



The Historic and Botanic Gardens Training Programmes

(Historic and Botanic Gardens Bursary Scheme)



The Historic and Botanic Gardens Training Programmes (HBGTP) are managed by English Heritage and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. **The HBGTP are an unrivalled opportunity for passionate individuals committed to establishing a career in horticulture.**

Earn a salary while developing your professional skills in some of the best historic and botanic gardens that the UK has to offer!

The scheme has benefited over 200 trainees to date, with 98% of trainees finding further employment in the horticulture sector.

Prestigious historic gardens such as **Oxford Botanic Gardens** and **Kensington Palace** join us for 2016 alongside previous notable host gardens such as **Chatsworth** and **Osborne House**.

You love being outdoors. You love gardens. You love growing, tending and managing plants. You have passion and dedication.

– now you need first-class training from the best in the industry!

Further information on the application and selection process can be found within this brochure or by going to our website at:

www.HBGTP.org.uk



In partnership with:



Host Gardens 2016

Stream 1

1. Audley End
2. Chatsworth
3. Clumber
4. Erddig
5. Great Dixter
6. Kensington Palace
7. Osborne
8. Trentham
9. Wrest Park*
10. Oxford Botanic Gardens

Stream 2

11. Bodnant
 12. Calke Abbey
 13. Sissinghurst
 14. Dunham Massey
 15. Aberglasney
 16. Mount Stewart & Rowallane
 17. Myddelton
 18. Nymans
 19. Dyffryn
 20. Cliveden
- *Wrest Park



I now have a challenging, rewarding healthy career and an exciting future. I'm certain that without the leg up that the HBGBS gave me this would not be the case. They definitely facilitated my path into Horticulture.

Dene Wood

How does it work?

Within the training programmes, there are two alternative routes, known as streams. Stream 1 is delivered over one year and Stream 2 over two years. Both streams provide the benefit of a full time salaried placement in a historic or botanic garden.

Stream 1 - One Year Practical Placement

- 1 year full time, paid practical placement in a historic or botanic garden.
- Work alongside the gardening team throughout the seasons.
- Learn about all aspects of managing a historic garden.
- Develop practical skills and increase plant knowledge.

Stream 2 - Two Year Study Placement

- 2 year full-time, paid practical placement in a historic garden.
- Earn a Royal Horticultural Society Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture.
- Learn about all aspects of managing a historic and botanic garden.
- Attend four study blocks per year.
- Earn 2 skills certificates and an additional heritage gardens module.

With such a variety of prestigious gardens to choose from we have provided some key information below to help guide you in your selection process.


The Key:

 Stream 1 or 2

 Accommodation

 Walled Garden

 Nearest Train Station (miles)



 Kitchen Garden

 National Plant Collection

 Arboretum

 Glasshouse




1. Audley End  

Audley End Gardens is an historic 100 acre site which comprises a wonderful selection of garden areas, including a beautifully restored parterre and a 2 acre organic Victorian walled kitchen garden.

Rotating around the different areas of the garden, working in the Pleasure Gardens, Kitchen Garden, Vinery, Peach Houses, and Orchard House, trainees will be given the opportunity to learn in an environment that offers a hugely varied range of skills and techniques.




2. Chatsworth 

The amazing 105 acre garden at Chatsworth has evolved over 450 years, whilst preserving its many layers of history. Famous features include the 17th century Cascade, impressive gravity-fed Emperor Fountain and Joseph Paxton's Rockery.

As a trainee you, will work as part of a large established garden team. Your training will be varied, working in the Cutting Garden, Kitchen Garden, Glasshouses and Pleasure grounds on a two weekly rota.



3. Clumber Park 

The 30 acre Pleasure Ground at Clumber Park was constructed from the mid-18th century. The jewel in the crown of the estate is the 18th century Walled Kitchen Garden.

A traineeship at Clumber Park combines cutting-edge horticulture with traditional gardening skills, such as the cultivation of glasshouse grapes, and the conservation of historic gardens and their living collections.



4. Erddig

1



Erddig is one of the most significant surviving examples of an early 18th century formal garden in Britain. The garden as a whole reflects changing horticultural trends, moving from the late 17th century through into the present day.

During your year at Erddig, you will gain an excellent grounding in all aspects of Heritage and Amenity Horticulture, working with wall plants and fruit, annual bedding, herbaceous borders, herbs, roses, hedges and much more.



5. Great Dixter

1



Great Dixter was home to the gardener and garden writer Christopher Lloyd until his death in 2006. The Arts and Crafts garden is characterised by its mixed borders, large sweeps of wildflower meadow, ever-changing pot displays, and exotic garden.

Great Dixter provides a great set-up for trainees, who become a part of the Dixter family, working closely with Head Gardener Fergus Garrett and his team, gaining deep level skills needed to manage a garden of this kind.



