

JOB OPPORTUNITY

APPRENTICE GROWER At Wolves Lane Horticultural Centre

Are you part of the next generation of food growers? Looking to develop your skills and experience?

We are delighted to be able to recruit two apprentice growers at Wolves Lane, to work with the various growers and groups on site to get work-based training in small-scale commercial growing, as a first step in their career in food growing.

We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities, people from BAME communities, LGBTQIA+ and people aged 35 or under, as they are under-represented in the horticulture/farming sector.

Hours: 2 days per week, ideally Tuesdays and Thursdays but with some flexibility. Days usually 7 hours, may be longer until October, this time can be made-up by shorter days over the winter.

Willingness to undertake a horticulture qualification alongside this role will help the apprentices get the most out of their work experience (additional 7 hours per week unpaid, course fees paid for).

Responsible to: Wolves Lane Consortium board.

Salary: The position is paid at the London living wage, £10.75 per hour.
20 week contract, from September 2020 to January 2021.

How to apply

Please read the role description and person specification below and let us know how you think your skills and experience will help you carry out this role. You can write us a letter or send a video, and also attach a CV or statement of your work/volunteer history.

Please also complete the attached equalities monitoring form (which will be kept separate from your application)

Please send your application to jobs@wolveslane.org. Please make it very clear which role you are applying for, as we have several posts in recruitment.

Closing date for applications: 5pm on Tuesday 25 August

Interviews to be held on: Thursday 3 September. We are planning to hold interviews in person at Wolves Lane, with appropriate distancing measures.

For any questions or further information, please email jobs@wolveslane.org

Wolves Lane Apprentice Grower – Role Description

About the role

Organic produce and flowers are grown at Wolves Lane both outside and under glass. Different parts of the site are operated by different groups with the produce distributed to the Wolves Lane cooking project, to a box scheme, to restaurants, and for local sale.

For this apprentice post, we are looking for someone committed to pursuing a livelihood as a market gardener, and seeking to gain the skills and experience to further this aim. You will be assigned a mentor but will have the opportunity to work across the various growing projects at Wolves Lane and tailor your work experience according to your particular interests.

Main objectives

- To learn about and assist with all aspects of propagation in the glasshouses
- To learn about and assist with all aspects of planting and maintaining the vegetable growing areas of the site
- To assist with harvesting and preparing produce
- To provide support for volunteers
- To participate fully in the Apprenticeship Programme

Main Responsibilities

Growing & Harvesting

- Work closely with the Growers in order to learn all aspects of running the glasshouses, outdoor beds and composting systems.
- Harvesting produce to the agreed methods, ensuring quality control and preparing and packing produce according.
- Supervising volunteers in the above tasks.

Person Specification

Skills, Knowledge, Ability, Commitments

Essential

- A passion for sustainable food production, and a desire to pursue a living in it
- At least one season's experience of volunteering or working on a food growing site
- Happy and able to work mainly outdoors throughout the year
- Demonstrable experience of performing physical work with a pressure to deliver
- Experience of volunteering or working in a diverse community setting
- Knowledge of the local community
- Ability to carry out shared tasks and work within a team
- Ability to supervise and explain tasks to volunteers

Desirable

- Experience of working with volunteers
- Experience of paid employment in horticulture or a structured placement in horticulture
- Level 1 or 2 horticultural qualification or equivalent