English Garden Foreign Study Program

Scholarship applications due by June 15, 2015!

Landscape horticulture students at South Seattle College are invited to apply for the foreign study program at the Royal Horticultural Society Garden—Harlow Carr in the north of England. This opportunity is offered to students who will have completed at least one year in the SSC Landscape Horticulture Program by the end of spring quarter.

Purpose

Students can earn internship credits to apply to their Associate of Applied Science degree in Landscape Horticulture. As volunteer garden interns, students will learn English gardening practices from experienced horticulturists in a botanical garden that has been described as the “Northern jewel” (The Garden, July 2001).

The Garden

“The gardens were developed by the Northern Horticultural Society, which was founded in 1946, with the objective of ‘promoting and developing the science, art and practice of horticulture with special reference to the conditions pertaining to the North of England.’ The Society leased 10.5 hectares of mixed woodland, pasture and arable land at Harlow Hill from Harrogate Corporation and opened the Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens in 1950. The chief aim was to set up a trial ground where the suitability of plants for growing in northern climates could be assessed” (http://www.rhs.org.uk/harlowcarr).

Harlow Carr became one of the Royal Horticultural Society’s four flagship gardens in 2001, when the Northern Horticultural Society merged with the RHS. Harlow Carr includes rock gardens, a winter garden, a scented garden, woodland, an herb garden, a kitchen garden, a fruit garden, an arboretum, borders of mixed perennials and ornamental grasses, a shrub rose border, an alpine display house, an ornamental plant trials area, a vegetable trials area, a museum of gardening, and a study center and library.

A wide range of educational programs is offered at Harlow Carr, “from a course for complete beginners to gardening through to specialist workshops in subjects such as propagation, fruit pruning, lawn care and creating and maintaining water features” (www.rhs.org.uk/harlowcarr).

Eligibility

The RHS Harlow Carr foreign study program is offered to students who are actively enrolled in the SSC Landscape Horticulture Program, seeking an AAS degree at SSC, will have completed at least one year of horticultural coursework by the end of spring quarter, and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. It is highly recommended that applicants have completed at least three plant identification courses.
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SSCC Credit

Students can earn credit toward their AAS degree in Landscape Horticulture and satisfy the internship requirement for their degree through this experience. They must enroll for LHO 197—Internship during the quarter they volunteer at Harlow Carr. For more information on the SSC internship program contact Deborah White, Interim Director of WorkSource Career Services, at deborah.white@seattlecolleges.edu, 206.934.7935, or http://www.southseattle.edu/worksource/.

Terms

Students can work in the garden for periods of two weeks to ninety days upon approval of the RHS Harlow Carr Education Officer.

Costs

One partial scholarship of approximately $2,000 is available for one qualified student to help cover the cost of this internship. Expenses can include room and board, airfare, local transportation, and personal spending money. Below are some rough estimates of costs that could be incurred for study in England. These amounts can vary depending on daily consumption, personal spending habits, and unanticipated fluctuations in prices.

- SSC Tuition (as of June 2015) $106.84/credit (state residents)
- Room $ 400.00/week
- Food $ 200.00/week
- Personal $ 100.00/week
- Round-trip Airfare (Seattle-Manchester) $1,500

At these prices, if a student completed a two-week internship at Harlow Carr and paid tuition for two credits of internship, the total cost would be approximately $3,115.

Medical

Students should make sure they are covered by health insurance before traveling abroad. U.S. citizens are not covered under the British government’s medical program. Before applying for this internship, students should consider whether they are up to physical requirements of this internship (it will require physical labor and working outside in all weather conditions) and any additional physical and mental stress created by traveling abroad.

Visa
As of 2011, anyone coming from outside the European Union for paid or unpaid work experience (e.g., volunteer internship) will need a visa. Contact the British Embassy in the United States for information on obtaining a visa. [http://united-kingdom.visahq.com/embassy/United-States/](http://united-kingdom.visahq.com/embassy/United-States/)

**Application Instructions**

Submit the following materials to Van Bobbitt, SSC horticulture instructor:

1. Resume *(Please submit an electronic copy)*
2. Written statement of purpose specifying:
   - Your objectives for pursuing this internship
   - How participation in the foreign study program will contribute to your academic and professional development
   - Why you feel you would serve as a positive ambassador from SSC to RHS Harlow Carr *(Please submit an electronic copy)*
3. Names, phone numbers and email addresses of two people who can be contacted as references. At least one should be a former employer. *(Please submit an electronic copy)*

To be considered for funding for the 2015 calendar year, applications must be submitted by June 15, 2015. Submit to Van Bobbitt at Van.Bobbitt@seattlecolleges.edu.

Your application packet may be reviewed and evaluated by SSCC instructors, administrators, staff, former Harlow Carr interns, or members of the Arboretum Committee. You may be asked to submit proof of a minimum 3.0 GPA.

**Restrictions**

The scholarship must be used by the end of 2015. Therefore, travel arrangements must be completed before the end of 2015, even if you obtain permission from the SSC Foundation to travel after the end of the year. Many students found September to be a good month for this internship. Airfares tend to be lower after Labor Day, and English weather is often pleasant in September.

**For More Information**

Contact Van Bobbitt at 206-934-6717 or Van.Bobbitt@seattlecolleges.edu.

To learn more about the RHS Harlow Carr Gardens, go to their web site: [http://www.rhs.org.uk/harlowcarr/](http://www.rhs.org.uk/harlowcarr/)

Harlow Carr Application 6.3.15
Additional Visa Regulations
Please be aware of changes to visa regulations regarding voluntary interns. The following information is from the Central Education Department at Royal Horticultural Society Garden, Wisley and is for the applicant’s attention.

“We have been advised that under the new immigration rules anyone coming in from outside the EU for paid or unpaid work experience (Voluntary Internships) will need to have a visa.”

“If students arrive and do not declare that they are working (e.g. they come in as just a holiday visitor) and they get caught or something happens to them, the individual and the Royal Horticultural Society could be prosecuted by the UK Border Agency.”

“Voluntary Interns wanting to work in the UK need to seek advice from the British Embassy in their own countries.”