work time to do school work, so be prepared to collect info during breaks or off hours if necessary.

Things like ideas, concepts, strategies, behaviors, practices, equipment, supplies.....Be sure to also document your operations Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Take pictures of these ideas and link them with notes of what the pictures mean. Schedule a weekly time period when you can load pics to your computer, label pics, and keep a set of notes correlating pictures with what they mean. If you delay this step until September, you will forget what many photos stand for.

As you load info also, categorize your observations into subject matter most appropriate to your type of business. For example, subject appropriate to your company might be:
Purpose, Marketing, Personnel management, Finances, Equipment, Supplies, Design, Installation, Maintenance.

By the end of summer you should have at least 100 pics with ideas for each of these categories. Come to first class with a flash drive of these pics & ideas. You will then be guided to assembling a Powerpoint presentation of your summer work experience, present your work to the class and watch others do theirs.

You will register for both HORT 2302 & HORT 2306 for the Fall term.

Who do I see about any questions?

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