

How the Diploma is changing

For apprentices who joined before 1st September 2020

By Tomas Remiarz, tutor

As you will have heard the diploma is changing. The Diploma Working Group and Association staff spent a lot of time **listening to feedback** from apprentices and tutors, and the changes we are making are designed to **simplify** some of our systems, **provide more support** for apprentices and **ease the workload** on tutors and staff.

What is not changing

You still can make use of any tutorials you have already paid for, as well as assessment and accreditation

Your tutors are still contracted by the Association and are required to have regular training

The criteria for assessment stay the same

You will still be assessed on ten designs, each design individually

and there will be intermediate assessment after five designs and the two-stage final assessment at the end

The diploma presentation event will be as before, a celebration of your success after two tutors have signed off your portfolio.

How the diploma is changing

From 1st September, all new apprentices will join the new system.

Apprentices will pay the Association by **Direct debit**, with a **basic fee** of £12/month* **including Permaculture Association membership** (*may change in future)

This fee will not include **tutorials, assessments and final event**. Those fees will be **paid directly to tutors**.

There will be **no fixed number of tutorials**, and apprentices can decide on the level of support you need in negotiation with your tutor.

Tutors will **invoice you directly**, and **log** all tutorials and assessment on the **new website**.

This means that there will in effect **no longer** be any **separation between the supported and independent routes**.

The new system will offer much more **built-in support** for apprentices. This will include **monthly online get togethers, learning groups and taught modules**. As an existing apprentice you will also be able to make use of these offers.

Before joining the diploma, people can choose to book an **optional orientation tutorial** that explains all the options of permaculture learning after the PDC.

What is changing for you

As an existing apprentice you have **until end of August 2022** to finish your diploma under the current arrangement.

To remain an apprentice you need to keep paying your **Permaculture Association membership** and the **annual diploma fee** of £20.

If you have become stuck on your journey or lost touch with the diploma, you can book a one-off “**reset tutorial**” through the Association Office.

As an apprentice you will also have access to some of the new **support options** we are developing.

If you feel that the **new** arrangement suits you better than the existing one you can **switch over** to the new system at any point between now and August 2022. In that case, please **contact the office** to work out what happens regarding your payments to date.

You can **swap your personal tutor** if you wish to do so. In that case you will be asked to move over to the **new system** now. Please contact the office for details.

If at this point you decide that the **diploma is not for you** and you are not likely to finish it, please **contact the Association office** to let us know and settle any outstanding finances.

What to do now

- Think about when you want to finish
- Decide whether to switch over now or later, or determine to complete your diploma by August 2022.
- If you do want to switch, contact the office at diploma@permaculture.org.uk
- For any questions, please contact the office or your personal tutor