

## PG Trust Award Report



**Naomi Trenier**

I am currently working as a student gardener at Threave Garden in Galloway. I am part of the garden team which looks after the Walled Garden, Glasshouses and Grounds, as well as completing various practical training/assessments, learning about plants, and completing various bits of coursework including plant portfolios.

I previously spent several years in office-based work as an Executive Assistant and in marketing. I made the change to horticulture two years ago and started by working in two plant nurseries before being given the opportunity to study and work here at Threave Garden. I have learned so much this year and have enjoyed every single minute.

I was offered the Finnis Scott award of £395 for the course fees of the RHS level 2 with the Horticultural Correspondence College starting in February and taking the 8 exams in June 2017.

Studying for the exams in only 4 months was a real challenge, especially fitting it in around my current coursework, and I had to stick to a very demanding study schedule. However it also was incredibly useful and really helped solidify everything I was learning already. It increased my knowledge hugely and I felt much more confident in my day to day work because of what I was learning. One of my instructors, Nadine, really kindly held several tutoring sessions with me to help me learn the material. The 8 modules covered a lot of the foundational theory of horticulture which really helped fill in the gaps in my knowledge, especially as I am so new to horticulture.

The study material was really informative, it explained everything in great detail, and was easy to read and understand. I was able to get the material all at once so that I could stay on my own study plan.

In order to progress in my horticulture career it was important to gain the RHS Level 2 theory to go alongside the practical modules which we cover here at Threave. I took the exams in June and will get the results at the end of August. In the meantime, I have been accepted into RHS Wisley as a Horticulture Student for two years (RHS Level 3 & 4). I start in September and am so excited about what I will learn there. I needed to have the Level 2 in order to qualify for the role at RHS Wisley.

Thank you very much for the award, I am so grateful for your help, and you really have provided me with a great opportunity for the next 2 years, which will continue to positively affect my future career. Thank you!