

# PhD placement/PIPS: Interpretation at Kew

## Placement supervisor:

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## Placement department:

Interpretation, Gardens Directorate

## Placement overview and objectives:

Interpretation is an informal learning strategy that enables our visitors to understand and engage with our science, horticulture and history through exploration on site. Your project might include content gathering/research, writing, planning, social evaluation including visitor journey mapping, reviewing relevant academic papers to ensure best interpretation practice, and gathering media to contribute to interpretation development. Provides best practice interpretation to communicate the importance of collections to the public.

## Tasks to be undertaken/possible projects:

- Research into the living collections in the Palm House, e.g. finding plants with most interesting history or economic botany to develop for display, researching particular topic such as coffee.
- Contributing to the writing of interpretation.
- Building on the interpretations work for the future Carbon Garden.
- King William Temple – research needed to understand the history of the conflicts commemorated within the temple and therefore what interpretation is required.

## Required skills and experience:

- Desktop and archival research.
- An understanding of the use of primary references.
- Writing skills – ability to translate the technical into plain English.
- Ability to listen and question a wide variety of people to collect stories from experts.
- Use of Microsoft Word and Adobe.

## Skills and areas of knowledge that can be developed:

- Research skills
- Summarising information suitable for interpretation panels – how to say much in few words.
- Written communication for a diverse non-scientific audience

## Location of work:

Kew, Richmond. Can be hybrid, site-based or remote.

## Length of placement:

3 months but can be flexible.