



Biodynamic Organic Agriculture Training - *the Art of Farming*

The Biodynamic Organic Agriculture Training at Emerson College is a unique combination of using scientific knowledge and artistic skills in order to create healthy balanced sustainable farms. We use the insights into the formative processes at work in minerals and plants to create life abundant soils that nourish crops on all levels. We use our observational skills to recognise of farm animals' innate soul qualities in order to create the natural environment in which they thrive. And we use the latest scientific insights in life force research to assess the nutritive quality of the food we produce. The Biodynamic Organic Agriculture Training is not just about learning how to drive a tractor - although that is part of the curriculum too! - it is about developing new ways of working with nature and increasing our knowledge of the supersensible world.



Biodynamic farming is the oldest form of organic farming, and the most advanced at the same time. Biodynamic farmers follow all the EU 2092/91 rules and regulations on organic production and always work to increase the fertility of the soil. Apart from that, biodynamic farmers use certain herbal preparations and homeopathic remedies to sustain the life forces on their farm on a supersensible level. If you work intensely with plants and animals you will realize that animals have their own character, or soul quality which is entirely different if you work with eg. a cow or with a chicken. In biodynamic farming we acknowledge these facts and work with them, creating a healthy environment for farm animals in which their innate behaviour can come to full expression instead of its being suppressed.

On a similar note biodynamic growers regard their soil and their crops as one unity, and aim to create a rich soil full of vitality to sustain plants in their development from seedling to seed. Genetic modification obviously doesn't support the inherent coherence within plants and is strongly rejected. There is an increasing move in biodynamics towards more natural breeding systems, away from hybridization but using open pollinated varieties and traditional breeding techniques.

With the increasing manifestation of global warming and climate change, we need robust and sustainable farming systems, which increase soil organic matter - supporting soil fertility and buffering against erosion but acting as a carbon sink as well! Biodynamic farming is the most holistic approach to creating whole-farm systems, where soils, crops, animals and humans are made part of an integrated and coherent farm organism.

Biodynamic farmers need more than the conventional scientific approach that has created the problems that face the world at the moment. A problem cannot be solved with the same mind-set that created it in the first place - a paradigm shift is needed to solve the challenges of our time. To regard farming as an industry similar to manufacturing completely misses the point that we are working with living beings as opposed to raw materials. In the Biodynamic Organic Agriculture Training you'll develop techniques to experience the formative forces that manifest themselves in plants. Insects and slugs are conventionally being regarded as pests that have to be eradicated, but alternatively can be seen as indicators that the life forces in soil or crop are out of balance and need tweaking. In biodynamic farming the homeopathic preparations work directly on the level of the life forces, therefore making applications of chemical pesticides superfluous.





Biodynamic farmers need, apart from scientific knowledge, an artistic eye for the living world. Through inspired movement (eurhythmy), observation, drawing and clay modeling classes, the students on the Biodynamic Organic Agriculture Training develop an intuition for the forces at work on the farm and use this information in their farm management.

The Biodynamic Organic Agriculture Training is offered as a winter school: from September to March students study at Emerson College, working on subjects like vegetable and fruit production, animal husbandry, soil science, phenomenology and art. From April to August students do a placement on an organic or biodynamic farm. In September students come back for the second year of the training, with subjects like seed growing and breeding, farm business management, research in formative forces and social dynamics. In April the second placement takes place, and in August students qualify with a level 3 National Certificate equivalent to A level standard. This course is delivered in partnership with Plumpton College. After successfully completing the 2 years at Emerson students are then ready to take on a responsible position on an organic or biodynamic farm, or they can proceed to study further, for example on the two-year level 4 programme in Biodynamic Farm Management at Warmonderhof / Groenhorst College in the Netherlands.

Structure of the course

There are six areas of work and study on the training:

1. Agriculture
2. Science
3. Arts
4. Economics and management
5. Skills
6. Philosophy

The combination of these six elements guarantees an interesting and exciting course program with a strong emphasis on how to apply theoretical knowledge into practical work.



