**Trainee Role Description - Infrastructure**

We grow organic produce at Hawkwood, our 12 acre community market garden and plant nursery, and distribute it to our own market stalls, box scheme and local restaurants. This role will be focused on the site management aspects required to maintain and develop Hawkwood plant nursery and will also play a supporting role in the harvesting and growing of vegetables and plants.

This traineeship will suit someone wanting to learn a broad range of practical skills which are needed in site development and large scale garden management at community sites. You should be happy working independently, with the Organiclea Infrastructure Worker, and with volunteers. The trainee will be able to focus in on the aspects of the work which appeal most to him/her/them.

**Details of the role**

* Unpaid voluntary role
* Time commitment: 1 day/week for 9 months
* Dates: Friday 2nd April - Friday 17th December 2021; shorter placements considered
* Hours: Fridays from 9.00am –5.00pm
* Based at: Hawkwood Community Plant Nursery
* Occasional weekend commitments: Up to 4 days over the traineeship to support weekend outreach events, open days and plant and produce stalls

**Supported by**

* monthly check-ins with mentor
* monthly discussion and learning workshops (last Wednesday or Friday of the month)
* travel expenses, within London, if needed.
* A seasonal, vegan, organic lunch will be provided

**To apply:** Please send a CV or a description of your employment, volunteering, and learning history, and a covering letter detailing how you meet the person specification and why you want this post to: volunteering@organiclea.org.uk or by post to the Hawkwood Address: Organiclea, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, E4 7UH

For more information about this role please contact Heidi at: volunteering@organiclea.org.uk

**Deadline for applications:** 5 pm Monday 22 February 2021

**Interview date:** Friday 5 March 2021

**Main objectives**

* To learn about and assist with aspects of site maintenance and development at Hawkwood
* To learn about and assist with propagation in the glasshouses
* To learn about and assist with maintaining the productive areas of the Hawkwood site
* To learn about and support harvesting
* To provide support for the volunteer programme

**Main Activities**

**Infrastructure**

* Take on specific tasks related to the sites infrastructure needs, both inside the building and on the hard standing. (e.g., renovation of the building, furniture building, and design work).
* Safely use site machinery, needed for soft landscaping, including, strimmer, mower, two wheeled tractor, and farm tractor.
* Safely use the workshop tools unassisted, and assist with building projects that requires their use. This will included most basic carpentry tools as well as some metal working equipment.
* Help and understand the specifics of glass house maintenance, including cleaning, safe working at height, and replacement of broken glass panes.

**Growing**

* Maintain irrigation systems
* Fabricate and erect crop protection
* Undertake other activities in support of growing crops, as appropriate

**Harvesting**

* Cut/pick produce to the agreed methods, ensuring quality control
* Prepare produce according to ‘product descriptions’
* Weigh, pack, seal, label and organise dispatch

**Working with volunteers**

* Work to ensure all volunteers on site are safe, welcomed, valued and supported
* Lead tasks with volunteers

**Person Specification**

**Essential**

* Readiness to engage with physical tasks
* Willingness and ability to work on one’s own
* Some experience of construction or DIY work
* Interest in sustainable food production and the desire to put that interest into practice
* Some experience of growing/gardening
* Commitment to getting a job done
* Ability to supervise and explain tasks to volunteers
* Happy to work mainly outdoors throughout the year
* Ability to carry out shared tasks and work within a team
* Ability to work on own initiative, prioritise tasks and work to deadlines
* Commitment to and understanding of the aims of Organiclea