

Just the Job Information Sheet

Job title

Horticulture Apprentice – Auckland Botanic Gardens

Job description

The aim of the horticultural apprentice programme is to produce well-rounded, qualified, professional horticulturists. Our apprentices benefit from a structured training and education programme, which includes both academic and practical components.

On completion of the apprenticeship, participants receive a National Certificate of Horticulture Level 4 - NCH4, backed with hands-on experience that traditional studies cannot offer.

Our apprentices gain the skills and knowledge required to manage complex plant collections and ensure our gardens are maintained to a standard that meets visitor and stakeholder expectations.

Skilled horticulturalists coming out of the programme can become permanent staff members at the Botanic Gardens, or move onto other public or private facilities.

Qualifications required

- Minimum NCEA level 2 or secondary school year 12 completion
- Preferably a basic horticultural qualification – secondary school or tertiary.

General requirements

- You have a passion for plants and some basic horticultural knowledge, whether that be from studies at secondary or tertiary level, hands on experience within private or public gardens, or working within the landscape sector or retail garden centre environment
- Horticultural work experience is desirable but not essential
- If you already have National Certificate in Horticulture Level 2 (NCH2) that would be a bonus, but is not essential
- Full and clean Drivers licence
- You must be physically active, be able to handle manual work loads and be willing to working outside in often trying weather conditions.

Training costs

The training programme takes three years, during which apprentices are paid.

Career path

At the end of the three-year apprenticeship you will be a capable and qualified amenity gardener and horticulturist, set to work in either public or private gardens. You may also choose to specialise your career further into a particular sector in horticulture – for example, nursery production, arboriculture or turf management.

Salary range

Remuneration usually starts somewhere between \$37,000 and \$38,000.

How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry

Applying for the three year horticulture apprentice programme at the Auckland Botanic Gardens is a highly competitive process. Successful applicants are highly motivated and have a passion for horticulture.

Apprentices need to be flexible and committed to developing expertise through ongoing learning. The ability to develop effective relationships with colleagues is essential.

Whilst not essential, some horticultural work experience is desirable.

Other places to source information about this job

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/careers