Tuition fees

Tuition fees for the Biodynamic Organic Agriculture Training are £2000 per year for EU-students and £4000 for students without an EU passport.

Financial help for EU-students

Check out the following websites: www.learnirect-advice.co.uk/featured/alg/ and www.dfes.gov.uk/financialhelp/index_flash.html

Course Carrier: Arjen Huese

Arjen Huese trained in biodynamic market gardening at the Warmonderhof Training Centre in Holland. He has worked as a market gardener in Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands, and has been a course carrier for the Biodynamic Organic Agriculture Training for the last five years.





Thank you for your interest in applying for a full-time course at Emerson College. On these pages you will find all the information you need about fees, tuition costs, payment terms and our financial procedures and policies. We suggest you keep these pages as a reference. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Reception hours are 08.30 - 12.45 & 14.00 - 16.45 Monday through Friday every week of the year apart from a few days over Christmas and Easter.

Term Dates: Autumn Term: 17 September - 14 December 2007 - winterschool
Spring Term: 7 January - 14 March 2008 - winterschool
Summer Term: 7 April - 20 June 2008 - summerschool with placement ongoing until September

Students enrolled in the Orientation Year will go on placement during the Spring Term, from 4 February - 14 March 2008.

APPLYING FOR A FULL-TIME COURSE AT EMERSON COLLEGE

We can only consider you for a place on the course(s) for which you have applied once we have received your full application with Application Fee and Deposit of £400. This deposit enables us to reserve your place on the course and is credited towards your tuition fees. £200 of this deposit is non-refundable if you cancel up to two weeks before your course is due to begin, after that the whole deposit is non-refundable.

Apply Early: Some courses fill up quickly, we recommend you apply early; before May for courses beginning in September, before November for all other courses.

Referee Letters should be completed by someone who knows you well (teacher, employer, friend of your family). Referee should not be your spouse/partner, and should not be related to you. For the following courses we require only the contact details of your referees, but not a written reference: *A Bridge to the Invisible*, *Time for a Change*, *The New Painting Course*, *Expanding Sculpture into Contemporary Life*.

The Medical Report must be completed by a qualified doctor (signed and stamped). If you require a special diet please include details of this on your medical report.

WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED we will send you details of how to get here, what to bring, a letter for the immigration authorities (if applicable) and an invoice for the balance of your fees. If you don't hear from us within a month once you have sent us your complete application form, please contact us.

We recommend that if you wish to study at Emerson College you speak and understand ENGLISH to at least an intermediate level. For those who wish to improve their English you might consider three course offerings, English at Emerson, English Alive or English Summer School. Refer to Course Brochure for details.

Accommodation - We can accommodate most of our students in single bedrooms on campus and in our student house in Forest Row. These rooms are allocated first according to special needs. When campus rooms are fully occupied we provide single rooms with landladies in Forest Row, most within walking distance of the college. If you prefer, you can arrange your own accommodation. We are unable to organise accommodation for families, but we have a list of housing agents who may be able to help you.

Meals - The kitchen of Emerson College is well known for its freshly prepared meals using where ever possible organic and biodynamic products which come from our own garden or local farms. We offer a simple vegetarian lunch from Monday to Friday for all students and staff and we would like to encourage you to share these meals. All our student houses have cooking facilities where you can prepare your own breakfast and supper. Often on weekends we have guests coming for weekend courses. You can book additional lunches on Saturdays and Sundays once you have arrived at the college.

EMERSON COLLEGE FEE POLICY

Attending the college is a matter of mutual commitment. The college makes a commitment to the course staffing and content and to utilise financial resources effectively. Students make a commitment to attend the whole course and pay their tuition fees and living costs. We acknowledge this commitment by trying to keep costs at a level which is compatible with providing a healthy and productive learning community. But the college alone cannot provide "community" - it is the responsibility of all who work and study here to create this community together. Everybody is asked to contribute some time and work to help the daily life of the college to function. These activities include things like: washing up once or twice per week; cleaning of classroom spaces; helping to prepare vegetables for the daily meals; work in the house or kitchen for two hours on one or two weekends per term; and we mustn't forget to mention our annual leaf raking day! Sharing these tasks helps build community as well as helping to reduce the costs of running the college.

