

Professional Work Placements with the RHS

Factsheet

Become an expert in a specific group of plants, garden practice or style with our one-year programme of paid work experience with some specialist study. Throughout this placement you will gain knowledge, experience, skills and training in your chosen area of specialism in a work-based context to prepare you for professional life in the industry.

- Spend a full-year immersed in a specific garden department to discover the seasonality of your chosen area of specialism.
- Assist in the day-to-day cultivation and maintenance tasks as part of your training and professional development.
- Work alongside inspiring horticultural experts in one of our five stunning RHS Gardens.
- Learn about the workings of the entire organisation and be actively involved in its world recognised shows.



Frequently asked questions

Q: Is the Professional Work Placement full-time?

A: Professional Work Placements are employed by the RHS on a full-time basis on a one year (fixed-term) contract gaining knowledge and honing skills on the job. A flexible approach to working (e.g. weekend work will be required on a regular basis, and evening work will be required from time to time).

Q: What can I do after I complete the Professional Work Placement (PWP)?

A: A Professional Work Placement gives you the knowledge and skills to step into employment in a specific area of horticulture. After completing the placement, you could continue to train with the RHS on our higher level 3 & 4 Diploma in Horticultural Practice at RHS Garden Wisley, or further your learning with a related vocational qualification.

Q: What are the entry requirements?

A: Applicants are expected to have a fully completed Level 2 qualification (such RHS Diploma in the Principles & Practices of Horticulture or equivalent non RHS qualifications) or Horticulture Operative Apprenticeship, and have at least six months of practical work experience in a professional horticultural environment. Please take a look at the job description on our recruitment site for full applicant criteria.

Q: Who can apply?

A: The RHS is an inclusive employer and welcome applicants from all backgrounds. Anyone can apply as long as you meet the above entry requirements and have the right to work in the UK. A good working knowledge of the English language is essential and evidence to that effect will be requested.

Q: Where are the Professional Work Placements based?

A: Positions are available at all five of our RHS Gardens – Wisley in Surrey, Hyde Hall in Essex, Harlow Carr in Yorkshire, Rosemoor in Devon and Bridgewater near Greater Manchester.

Q: Will I get paid whilst training?

A: Yes. The current salary for a Professional Work Placement is circa £20,319, so you can train with zero debt at the end of your contract. You will be provided with a uniform, and as a valued member of the team PWPs enjoy all the same benefits as full-time staff.

Q: What support will I get?

A: You will be mentored by qualified and experienced horticulturists with a passion for their craft. You will also have access to ebooks, journals and databases from our RHS Libraries to help you grow your knowledge. There may be opportunities for additional learning dependant on the role you apply for.

Q: Will I gain a qualification at the end of the placement?

A: While you will be asked to complete some guided learning tasks throughout the placement, the programme is very much about practical experience and does not result in a formal qualification.

Next steps...

To find out more about the RHS and T-Level Placements, scan the QR code, or visit rhs.org.uk/newshoots, or email newshoots@rhs.org.uk

