

Industrial year placement in plant conservation research at the National Botanic Garden of Wales



The National Botanic Garden of Wales is dedicated to the research and conservation of biodiversity, sustainability, lifelong learning and the enjoyment of our visitors. The Garden is set in the beautiful Carmarthenshire countryside with around 100 acres of formal gardens along with the 400 acre Waun Las National Nature Reserve, managed as an organic farm. Our science centre overlooks the botanic garden and contains a fully equipped molecular lab, library and herbarium.

What is involved?

The placement is in the Conservation and Research Department. The student will work within one of the Garden's current research areas and carry out their own research project within this. Our projects:

- Barcode UK - A cutting edge project to DNA barcode all of the flowering plants of the UK
- DNA barcoding applications - ranging from discovering the diets of endangered animals, tracking pollinators to understanding plant communities by identifying pollen and roots.
- Rare Welsh Plants Project – combining conservation genetics and field work to provide effective, integrated conservation for some of the most endangered plant species in Wales.

Students will also be fully involved in all aspects and activities of the department. These are broad-ranging, from herbarium curation, giving talks to visiting groups and collaborating with arts-science projects.

While at the Gardens you will be able to benefit from our facilities, using the library, herbarium and molecular lab to develop your skills as a research scientist. The placement offers an insight into current molecular ecology and plant conservation research and opportunities to meet other scientists working in plant sciences.

There are two placements available within the department. We will provide **free** accommodation (including utility bills) in a student house on the edge of our nature reserve and a bursary of £4,000 for the year. The placement will start in June or July 2012 and last for 12 months.

For further information: Please call or email Dr Natasha de Vere (01558) 667126. Visit our website www.gardenofwales.org.uk or join our facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Science-at-the-Garden-of-Wales/133021363411183>

To apply for the placement, please send a CV and covering letter to: Dr Natasha de Vere, Head of Conservation and Research, National Botanic Garden of Wales, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, SA32 8HG, or by e-mail to: natasha.devere@gardenofwales.org.uk

The closing date for applications is the 23rd January 2012 with interviews held at the Gardens in Jan/Feb.

