

Is the diploma for you?

By Joe Atkinson, tutor

First of all, there are a couple of Criteria:

1. You need to have completed the Permaculture Design Certificate - or PDC - either through the Permaculture Association of Britain or elsewhere. If it's elsewhere, contact the office to discuss your needs
2. You need to be an Association member, and maintain your membership while you're enrolled on the diploma.

But is it right for you? Here are five questions to ask yourself:

1. Are you keen to apply permaculture in your **own** life? To use it as a framework to help you live more sustainably, and help others to do the same?
2. Are you interested in specifically learning design skills as well as permaculture practices?
3. Are you interested - and thick skinned enough - to accept feedback from experienced tutors and others on a similar path to you? Feedback is a key principle in permaculture. Being able to accept it and use it is a great life skill and will really help you to become a better designer.
4. Are you willing to take on a long term commitment - 2 years minimum, but most people find that life starts to get in the way and it actually takes quite a lot longer.
5. Are you willing to manage your own learning?
Nobody is going to give you assignments
Nobody is going to suggest projects
Nobody is going to set deadlines or chase you up

It's all up to you. This might be something you're already confident at, or something you'd like to develop in yourself.

If the answer to all those questions is Yes, then it sounds like it might be for you.

What will you get at the end?

1. Your Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design. And if you want you can now call yourself "Dip perm des"
2. A huge degree of satisfaction and sense of achievement.

3. A much deeper understanding of permaculture ethics, principles, design processes and tools.
4. Some insights into yourself, how you work, your strengths, weaknesses and maybe some strategies to help you work in a more self-reliant way.
5. Your portfolio - a body of design work that you can use to demonstrate your skills, win commercial clients etc. I use mine as a teaching resource all the time.
6. New friends and a community of like-minded people who have been engaging with permaculture at a deep level for a long time.

If you're still not sure, and you want to talk it through with someone, you can book a preliminary tutorial to discuss whether this is the right path for you.

If you've still got questions, have a look on the website or email the office at diploma@permaculture.org.uk