Formal Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the German Speaking Countries
Example: “Horticulturist”

Examination body: Chamber for Agriculture, Chamber of Commerce and Trade
(Government and industry stakeholders)

8 sectors of horticultural training

1. Ornamental Plant Production
2. Herbaceous Plant Production
3. Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock (HONS)
4. Landscaping
5. Vegetable Production
6. Fruit Production
7. Cemetery
8. Plant Advisor (*New*)

Duration: 3 Years (shortened to 2 years under certain conditions)

Three “Columns” of practical vocational training:

1. Practical training 4 – 5 days in the garden under supervision of MHort holder.
2. Theoretical college work (classroom based and weekly)
3. Technical training seminars (3 weeks)

Plus Report book

Examination

Mid term examination: practical and theoretical, plant identification test
Final examination: viva voce, theoretical, practical, plant identification test

Qualification:

Horticulturist in the field of e.g. “Ornamental Plant Production”

Further practical, non-academic training opportunities:

Master of Horticulture (MHort) *NOT to be confused with Master of Science MSc.*
Horticultural technician

www.botgart.uni-bonn.de
Vocational Training (VET) at the University Botanic Gardens Bonn

Number of apprentices:
Ornamental: 2  
Herbaceous: 5

Indoor: Ornamental Plant Production  
Outdoor: Herbaceous Plant Production

a. Practical Work:

4 – 5 days in the section of the gardens “Hands on the Job” : General garden duties relevant to the section (e.g. cleaning, weeding, propagation, re-potting, watering)

b. Report book

Daily weather report  
Daily activity report  
Plant feature  
Cultivation reports  
Plant identification  
P & D control  
Machinery

c. Organisation based training

One afternoon per month organised by one instructor for all apprentices.

1. Introduction of the Botanic Gardens  
2. Propagation  
3. Soil and Composts  
4. Climate control, greenhouse technology, heating systems  
5. Introduction to Machinery  
6. Chemical P & D control  
7. Biological P & D control  
8. Fertilizer  
9. Introduction to plant systematic

d. Other optional training opportunities

Participation on the lectures held by the gardens director  
Internship in a major commercial garden centre in Bonn (Knauber)

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