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| https://kewnet.kew.org/sites/default/files/kew-logo.gif | **Science intern role description** |

Volunteering Role: Science Intern

Directorate: Science

Volunteer Supervisors: Science Administrator (Education), plus a member of Science staff on a daily basis

Location: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Positions available at both Kew Gardens (London) and Wakehurst (Sussex)

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is a global resource for plant and fungal knowledge. As a voluntary science intern you will join a team of scientific staff and volunteers, contributing to achieve one or more of Kew’s three strategic science priorities:

1. To document and conduct research into global plant and fungal diversity, and its uses for humanity.
2. To curate and provide data-rich evidence from Kew’s unrivalled collections as a global asset for scientific research.
3. To disseminate our scientific knowledge of plants and fungi, maximising its impact in science, education, conservation policy and management.

These priorities enable us to curate, enhance, use, explore and share Kew’s global resource, providing robust data and a strong evidence base for our UK and global stakeholders.

During your placement you will receive training in key research skills from Kew’s leading experts, and have the opportunity to gain valuable practical and professional experience. You will also have access to Kew’s world-renowned collections of plants and fungi, its library and research facilities.

**Types of science internship**

**Sandwich internships** last one year (September 2018 – August 2019), and provide training and unpaid work experience placements for students after the 2nd year of their undergraduate course.

**Summer internships** last 6–8 weeks (between June and September 2018), and provide training and unpaid work experience for undergraduates and recent graduates.

Interns will each join a team in Kew’s Science Directorate, supporting the activities of that team and contributing to its outputs. The Directorate is composed of six research departments plus the Office of the Science Directorate (policy, research services, health and safety, education and communications) and the Library, Art and Archives. Please visit the [Kew Science](http://www.kew.org/science) and [Library, Art and Archives](http://www.kew.org/explore-our-collections/library-art-archives) webpages for more information.

**Main tasks**

A range of projects is available across the six research departments. Please refer to the accompanying intern project summaries for more information.

Specific tasks will depend on the project and the activities of the team in which you are placed. These may include handling specimens; culturing plant or fungal material; analytical techniques such as DNA sequencing and chemical profiling; microscopy; routine lab tasks; conservation assessments; data collection and databasing.

**About you**

You will be:

* Over 18 years old.
* An undergraduate or recent graduate in biosciences or bioinformatics – depending on project of interest (see above).

You will have:

* At least two years’ university education or equivalent in biosciences, bioinformatics or a subject relevant to your selected project
* A demonstrated interest in biodiversity, its sustainable use and conservation
* Experience of practical lab-based studies or computational techniques for data evaluation (as appropriate to the project of interest)
* An operating knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet and/or database software
* Experience of collecting and analysing data
* Experience of report writing
* Evidence of the ability to work as part of a team

**What you can expect from us**

* A full induction and appropriate training with ongoing support
* Well-rounded work experience within specific fields to develop knowledge, understanding, techniques and skills
* To be allocated clear roles and responsibilities
* To be treated fairly and with respect
* A friendly and dedicated team
* Access to Kew’s collections of living and preserved plants and fungi, as well as its economic botany and Library, Art and Archive collections
* An opportunity to participate in Kew’s internationally renowned science and conservation programmes
* Reimbursement of travel expenses up to a set value

**What we expect from you**

* To carry out your activities in a way which corresponds with Kew’s aims and values
* To attend training and meetings as required
* To learn about the work of Kew
* To participate in the life of the organisation
* Commitment to the hours and days agreed with your supervisor
* To be reliable and punctual
* To follow Kew policies and procedures

**Application and recruitment procedure**

Please complete the electronic application form, including details of an academic referee (e.g. your university tutor or supervisor). During your application you will be asked to specify a **project area** which is of interest to you. Please see the accompanying intern project summaries for information.

Shortlisted applicants for **sandwich internships** will be invited for a discussion with a recruitment panel.

**Summer interns** will be selected on the basis of the information supplied in their application.

**Contact**

For further information, please contact:

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