Ideally no student who really wishes to be here and whom we wish to accept will be turned away on financial grounds but economic realities mean that we can only strive towards this ideal - we still have bills to pay. So whilst we hope you can find the full fees, please do not hesitate to apply if your finances are uncertain but your resolve to attend the college is strong. We will make every effort to work with you to find possible solutions.

If you are not in a position to pay the full tuition fees you can ask for a reduction. However, such reductions are limited, will not normally be more than 25% of the tuition fee, and will vary from course to course. The college cannot offer loans to students but is prepared in some cases to agree to a payment plan for the fees due. If you wish to apply for a reduction or payment plan please indicate so on your application and we will send you a Bursary Application.

We rely primarily on the monies paid by students directly, by funding organizations on behalf of individual students, and by donations from those wishing to support our work. If you are able to afford more than your course fees, please consider making an extra contribution to help those students who find it harder to pay.

CANCELLATION POLICY - Occasionally a course we offer may be cancelled due to low enrolment. We will tell you six weeks in advance if this is the case. We recommend that you take out your own travel insurance to cover this risk or in case you are unable to attend a course through illness or unforeseen circumstances.

WHEN FEES ARE PAYABLE - The balance of full-year fees is divided into 2 installments (60% on arrival and 40% at the beginning of the 2nd term). If you pay all costs on arrival we will give you a reduction of £150. If you are studying here for only part of the year your fees are payable one month before your course is due to begin. The college reserves the right to charge interest of 1% per month on overdue balances. On leaving, any outstanding costs on your account will be deducted from your credit card automatically unless instructed otherwise.

REFUNDS - If you choose to leave before the end of your course, you are expected to pay only until the end of the term in which you leave, provided that you have given at least four weeks notice in writing. If you have paid in advance for terms that you will not be attending, we will refund the difference. If the course you are attending is shorter than a full term in length or part-time, no refund is available. Exceptions can be made for medical reasons (subject to medical report).

WORK-STUDY SCHOLARSHIPS - A limited number of work scholarships are available giving opportunities to work in the kitchen, garden, house and general maintenance areas. Please apply in writing with your application form and state your experience and preferred type of work.

LOANS - Students from the UK may be eligible to apply for Career Development Loans to finance the Waldorf Teacher Training or the Biodynamic Training. Students from some countries (Canada and countries in Scandinavia) may be eligible to apply for government loans. Students from the U.S.A. may be eligible to apply for international student loans. Please contact us for further information.

The college is sometimes able to assist students in finding loans (and occasionally grants) for the second and third years of the Steiner Waldorf Teacher Training from sources dedicated to support Waldorf Education.

STUDENT VISAS

Students who are not citizens of the European Union will need a student visa to study at Emerson College. New immigration regulations require more nationalities to obtain a student visa in advance of travel to the UK especially if studying here for more than 6 months, this includes Japan, Canada and the USA. Please check before you make your travel arrangements whether this applies to you.

When applying for your visa, whether to the British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate in your country, you will need a supporting letter from the college confirming you are a student, an invoice from the college showing what money you have paid, and you need to be ready to answer any questions they might raise such as:

1. **Finances** You must be able to give a clear and credible financial picture, providing bank statements and/or letters from sponsors etc. These must show that you are able to meet all the costs payable to the college (tuition, board and lodging) and live in the UK without working to cover any of these. All documents must be originals (not photocopies). With a valid student visa you can work up to 20 hours per week, but you should not have to rely on income from working to cover your expenses while studying at the college.
2. **Reasons for Study** Be clear about your reasons for wanting to do the course and why you have chosen Emerson College. You should know what qualification you will receive at the end of the course (for example a Diploma or Certificate of Course Completion). You should have a clear idea of what you will do after the course finishes.
3. **Accommodation** You may be asked where you will live whilst you are studying at Emerson College. If you have asked the college to arrange your accommodation you should say that your accommodation is provided by the college and that your address and telephone number is that of the college. If you have organized your own accommodation, please have the address and telephone number available so that you can give them this.

