

Job Title: Assistant Grower

Status: 6 months part-time fixed term contract, with the possibility of an extension dependent on funding

Start date: 7th May 2024

Hours: Days to be agreed with the applicant, 21 hours per week with some weekend availability

Pay: £12 – £14/hour depending on experience

Places of Work: A private garden and an allotment in New Malden, KT3



Vegecoopia is a new social enterprise based in The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Greater London, promoting sustainable food growing and environmental education for not only migrants but also local residents. We are delighted to announce that a new Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project will be kickstarted in Kingston area, which includes the production of vegetables and fruits in the two community gardens in New Malden (KT3), and the distribution of food in Kingston Town (KT1). We are recruiting a food grower to collaboratively work with our existing team. We plan to grow mixed crops on a total of ~2,000 sq. ft of growing land with natural growing principles. We aim at physically improving the food growing space first, then start growing as soon as possible. The summer and autumn harvest will be used in our community cooking workshops or distributed to various community food initiatives in the borough.

Job description

Reporting to: Lead Grower

Tasks and responsibilities

- Carry out all tasks related to the gardens' physical setup and site maintenance
- Participate in the crop planning and record progress associated with the production of vegetables and fruits
- Carry out digging, seed sowing, propagation, growing, harvesting; weed and pest controls; and also water use and compost management
- Carry out the above mentioned tasks and use all equipment safely, being aware of and following risk assessments, safe handling procedures, and relevant health guidance
- Work outdoors in all weathers
- Supervise volunteers when there are open-to-public gardening sessions
- Maintain a good relationship with the site owners

Conditions

- The grower will be employed on a 6-month contract by Vegecoopia C.I.C. There

- will be opportunities for career growth and development in the horticultural sector.
- The grower will be insured, DBS checked, and have access to VCSE training resources as well as relevant conferences and events.
 - The grower will have 8.5 days (prorated from 28 days) paid annual leave, including bank holidays.
 - The grower will have access to free harvest, as well as a supportive and respectful work environment.

Person Specification

Essential

- 1 year horticultural, including food growing experience in any setting
- Willingness to learn new knowledge and skills
- Attention to details in the food growing process
- Demonstrable progress checking and record keeping skills
- Ability to work independently and also be part of a team to complete tasks on time
- Good communication and interpersonal skills to interact with team members, volunteers, and the beneficiaries
- Experience with community engagement, e.g. have joined or organised community gardening or other food-related projects

Desirable

- Level 1 or equivalent qualification in horticulture
- Knowledge of and experience in growing Asian vegetables
- Knowledge of using and maintaining gardening tools
- Understanding of the principles of community supported agriculture, permaculture and/or organic food growing
- Understanding of environmental sustainability
- Understanding of the social benefits that community gardens bring to the individual as well as the community
- Knowledge of the community groups in Kingston e.g. their demography, cultures and needs
- Ability to use languages other than English e.g. Cantonese, Korean

How To Apply

Please apply by sending your CV and a 2-page supporting statement to info@vegecoopia.com by 30th April 2024 (Tuesday), interviews will be held in a week after that. To discuss the role further please contact 07737018157 (Perle).

Vegecoopia is committed to equity and representation. We will not discriminate with reference to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, medical condition, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, or occupation.

Vegecoopia is also committed to protecting the personal data of our personnel and beneficiaries. We will not keep your personal data for longer than necessary under the legal basis for processing. We will not share your personal data for commercial purposes. Our privacy policy is compliant with changes to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation.

Successful appointment to the role will be subject to satisfactory references and will require proof of eligibility to work in the UK and self-declaration of unspent convictions.