ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH

Alpine Horticulturist Internship

Contract type: Fixed Term – 18 months

Working hours: Full-time (35 hours per week)

Location: Edinburgh (onsite)

Salary: £27,366

Job Description

Purpose

To support the cultivation and conservation of alpine and woodland plant collections, gaining practical experience in the Rock, Alpine and Woodland Gardens while contributing to the care, maintenance and display of these important living collections.

Core Responsibilities

- Developing knowledge of alpine and woodland plant collections, including plant identification, cultivation techniques and conservation practices.
- Supporting the propagation, potting, planting and ongoing care of a diverse range of alpine and woodland species.
- Assisting with the maintenance of living collections, including watering, weeding and other essential horticultural tasks that help plants thrive.
- Contributing to conservation activities for alpine plants, working closely with colleagues across RBGE, including the Nature Restoration team.
- Maintaining accurate plant records to support collection management, research and conservation objectives.
- Supporting departmental projects within the Alpine Section, gaining experience in a variety of horticultural and conservation activities.
- Assisting with the preparation and presentation of displays for alpine shows and other public engagement activities.
- Sharing your learning and experiences through written content, including contributing a monthly blog for the Scottish Rock Garden Club.
- Working collaboratively as part of a supportive and inclusive team, contributing positively to shared goals and learning from the expertise of others.

- Participating in training, development opportunities and knowledge-sharing activities to build your horticultural skills and experience.
- Acting as an ambassador for RBGE by supporting and promoting its values, policies and commitment to plant conservation, education and public engagement.

Person Specification

Essential Skills

- Demonstrates a commitment to delivering work to a high standard, with strong attention to quality and detail.
- Confident using digital tools and systems, with the ability to learn new software and applications as required.
- Works effectively as part of a team, taking guidance when needed.
- Shows initiative, motivation, and the ability to manage and prioritise a variety of tasks independently.
- Experience of carrying out routine plant and landscape maintenance activities.
- Practical experience of botanical horticulture or working with diverse plant collections, together with a genuine interest in the cultivation and conservation of alpine plants.
- Understanding of plant health, including the identification and management of common pests, diseases, and plant care requirements.
- Practical horticultural experience typically gained over at least two years.

Desirable Skills

- Relevant horticultural qualifications and a commitment to continuing professional development.
- Knowledge of alpine plant cultivation, including the care, propagation and maintenance of alpine species in a horticultural or botanic garden environment.