
ADVERTISEMENT

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE

Horticulture Department

Introduction

We have a fixed term opportunity for a keen horticulturist, arborist or groundskeeper with enthusiasm and genuine ability to become part of our skilled and committed team. The Grounds Maintenance Operative will undertake horticultural operations in the National Botanic Garden of Wales' gardens and estate including the Arboretum, National Nature Reserve, farm and parkland. The successful candidate will be a member of the Horticulture Department and work in collaboration with other departments.

Already a capable and qualified horticulturist, arborist or groundskeeper you will display a keen interest in botanic garden horticulture and land management. You will also be well-organised and capable of working to a high level of individual responsibility with minimal supervision. Working in a team is another important part of the role, you need to be cooperative and be able to demonstrate good communication skills. Accuracy in maintaining plant records and an understanding of the role of botanic gardens are also important. Possession of technical qualifications and fluency in written and spoken Welsh would be beneficial.

The National Botanic Garden of Wales

NBG Wales is accredited by Botanic Garden Conservation International and delivers world-class research, conservation, education and horticulture for Wales. The 568-acre leasehold features diverse botanical collections, grown in a range of environments including the largest single-span glasshouse in the world, *the Great Glasshouse*. The formal garden areas are surrounded by the *Waun Las National Nature Reserve*. The reserve is a mixed landscape including Soil Association certified organic farmland and heritage parkland, which is currently being restored by the Heritage Lottery funded Regency Restoration project.

To learn more about the NBG Wales' mission and current projects visit botanicgarden.wales.

Post title	Grounds Maintenance Operative
Department	Horticulture
Reports to	Senior Horticulturist (Estate)
Line management	Apprentices
Responsible for	Volunteers
Contract	Fixed term for 12 months

Key responsibilities

It is expected that all members of the Department will work to achieve the highest standards of horticulture and curation. Individuals will continue to learn and develop while in post and aim to improve themselves as horticulturists and professionals. Sharing of knowledge and experiences is integral to the development of the Department. Mentoring other staff members, students and volunteers is expected of all staff.

1. Carry out all horticultural tasks necessary to maintain and improve NBG Wales
2. Maintain and develop the estate to enhance biodiversity, encourage use by visitors and improve its utility for education and research
3. Participate in a regime of inspections, monitoring and remedial works in accordance with the *Tree Safety Management Protocol* to ensure all woodlands and specimen trees are safe
4. Utilise good practices to prevent the outbreak of plant pests and diseases on the estate
5. Assist the Senior Horticulturist with the management the historic environment in accordance with the *Conservation Management Plan*
6. Maintain accurate plant records, labelling and interpretation where appropriate
7. Adhere to the health and safety requirements of NBG Wales
8. Manage pathways throughout the estate to ensure they are accessible and safe for visitors, volunteers and staff
9. Carry out regular, scheduled checks and inspections of the estate's lakes and ponds and remove debris and unwanted vegetation.
10. Any other reasonable task assigned

Person specification

Specified below are the criteria considered necessary to fulfil the role. The information is made openly available to applicants and will form the basis for the recruitment and selection process. Only those applicants who meet the essential criteria adequately will be considered.

Criteria candidates are expected to evidence:	
Essential criteria	
1.	Evidence of competence, skill and an interest in garden maintenance and development
2.	Experience of working with students and volunteers
3.	The physical capacity to undertake strenuous tasks
4.	An understanding of the theory and practice of biosecurity
5.	The ability to maintain accurate plant records and labelling
6.	The ability to work as a member of a team and contribute to the collective aims of NBG Wales
7.	A commitment to and understanding of the mission and objectives of NBG Wales
Desirable criteria	
8.	A diploma, Credit & Qualification Framework for Wales level two in horticulture or related discipline
9.	The possession of PA1 and PA6 or equivalent certificates related to the safe application of herbicides
10.	NTPC level two or equivalent award in felling and processing trees up to 380 mm
11.	Proficiency in written and spoken Welsh

Position details

This is a permanent position starting from the soonest date which can be arranged. Hours of work are 37.5 per week, typically working from 8 am to 4 pm. Weekend work is expected on a rota basis. The salary is £16,605.00 per annum.

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be directed to Will Ritchie, Curator of Horticulture at will.ritchie@gardenofwales.org.uk.

How to apply

Applications consisting of a current CV and cover letter, clearly explaining how you meet the essential criteria and what benefits you could bring to NBG Wales, should be sent to Anne-Maria Nicholas <Anne-Maria.Nicholas@gardenofwales.org.uk>. The closing date for applications is 31 October 2020.