

GARDEN MUSEUM

Job Description Horticultural Internship

Background

The world's first Museum of Garden History opened thirty years ago in the church of St Mary's, Lambeth.

In 2008 we re-opened as the Garden Museum after a dramatic reconstruction of the historic interior: we have built new galleries for exhibitions and collections display, and new spaces for exhibitions and events. The Daily Telegraph described the result as 'one of London's best small Museums', and put the design by Dow Jones Architects as one of its 'top ten' projects of the year.

Recent exhibitions include The Good Life, which explored the nation's passion for 'grow your own' over the last 100 years, as well as separate retrospectives on the life and work of two of the 20th century's greatest gardeners, Beth Chatto and Christopher Lloyd. A wide range of lectures, debates and symposia have been held since the refurbishment, exploring issues such as urban greening and the contemporary design of public spaces. Visitors have had the opportunity to buy plants from the country's best nurseries at our Plant Fairs and have listened to talks about some of the world's best gardens.

The Museum is an independent charity, which receives no income from central or local government.

Description of the role

In 2009 the Garden Museum created an annual Horticultural Internship, to be offered each year to a talented, recently qualified horticulturalist.

The Internship combines a part-time gardener's role with the opportunity to be involved in the Museum's programme of events and displays, and to 'shadow' some of the country's top gardeners and designers.

Reports to

Head of Horticulture

Person Specification

Applicants for the Internship should have:

- recently completed a recognised horticultural course
- some experience of practical gardening
- good plant knowledge
- interest in garden history
- interest in contemporary gardening issues
- excellent communication skills
- ability to work independently
- willingness to attend out of hours events
- flexible attitude
- willingness to work with volunteers

Main duties and responsibilities

The minimum 20 hours per week spent working in the Museum gardens are under the guidance of the Head of Horticulture, but will often involve working alone. The Museum gardens include:

- 17th century style knot garden designed by The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury
- Wild garden created in 2007
- Porch borders and paved garden
- Installation planting schemes to support other Museum activities

In addition, occasional support will be required for

- Neighbouring St Mary's garden, particularly the Museum's education beds
- Staff allotment

Typical tasks would include general gardening work such as pruning, weeding, watering etc. and in addition:

- Input into new or refreshed planting schemes, including installation planting
- Overseeing volunteer gardeners
- Working on a variety of garden interpretation media
- Talking to visitors (individuals and groups)
- Supporting horticultural events e.g. Plant Fairs and Festival of Small Nurseries
- Supporting other Museum activities with horticultural input as required

Additional Internship Commitments

In addition to the part-time gardener's role the Internship comprises a 'shadowing' aspect, which the successful Intern would be expected to fully commit to. This provides a unique opportunity to spend a day with some of the country's top gardeners, designers, landscape and nursery businesses. At the end of the year's Internship, the successful individual will have acquired an unparalleled overview of Britain's horticultural industry, which will equip them to make informed choices about their own future progression. In 2009 the placements included:

- Shadowing Landscape Designer Tom Stuart-Smith
- Planting a major Chelsea Flower Show garden with Landform Consultants
- Working with Fergus Garrett, Head Gardener, Great Dixter
- Observing the work of a large trade nursery
- Working alongside specialist growers

The Intern will also be expected to attend and assist at Garden Museum events that will provide the opportunity to hear and meet key horticulturalists at events such as:

- Day-long Symposia
- Evening lectures and talks
- VISTA debates
- Book launches
- Exhibition openings

Contract

The Intern will be expected to work a minimum of 20 hours per week in the garden for a payment of £5,000 per annum towards living expenses, exclusive of benefits.

The Intern should be present in the garden for part of four days each week, to include Saturday or Sunday, although a flexible approach will be taken by the Museum, and is expected from the Intern.

Shadowing activities and events attendance will be in addition to these hours.

The Intern will be expected to produce a portfolio in duplicate detailing their experiences and achievements through the year. One copy will be retained by the Intern as a valuable supplement to a CV and the other will be retained by the Garden Museum for its archives and to use as it chooses.

The Intern will be asked to write a regular diary Blog about his or her experiences

Benefits

28 days paid annual leave per annum (pro-rata), inclusive of the period between Christmas and New Year plus pro-rata entitlement to statutory Bank Holidays. 15% discount in the Museum gift shop. 50% discount in the Garden Café (excluding drinks and cakes).

Equal Opportunity

The Garden Museum is working towards equal opportunities. It is the Museum's policy to provide equal opportunity for employment, career development and promotion to all who are eligible, on the basis of ability, qualifications and fitness for work. Applications are welcome from all qualified individuals irrespective of disability, age, race, gender or marital status.

If you have a disability and would need assistance if invited for an interview please let us know so that any necessary arrangements can be made.

The Museum must satisfy itself about the health of all candidates who are recommended for employment, but you should note that a disability would not in itself be a cause for rejection, provided that it would not prevent you from carrying out your duties satisfactorily.

Application

Please send CV and a covering letter explaining why you believe you would be a good candidate for the Internship to info@gardenmuseum.org.uk marking the subject box 'HORTICULTURAL INTERSHIP' – applications may not be actioned without the correct subject box detail.

In addition we require a letter of support and endorsement from a recent college tutor.

The closing date for applications is 12 Noon on **Tuesday 17 August**

We regret that we are unable to respond to all applicants and you will only hear from us if we wish to invite you to interview.

First interviews will be held early September 2010.

No agencies please.

Short-listed candidates will be interviewed by a panel comprising the Garden Museum Director, Head of Horticulture, two of the Museum's garden designer Trustees and a long-standing garden volunteer.

The Internship will begin in October 2010.

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