



worldskills  
UK Alumni

## William Gadd: Landscape Gardening

<b>Competed in:</b>	WorldSkills Calgary 2009 – Team UK
<b>Awarded:</b>	Medallion for Excellence
<b>Home town:</b>	Thurston, Bury St Edmunds
<b>Region:</b>	East of England
<b>Date of birth:</b>	01/08/1987
<b>Age at competition:</b>	22
<b>Employer whilst competing:</b>	The Country Life, Landscapes
<b>Employer:</b>	Gadd Brothers Trees and Landscapes
<b>Learning provider:</b>	Otley College

### Qualifications

- National Diploma Horticulture
- First Diploma Horticulture



### What was your route into Team UK?

William entered the national competitions, WorldSkills UK, whilst at college. Impressing the judges he was invited by Training Manager and WorldSkills Expert, Harry Turner, to Ashkham Bryan College for some training and to complete an assessment. Having achieved a good score during his assessment, William went on to compete at the Squad Selection competition held at SkillsLondon 2008 in the ExCeL centre, London. With a win at Squad Selection he went onto Team Selection where he paired up with Luke Denby to win a place in Team UK.

### Why did you choose to get involved with WorldSkills?

*"WorldSkills seemed like an ideal opportunity with some great experiences on offer so I just had to take up the chance to be part of Team UK."*

### What training did you undertake as part of your journey to WorldSkills and what impact did this have on your life?

William had spent three years at college but never looked at Landscaping in the same way as he did during his training.

*"The range of skills and expertise that I learned was definitely worth all of the hard work. You couldn't pay for the quality of training that I received. It was a huge commitment but for me it was worth it; I still had my weekends but had to put college on hold for a while."*

### What was WorldSkills like?

*"It was brilliant! The competition site was massive; I remember looking at the 15 identical competition plots in the landscaping area and being amazed. It is unlike anything I will experience ever again and it was an honour to be part of the team."*

### What did you have to do during the competition?

Over the 22 hours of competition William and his team mate Luke had to build a garden from scratch. With specific deadlines for parts of the garden, planning was everything. The test project involved a water feature, decking, wall, Inuit statue and planting.

### Who inspired you during your journey to WorldSkills?

*"Seeing the achievements of past competitors was really inspiring. I got the feeling WorldSkills was going to be something big which made me want it even more."*

### What did being part of Team UK and competing at WorldSkills mean to you?

*"Being part of Team UK for WorldSkills Calgary 2009 meant everything to me. I miss it. I had a fantastic time and some really good experiences but I also made some really good friends along the way."*

### How did it feel to receive a Medallion of Excellence?

William admits to being nervous waiting in the Medallion ceremony counting down the skills until his name was called.

*"I was worried that I might be going home empty-handed. I was really pleased when I found out I had reached the WorldSkills standard and won a Medallion for Excellence; it was a great feeling!"*

### What has competing done for you both personally and professionally?

William is self-employed so all of the skills and knowledge he has gained through WorldSkills are really helping him with his business.

*"Competing has given me much more confidence and has helped me build a name for myself in the industry."*

### What is the dream?

*"I want to make a real success of my business by expanding and building up a good reputation."*

### Would you encourage others to get involved in WorldSkills?

*"Absolutely. I have gained so much from being involved. It is something that if you get the chance to do, you should never turn it down."*

### What do you think of the event being held in London in 2011?

William is keen to stay involved and help out with the training of UK competitors for WorldSkills London 2011. He also sees the competition as an excellent opportunity for the skills sector.

*"It's such a big deal and it will help promote skills, the WorldSkills competition itself and hopefully leave a lasting legacy. I can't wait to help out and see the competition from the other side of the fence."*



For more information about the WorldSkills, UK Alumni, contact the UK Skills communications team:  
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