

Job Title Bryophyte Trainee
 Department Taxonomy and macroecology
 Division Science

Job Description

Main Duties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in regular bryophyte field trips in Scotland, accompanied by RBGE staff and associates. Initially these will have learning as the primary objective, although as the skills of the trainee develop they should be able to accompany RBGE bryologists on research or recording focussed fieldwork. Proactively develop bryophyte identification skills by making extensive use of the RBGE herbarium and lab microscopy facilities. Develop support skills for bryological and ecological surveying (report writing, species recording, mapping, statistics) through self-motivated learning and collaboration with professional bryophyte surveyors in the field. Attend at least one week-long residential meeting of the British Bryological Society (probably including at least the Trossachs meeting from 18th-25th April 2026), as well as occasional meetings of the local Lothians Bryophyte Group (usually held on a Saturday or Sunday every few weeks). Attend MSc-level classes in bryology at RBGE in February / March 2026 (three days). Devise and plan a bryological project placement (3 – 6 months) at a site in Scotland, in collaboration with a conservation organisation or other body, and with the help of RBGE supervisors. The project should be significantly or entirely field-based. Submit a project report based on placement work.

Person Specification

Skills/Aptitude	Essential	Desirable
Strong interest in bryophytes and an enthusiasm to learn	*	
An eye for detail and an aptitude for fine-scale pattern recognition	*	
Ability and willingness to learn to manipulate minute structures using microscopy	*	
Self-motivated with strong planning and time-management skills	*	
Physically fit, capable of fieldwork in remote, sometimes mountainous terrain	*	
Good written and spoken communication skills	*	

Knowledge	Essential	Desirable
General knowledge of natural history, biological classification and ecology	*	
Expertise in an area of natural history, biological classification or ecology		*
Some basic knowledge of bryophyte biology	*	
Intermediate or advanced knowledge of an aspect of bryology		*
Work or volunteer experience in ecology or nature conservation		*
Familiar with use of Microsoft software tools (Word, Excel, Teams, Outlook)	*	

Professional Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
Undergraduate degree in biological sciences		*
Qualification in nature conservation, ecology, biological surveying or horticulture (e.g. HNC, HND).		*
Full driving licence to enable travel to fieldwork locations		*