STUDY ORGANICS AT THE BHU

Certificate in Organics
L3 & L4



Digital
info pack



WHO WE ARE

The Biological Husbandry Unit (BHU) was established in 1976 by Bob Crowder, an academic working at Lincoln University. The College was set up in 2007 to deliver hands-on programmes in partnership with Lincoln University. Since then, we've been helping people turn their passion for the land into meaningful, hands-on careers.

Whether you're just starting out or looking to deepen your skills, our fees-free courses offer a practical path into organic horticulture and farming. From learning the basics of organics to launching your own small organic business through our Stepping Stone programme, we're here to support your journey every step of the way.

WE ARE LOCATED
IN WAIKIRKIRI SELWYN

WHY STUDY WITH US?

We offer something unique with the opportunity to study onsite at a certified organic farm. Our hands-on learning focus means that you will gain a practical understanding of everything you learn in the classroom.



In collaboration with Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) we offer fees-free learning for domestic students as a part of the SIT Zero Fees Scheme.

If you are passionate about the environment, looking for a career change, or just want to learn more about how to grow your own food—then this course is for you.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- **Organic farming principles & practices**
- **How to grow your own organic produce**
- **The benefits of organic food for your health and the planet**

CERTIFICATE IN ORGANICS LEVEL 3



Learn from highly experienced tutors who teach you onsite at the BHU organic farm. You'll learn about organic soil prep and composting, seeds and propagation, pests and diseases, and biodiversity.

2027 DATES TBC



Other topics include:

- **Mātauranga Māori**
- **Permaculture**
- **Kai sovereignty**
- **Ecology**
- **Pruning**
- **Sustainable water use**

Enroll now or view full info

CERTIFICATE IN ORGANICS LEVEL 4



18 January to 2 June 2027

Level 4 focuses on applying organic practices at scale in farm and market garden systems. You'll learn about soil health and nutrient management, crop production and management, biodiversity & organic certification.

Other topics include:

- **Safety training in tractors & small engines**
- **Beekeeping**
- **Propagation**
- **Orchard management**
- **Chicken keeping**



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STEPPING STONE

The Stepping Stone Programme offers BHU graduates the opportunity to gain the confidence they need to start their own businesses in a low-risk environment. Graduates can apply to use BHU farm land, machinery and facilities to grow confidence in a small commercial-sized garden. The produce is then saleable under the BHU organic land certification.



GINA RUSSELL

@growingtextilesnz &
@papahoafibreworks

“The BHU Stepping stone programme has been incredibly valuable to me and my project.

Deciding to farm NZ grown textiles & dye plants on a large scale is a big risk with an even bigger learning curve! But being able to attempt this goal under the supervision of knowledgeable farmers and with access to land and equipment means my project has been given the kickstart I honestly could not have achieved in any other way.“

(SOME OF) OUR INCREDIBLE TEACHERS



CHARLES MERFIELD



PENNY PLATT



HAMISH KELLAND



CORNELIA HOLTEN



LUKE BIRD



BARRY MOIR



NGAIO COWELL



JOHN KING



JOHN FEENEY

TESTIMONIALS



DYLAN PARKER

@farmerdillo

“I believe the BHU is the perfect starting place for any future work within the organic sector and also a great place for building confidence to start growing your own food.

My experience at the BHU was fantastic, I met great people and got to learn from an amazing and experienced team. This gave me the right start for my career in organic farming. The lessons were varied and engaging, with a great balance between written and practical classes, and the farm itself is such a magical and special place.”

“I highly encourage anyone to take this course! If you’ve got the time and are keen to learn how to grow your own garden, scale up to market gardening, or explore kai sovereignty and food systems in Aotearoa – this is the place to be...” – Marion

“My time at the BHU has been so beautiful. I have learned so much about myself, our food, and the world we inhabit. I will carry this knowledge with me in whatever I do next. Highly recommend.” – Alberta

KAI SOVEREIGNTY

The BHU is committed to elevating the kaupapa of Māori seed, soil and kai sovereignty through education and practices that aim to decolonise our current food system. We do this for the benefit of our society and planet.

The BHU is proud to distribute kai throughout Ōtautahi, through rūnanga, hapū, and whānau-facing entities we hold relationships with.







FAQ

I’m confused, I thought it was free?

We are able to offer our fees-free course in collaboration with SIT’s Zero Fees Scheme. There is still a direct materials cost of $7.00 per credit and our certificates are 50 or 60 credits each.

How much does it cost for international students?

International fees are $12,500 per certificate. Please refer to SIT’s website to see if you quality for the Zero Fees Scheme.

Do you have any online courses?

No, our certificates are offered Mon-Wed in person at Lincoln, Selwyn. SIT offers their New Zealand Certificates in Organic Primary Production online.

Where is the course?

Our address is Cnr Weedons and, Farm Road, 7608. We are located at Lincoln University.

Can I enrol in the course part-time?

Yes, please contact harry@bhu.org.nz to discuss.

Can I just do one certificate?

Yes.

Do I need to have done L3 to enrol in L4?

No, you can still enrol in L4 if you haven’t taken our L3 course.

ENROL NOW



Visit www.bhu.org.nz
or www.sit.ac.nz

- Mon-Wed 9am-3pm
- Studylink support available
- On site at Lincoln, Selwyn
- 19 weeks including 2 week study break



Or contact our manager Harry Baitz on harry@bhu.org.nz