6. Kensington Palace

1



The gardens and team at Kensington Palace are small but varied, providing the ideal opportunity for someone wishing to train in a public, formal garden in central London.

The gardens include lawns, topiary, herbaceous, seasonal bedding and a meadow area, which combine to create an excellent learning experience and will provide a great insight into Historic Royal Palaces.



7. Osborne House

1



The garden at Osborne has been restored to its Victorian appearance. It is made up of formal terraces, extensive lawns, historic trees and shrubberies, woodland, and a walled garden developed as a cut flower garden.

Osborne offers trainees a bit of everything, from formal bedding and lawn care to fruit training and glasshouse work, all set in a magnificent landscape overlooking the Solent.



8. Trentham Gardens

1



The Trentham Estate encapsulates magnificent historical gardens, parkland and ancient woodland within its 725 acres. The large scale gardens boast some of the finest contemporary herbaceous planting schemes in the country, designed by Tom Stuart Smith and Piet Oudolf.

The restored Capability Brown landscape has recently been embellished with a mix of annual meadow flora and perennial planting by Professor Nigel Dunnett.



9. Wrest Park

1 & 2x2



The gardens of Wrest Park are unique, with a range of surviving garden layouts dating back to the late 17th century.

Wrest Park is able to offer trainees the opportunity to work in a public garden that is undergoing a major programme of restoration. The site includes a wide range of features including woodland, waterways, a walled garden and French and Italian parterres.

Wrest Park will be hosting 1 x 1 year trainee and 2 x 2 year trainees.

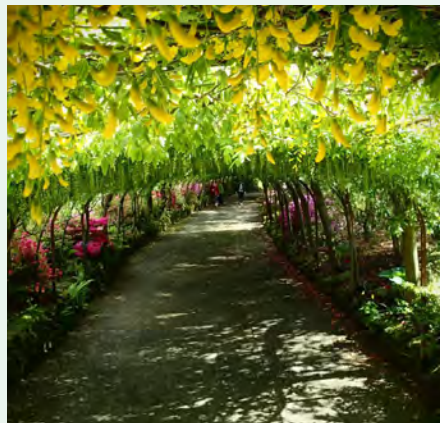


10. Oxford Botanic Gardens 1



The University of Oxford Botanic Gardens and Harcourt Arboretum (OBGA) are the oldest botanic gardens in the United Kingdom. Founded in 1621 they have an unparalleled collection of plants.

The two sites, in combination with the glasshouse collection, offer trainees the opportunity to develop the widest possible range of horticultural skills and experience in a historically important setting.



11. Bodnant 2



Bodnant is noted for its botanical collections and impressive garden features, such as the historically significant Italianate Terraces containing formal lawns, mixed borders and water features.

As a trainee you will learn first-hand from our friendly and highly skilled garden team. Joining our team now has the added bonus of involvement in the garden's development, as new areas are being opened up.



12. Calke Abbey 2



Calke Abbey tells the story of the dramatic decline of the Grand Country House Estate. You will be working in the charming four acre 18th century Walled Gardens as well as the wider Pleasure Grounds.

Calke Abbey offers a wide range of learning opportunities, from seed sowing and raising produce in the vegetable beds, to caring for the old glasshouses, to training climbing roses in the Victorian Flower Garden.



13. Sissinghurst 2



Sissinghurst is famous as the epitome of the English Garden, a result of the creative tension between the formal design of Harold Nicolson and the exuberant planting of Vita Sackville-West.

As a trainee at Sissinghurst, you will work alongside the existing team of gardeners, continuing the tradition of experimentation and maintaining and presenting the garden within the 'Spirit of the Place'.

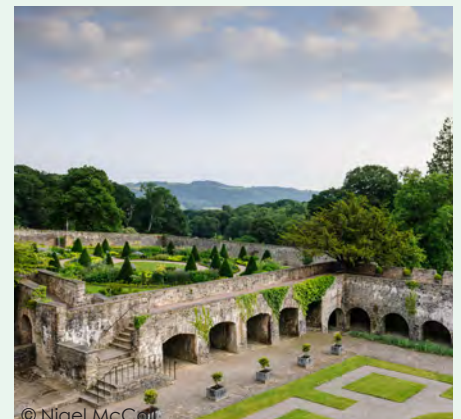


14. Dunham Massey 2



The 30 acre garden conveys the pristine flavour of a Victorian pleasure ground, but one founded on a late eighteenth-century layout of meandering lawns and shrubberies, and including some formal Edwardian touches and inspired contemporary planting.

A carefully managed mix of conservation and development and a wide range of growing conditions and facilities make the garden at Dunham an ideal place for a trainee to realise their potential.




15. Aberglasney 2



Aberglasney Gardens are a renowned plantsman's paradise with a unique Elizabethan cloister garden at their heart.