You should have all this information with you when you apply for a visa and when you come into the country. If any information is missing your visa request may be turned down. If you have any questions about student visas please do not hesitate to contact us before applying for a visa so that we can try to assist you.

In some instances, where we have noticed that it has been difficult to obtain a student visa to come to study at the college, the college reserves the right to request payment of costs in advance. In return the college will send you an invoice showing the payment made, which can then be used as supporting documentary evidence for the visa application process which we hope will strengthen your application. If your visa is refused, the full sum, less the non-refundable element of the deposit and any bank charges, will be refunded.

HOW TO PAY MONEY TO EMERSON COLLEGE

If you are coming from outside the UK you should send or bring money in the form of a bank draft or cheque. We advise you not to bring or send your fees in cash. Apart from the risk of losing it, the exchange rate for cash is always worse than that for cheques.

- 1) If you come from the USA you can pay by personal cheque from your bank provided this is made out in dollars.
- 2) Alternatively, you can ask your bank for a Bank Cheque or Money Order. The cheque or order should be made out to "Emerson College" and should be drawn in pounds sterling on a British bank to avoid additional bank charges when depositing the cheque.
- 3) If you pay in a currency other than pounds sterling we will credit your account with the amount of sterling we receive on exchange, less the bank charges.
- 4) You can also ask your bank to transfer the money directly to our bank. This is the simplest and most secure method but you will need to pay the bank charges from both your bank (the sending bank) and the college bank (the receiving bank). In countries where there are currency restrictions you should check with your local bank as to what is required. If you use this method it is very important to make sure your bank gives your name on the transfer document. It also helps if you let us know when you are transferring money this way in case the bank forgets to give us the sender's name. The bank charges may be less if you quote the IBAN and BIC codes.

The college bank account is:

HSBC Bank plc, 1 Middle Row, East Grinstead, West Sussex. RH19 3AY Sort Code: 40-20-09 Account Number: 1128 2174 SWIFT Code (for Bank Transfers) MIDLGB22 IBAN No.: GB71MIDL40200911282174 BIC code: MIDLGB2111W
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- 5) You can pay by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Access) or bank debit card (Switch or Delta). Debit cards incur only small charges. However, amounts charged to credit cards have 2% bank commission deducted before the college receives the money. Therefore, for payments other than the application fee and the deposit, you will need to pay the added 2% to cover the commission.

If you have any problems or difficulties in paying money to the college, please ask. We have dealt with all sorts of queries and might know the answer to even the most unlikely questions!

FEES FOR THE YEAR 2007/2008 IN £ (POUNDS)	Inclusive Fee	Fee with accommodation, no lunches	Fee with no accommodation, lunches taken	Fee without lunches or accommodation	Reduction for full payment on arrival
Biodynamic Organic Agriculture Training (costs per year)					
EU students	3,782	3,535	2,540	2,178	150
Non-EU students	5,782	5,535	4,540	4,178	150

Application Fee: Courses beginning in September - £25 if you apply by 31 May and rises to £50 on 1 June. Courses beginning in January or later in the year - £25 if you apply by 30 November and rises to £50 on 1 December. This non-refundable application fee pays for the processing of your application.

A room deposit of £100 is required which will be refunded provided the room is clean, tidy and undamaged when you leave it.

The charges for room and meals only cover the 23 weeks of the two terms of the winterschool and do not include the holiday periods. The cost of staying for extra weeks in the holidays is £65 for accommodation per week. Some courses may incur additional costs for materials. Prices subject to alteration.



MEDICAL REPORT

This medical report should be completed by a qualified doctor, preferably the applicant's own physician. Please return to the Registrar with your application form. All information will be treated as confidential.

