



Historic and Botanic Garden Training Programme (Formerly HBGBS)

Placement Provider Criteria

Summary

The Historic and Botanic Garden Training Programme (HBGTP) provides practical horticultural placements in gardens which have a proven record of horticultural excellence. We provide a framework of training targets which are useful to both gardens and to gardeners. In order to offer the trainee the best possible experience, the placement garden needs to be able to meet certain key criteria.

Local arrangements can be flexible and responsive to the unique nature of each garden. The most important thing is that the garden team are committed to the principles of training to a high standard.

Essential

- **Health and safety:** There must be evidence that not only the letter, but the spirit of the law is recognised in the day-to-day activities of the gardening team.
- **Staff:** A team equivalent to at least 3 full-time experienced horticulturists, who are committed to sharing their skills with care and patience.
- **Garden:** Open to the public and of historical interest. Should contain an extensive plant collection and a wide range of seasonal interest.
- **Resources:** A range of horticultural resources such as glasshouses, propagation facilities, broad range of specialist equipment and garden areas.
- **Machinery:** A range of horticultural machinery including mowers, pruning tools, tractors, trailers and a wide range of hand tools in good condition.
- **IT:** Computer and internet access for the trainee to do research and record their learning.

Desirable

- **Diversity:** In-house propagation facilities, a variety of growing environments, public interface, interpretation, specialist plant collections, historical features, use of traditional techniques, plant records systems, research facilities such as a library, herbaria or archive materials.
- **Additional learning opportunities:** Visiting experts, on-site lectures, trade or flower shows.
- **Certification:** The opportunity to gain additional skills certificates (e.g. PA1&6, strimmer, etc.).
- **Additional site experience:** A linked site or reserve that is a satellite to the placement garden; visits/exchange with a local heritage garden.