



Chelsea Physic Garden

Horticulture – Nursery Volunteer

Chelsea Physic Garden
66 Royal Hospital Road
London SW3 4HS
Tel: 0207 352 5646
www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

About the Opportunity

Nursery Volunteers join us one day a week alongside the Nursery team and other volunteers undertaking a wide variety of tasks. These can range from tidying the nursery and collecting seed, to weeding and organising nursery plants. It is a physical role and whilst primarily positioned to support the propagation team it will include some outdoor activities, such as weeding and moving trays out to the cold frames. This role is a brilliant opportunity to gain horticultural experience and an understanding of how a botanic garden is managed. By helping the Horticultural Team, you will have opportunities to increase your plant knowledge, plant identification and propagation skills.

Role activities

- Supporting the Nursery team and other volunteers in a wide variety of general gardening tasks including weeding, path maintenance, leaf picking, label cleaning, hoovering, sweeping, dead heading, staking, manual pest control, pot scrubbing, etc, particularly in the Nursery standout, the Nursery and quarantine glasshouse.
- Propagation – seed saving, cuttings, seed sowing in the garden, nursery and potting shed;
- Helping to maintain tools and equipment used for propagation;

Cleaning – maintaining high standards of nursery hygiene to ensure the nursery remains clean and well-organised, helping to prevent the spread of diseases and pests throughout the garden.

How much time is involved?

This role is based at the Garden on Thursdays. The hours are 9am 3.30pm or 4pm depending on the season. The role will require the volunteer to be open to learning new skills which we anticipate would take around 6 months to learn and get the most out of the role due. W.

We're looking for someone who:

- Has a thoughtful and careful approach to all tasks
- Is passionate about horticulture, with a strong interest in propagation.
- Has a high attention to detail, enjoys minutiae

- Has a basic knowledge of garden maintenance and can recognise some common plants and weeds, with a strong willingness to learn and develop further skills.
- Happy to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Willing to volunteer outdoors (in all weathers!) as well as in the glasshouses

Will I be reimbursed for expenses?

Volunteers will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket travel expenses up to the value of £15 per day.

What you get from Volunteering with Chelsea Physic Garden:

- Training – including a welcome-day induction and role-specific training in propagation, nursery hygiene, and an introduction to pest and disease management. You will also gain knowledge of our specialised plant collection and work alongside our expert team.
- Discounts in our on-site Café and in our shop
- A range of transferable skills
- Support from and opportunities to collaborate with experienced staff including the Gardening team
- A fortnightly newsletter letting you know what's going on in the Garden
- A series of events to say thank you
- Knowledge and understanding of how a charity and Learning team operates

What else do you need to know?

- Safety equipment – Safety boots are required when working in the Garden and will be provided, along with gloves and all necessary tools. Volunteers are expected to provide their own suitable clothing, including waterproofs. If you need support with this, please get in touch with us.
- Immunisation – You will need to provide proof of immunisation against tetanus before volunteering, due to the inherent risks of working in an outdoor environment.
- Working conditions – Nursery work involves a combination of standing and sitting. During the summer months, work may take place in hot conditions, while in winter it can be cold, so please dress appropriately and wrap up warm.

How to apply and further details

To apply please complete the application form that you can find here:

<https://bttr.im/l7y3s>

We welcome applicants from all sections of the community, as we want to reflect the diverse demographics of London residents. You don't need to have volunteered before or visited Chelsea Physic Garden or any heritage site/garden.

We will invite applicants into the Garden for a taster session and informal chat depending upon the needs of the horticultural team. We won't be able to offer informal discussions to everyone who applies but we will provide feedback on applications if it is requested.

Please contact Max Levy, volunteer manager via mlevy@chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk if you have any questions about the role. If you have an access need you would like to let us know about at this stage, please get in touch and we'll be happy to answer any questions.