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS



NAME OF APPLICANT:

Height: Weight:

General state of physical health:

General state of mental health:

Is the applicant currently receiving treatment for any physical or mental conditions? If so, give details:

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.....

Please give a brief medical history: (continue on separate sheet if necessary)

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Does this person suffer from food allergies that necessitate a special diet?

Does this person suffer from allergies or a physical condition/disability that would necessitate accommodation on campus?

.....

I have known this person for months/years

Signature of doctor: Date

Name and address

Telephone:



FULL TIME COURSE APPLICATION FORM

please attach two passport-sized photos

Title of Course for which you are applying

First Name (BLOCK LETTERS)..... MALE / FEMALE

Family Name (BLOCK LETTERS)

Date of birth (day).....(month).....(year)Nationality

Are you accompanied by a partner also studying at Emerson? Yes No

Name Which course.....

Permanent Address

TelephoneFax..... Email

Address for correspondence (if different from above)

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Name Relationship to you:

Telephone (day) Telephone (night)

What languages do they speak?

Address.....

Telephone..... Fax..... Email

Is English your first/native language? Yes No How would you describe your level of English? If English is not your first language, please write a page by hand, with no help and no dictionary, on anything you like, so that we can see what your language level is. Please also be ready to talk on the telephone about this subject. It is in your own interest that we know how your English is, then we can also know how to help you.

- 1. How did you hear about Emerson College?.....
2. With regard to your physical and mental health, is there anything you feel is important for us to know in considering your application and placing you in accommodation, e.g. Allergies? (This information will be kept confidential.)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On a separate piece of paper please answer the following:

- 1. List previous education, training and occupations (or attach curriculum vitae).
2. Previous acquaintance with Rudolf Steiner's work and connections with other spiritual or cultural movements.
3. Give an account of your life, special interests, and future hopes in relation to the course you would like to study.
4. We also require 2 referee letters, to include: Connection/relationship to the applicant and comments on the applicant's suitability for the course.

ACCOMMODATION REQUEST

The college provides accommodation which may be located on or off campus depending upon availability. For costs see Application Information and Fees Booklet. In addition, you will be charged a £100 room deposit which is returnable after you have left your room in good condition at the end of your stay.

1. Do you wish the college to book you a single room? Yes No
2. Will you have transport? Yes No
3. Do you feel you can walk to and from the college in the dark? Yes No

MEALS REQUEST - See Application Information for pricing.

Do you wish to book for lunches Monday to Friday? Yes No

Do you have any medical problems or food allergies which affect your diet? Yes No

Please explain Please ask your doctor to detail the above on your medical report.

COSTS PER ANNUM

Please tick the option you would like to choose. For costs refer to Application Information.

- Inclusive fee
 - Fee with accommodation, no lunches
 - Fee with no accommodation, lunches taken
 - Fee without lunches or accommodation
- Would you like to pay all costs on arrival and receive a reduction of £150?

Are you able to pay these fees? Yes No If no, we will forward a bursary application.

I will be paying the APPLICATION FEE (£25 for early applications, other £50) AND THE DEPOSIT OF £400 by:

Cheque (enclosed) Bank transfer Visa/Master card Credit or Debit card

My card number is _____ Please debit my card £ _____

Expiry date: __/__/__ Valid from date: __/__/__ Issue No. (switch cards) _____ Security No. (credit cards) _____

(We do not charge 2% fee for use of credit card for application fee and deposit, but we do for all other credit card transactions, such as balance of tuition fees.)

DECLARATION

I have read the detailed course brochure and am willing to commit myself to the work and structure of the course, and to contributing to the college community life. I understand that the habitual use of drugs and alcohol is incompatible with the aims of the courses.

Signed Date :

HAVE YOU ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING?

- Application form
- For non-native English speakers an essay of 1-2 pages for English level evaluation (see above)
- Application Fee and £400 deposit, see Application information and Fees Booklet
- 2 Referee Letters
- Background Information Sheets (see above)
- Medical Report
- 2 passport photographs
- A photocopy of your passport that includes your passport number, date of issue and expiry, and place of issue.