

Roots to Work Training Information



Below is a list of organisations around London (and beyond) who offer support and training in food growing and horticulture.

Food growing and horticulture training

Capel Manor College www.capel.ac.uk

Capel Manor College offers a range of full and part-time land-based courses which lead to nationally recognised qualifications and potential progression into employment or on to further study. They have numerous colleges across London and host regular open days.

Cultivate London www.cultivatelondon.org

Cultivate London is an urban farm and social enterprise based across multiple derelict sites in West London. We train unemployed young people in horticulture, and produce a range of edible and ornamental plants for sale.

Future Growers www.soilassociation.org/futuregrowers

The Soil Association's Future Growers programme matches enthusiastic growers with organic host farms across the UK. There is a two year paid apprenticeship which combines farm-based practical work with structured seminars and visits. There is also a six month long paid traineeship available.

Growing Communities www.growingcommunities.org

Growing Communities is a social enterprise based in Hackney that's building a fairer, more sustainable food system by supporting local small-scale organic farmers. They offer an Urban Apprentice Scheme and volunteer opportunities.

Keats Community Organics www.facebook.com/KeatsCommunityOrganics

Keats Community Organics is a new, organically certified urban farm in South London. The project aims to provide local people with freshly harvested produce as well as training, horticultural therapy, volunteer opportunities, employment and allotment spaces.

Kew Gardens www.kew.org/learn/specialist-training/horticulture-courses

There are a variety of opportunities to gain qualifications and/or experience at Kew. These include an international diploma in botanic garden management, an intensive three-year Kew Diploma and various apprenticeships.

Master Gardeners www.mastergardeners.org.uk

Master Gardeners have the important and exciting role of supporting people and communities to grow their own. There are volunteer opportunities and work placements.

Organiclea www.organiclea.org.uk

Organiclea is a workers' cooperative growing food on London's edge in the Lea Valley. Possibilities for both volunteer and paid work in a variety of roles.

Roots and Shoots www.rootsandshoots.org.uk

Roots and Shoots provides vocational training for young people from the inner city, mainly from the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark. Every trainee who attends Roots and Shoots can expect a programme tailored to their individual learning needs and employment goals.

Royal Parks <https://www.royalpark.org.uk/be-involved/the-royal-parks-apprenticeship-scheme>

The Royal Parks Apprenticeship Scheme is an ideal way to begin a career in horticulture and open

space management. As an Apprentice Gardener, you'll get paid to work and learn as an employee with one of The Royal Parks Landscape Maintenance Contractors in one of the eight Royal Parks.

Sutton Community Farm www.suttoncommunityfarm.org.uk

Sutton Community Farm is a community-owned farm. There are a variety of volunteer roles, as well as paid work and internships.

Thrive www.thrive.org.uk

Thrive advocates for the use of gardening to bring positive changes in the lives of people living with disabilities or ill health, or who are isolated or vulnerable. They offer training in the field of horticultural therapy and links to both jobs and volunteer opportunities.

Trees for Cities www.treesforcities.org

Trees for Cities work with communities to plant trees in parts of cities that need it most, ensuring the sustainability of green spaces. There are opportunities for volunteers to help Trees for Cities at projects across London throughout the year, also traineeships and paid employment available.

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) www.tcv.org.uk

The Conservation Volunteers help hundreds of thousands of people each year to reclaim local green places. They have volunteer opportunities across London and provide long and short term training.

Urban Orchard Project www.theurbanorchardproject.org

The Urban Orchard Project is creating lush cities across the UK swathed in fruit and nut trees. They recruit several volunteer interns in October for 6 months. They also occasionally recruit volunteers for ad hoc activities through the year.

Networks and other support

Bright Crop www.brightcrop.org.uk

Bright Crop inspires young talent to explore the wide choice of careers in farming and food supply by letting you explore a range of roles, see what the jobs are really like, get tips from the experts, and plan your route to a career in farming and food supply.

Community Food Growers Network www.cfgn.org.uk

CFGN is a network of groups growing food and supporting others to grow food, in healthy, sustainable ways. We are also not afraid of standing up and making noise when our members, values or ways of working are threatened. Get in touch for advice on getting land or setting up a project.

City University MSc in Food Policy www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/food-policy

The MSc in Food Policy will give you a strong and critical grasp of both the theoretical and empirical aspects of food policy. You will gain an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the breadth of food policy in the UK within a European and international context.

Horticulture Jobs www.horticulturejobs.co.uk

Horticulture Jobs is a country-wide job site, which is part of Horticulture Weekly. They also offer career advice for those looking for work in the horticulture industry.

Groundspring Network <http://landworkersalliance.org.uk/2014/09/groundspring-network/>

Groundspring Network seeks to draw together, resource-build and support farmers and growers at the beginning of their journeys, who are committed to small-scale, community-connected and sustainable agriculture.

Grow Careers www.growcareers.info

The website for all areas of horticulture and related careers, including links to career events and case studies. They also have an advice line to call and speak with one of their consultants.

Growing Together www.growingtogether.community

A new partnership offering tailored support to provide community growing initiatives with the confidence, skills and knowledge they need to move from reliance on grants to a dynamic and balanced income model.

Just Growth at FEA www.feanetwork.org/our-projects/just-growth

Funding Enlightened Agriculture (FEA) is a network of organisations and individuals who wish to support agricultural and food production practices that are economically sound, socially just and promote long-term protection of natural resources. Just Growth is a new funding programme designed to encourage the growth of community-based food and farming projects.

London Gardens Network www.londongardensnetwork.com

The London Gardens Network provides a forum for the exchange of ideas among trainees, gardeners and horticultural managers in the London area. They promote opportunities for learning, encourage debate and facilitate links between gardens, colleges and trade associations.

SOAS Anthropology in Food www.soas.ac.uk/anthropology/programmes/maanthoffood/

The SOAS MA programme Anthropology of Food offers students the opportunity to explore historically and culturally variable foodways. Students examine food policy at national and international levels, as well as the role played in its formation by the food industry.

The Professional Gardeners Trust <http://pgtrust.org/>

The Trust helps fund gardeners to study for horticulture courses and gain experience through work placements in other gardens.

YoungHort www.younghort.com

YoungHort is a team of young horticulturists promoting young talent within horticulture and assisting those wanting to specialise in the industry.