

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

Inspiring futures

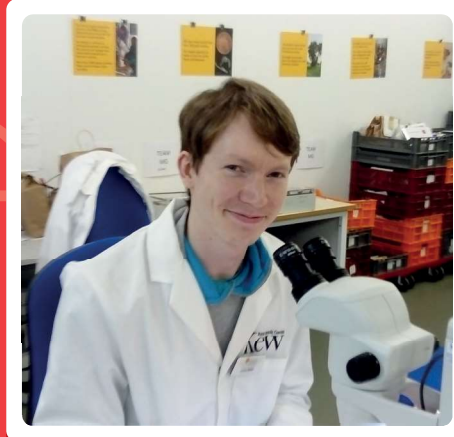
Owen Blake

UK Seed Collecting
Project Officer

My job is all about collecting seeds. It is a combination of fieldwork, using technology and analysing data.

I studied Ecology and Conservation at university.

My work is really varied. In winter it's sorting through data to look at what seeds we might need to collect and using mapping software to look for the best places to find these target species.



I am: 1. Curious
2. Inquisitive
3. Adaptable

I had a gap year before starting university and did lots of volunteering including work on a local wildlife reserve.

In spring and summer I am out on fieldwork in UK woodlands looking for the identified target species that we want to collect seeds from.

The science behind storing seeds is critical to my job. Not all seeds can be stored in the same way – what can preserve one species can kill another. Through scientific study we learn how best to store seeds without damage.



Use your free time to learn more about what interests you: science, plants, nature, bugs... A skill or interest practiced over time could become a career path later.

We send small samples of seeds for researchers to use. We're currently sending out ash seeds from trees that might be tolerant to ash dieback disease. Hopefully scientists can use these to grow new trees that are also tolerant to the disease.

I love the summer fieldwork where I get to visit some amazingly beautiful woods. Who doesn't like a walk in the woods!

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You could make a real difference to the world.

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