The gardens are a great place to train. Although compact (about 11 acres) they are extremely diverse, boasting about twenty different gardening styles and methods including formal, woodland, kitchen, rose, meadow and herbaceous. The gardens are also packed with all sorts of rarities and plant collections.



16. Rowallane  2

Rowallane is an informal plantsman's garden which is now in its 155th year. The 52 acre landscape is carved from rocks, and stretches to include walled gardens, a rock garden, and informal paths through woodland, in which a huge diverse variety of exotic trees and shrubs thrive. It boasts a heady mix of wild species rhododendron, sitting in an informal style whilst framing views through to the wider landscape.

Mount Stewart and Rowallane are joint providers for a 2 year placement.



16. Mount Stewart  2

Mount Stewart on the shores of Strangford Lough enjoys one of the most benign microclimates of any garden in the British Isles. Throughout its approximately 90 acres, there are rare and exotic plants not often seen growing outside in the UK.

The 10 acre formal gardens are a series of compartments; the planting is rich, complex and exotic. The 2 acre nursery in the Walled Garden is the powerhouse of this complex garden.



17. Myddelton  2

Originally the home of influential self-taught horticulturist, Edward Augustus Bowles, the 6 acres of gardens now house several National Collections as well as a heritage fruit/vegetable and cut flower garden, glasshouses, the rock garden and the famous 'Lunatic Asylum'.

In 2011 a newly restored garden was unveiled. Work on the garden has continued ever since and opportunities for research and restoration are open to trainees during their time in the garden.



18. Nymans  2

Nymans is a garden lovers' home for all seasons with an extensive, yet intimate, garden set around a romantic house and ruins. It is famous for its specialist plant collections and variety of plant species.

Nymans is one of the country's most iconic gardens with plants from all corners of the world, set in an area of outstanding beauty. It is an amazing place for trainees to learn and expand their knowledge in all aspects of horticulture.




19. Dyffryn Gardens  2

Built for the Cory family the garden boast an impressive 22 acre arboretum, spectacular garden rooms, herbaceous borders, formal lawns and much more.

Trainees will gain experience in productive horticulture including access to two productive walled gardens, display glasshouse (including an orchid section, cacti and succulent section and vinery) and extensive modern yard and nursery facilities.



20. Cliveden  2

The 80 acre formal gardens include the Grade 1 Listed 18th century parterre, annual bedding schemes, mixed herbaceous borders and a recently restored, Jellicoe-designed rose garden.

Cliveden is now in a very exciting phase of restoration and regeneration, offering a variety of training experiences not only in horticulture, but in active conservation.

Am I eligible to apply?

Suitable applicants will have some experience of gardening in a professional setting. Applicants for both streams must be at least 18 years of age at the start of the placement.

Applicants for Stream 1 must have practical experience of working in a garden with a professional gardening team, either in a paid or unpaid capacity.

Applicants for Stream 2 must in addition have either RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture; Level 3 BTEC or C&G; or a degree in a relevant subject such as Horticulture, Ecology or Biology.

How do you select candidates?

Given the opportunities that the HBGTP offers, there is competition for the limited number of placements. Selection is by interview as follows:

Stream 1 interviews will be held around the UK in June.

Stream 2 interviews will be held at Wrest Park, Bedfordshire in May.

When does the placement start?

Both Stream 1 & 2 candidates are required to commence work on the first working week in September 2016.

What about funding?

Both streams are paid a salary no less than National Minimum Wage. For Stream 2 there are tuition fees. The HBGTP contributes £1,500 towards the cost of these fees reducing the total to approximately £2,030. Trainees are required to either self-fund this amount or apply for sponsorship or student loan.

Do the HBGTP offer accommodation?

Some gardens offer accommodation (🏠). However, you must be prepared to meet the costs of your accommodation from your own salary.

What should I do next?

Apply online at:

www.HBGTP.org.uk

If you have any further queries please contact the Scheme Manager Fiona Dennis during working hours on:

Tel: 07867 475 636

Email: Fiona.Dennis@english-heritage.org.uk

Closing date for applications is the 24th of March

"This is turning out to be a wonderful year training to be a gardener at Audley End. The garden team, both the staff and volunteers, are knowledgeable, friendly and enthusiastic. It's an excellent place to be a trainee!"

Kate MacColl
Trainee at Audley End



"The HBGTP has been a brilliant experience for me so far. It's been a chance for me to immerse myself in learning about horticulture and garden heritage whilst being supported by a team of enthusiastic gardeners at Biddulph Grange Gardens as well as the other students who have been fantastic. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to share these two years with.

I have a few years previous horticultural experience but the scheme has allowed me to work in a historic garden with very demanding standards. This has been beneficial in the development of my practical skills, thanks to the input of a very experienced team."

Natalie Angus
Trainee at Bidulph Grange



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