

## Bursary report

My name is Ollie Harris and I am 17 years old. I work as a horticultural apprentice for RHS Garden Rosemoor in Torrington, Devon. I have worked there since August 2017 and will continue working there for another year and a half. I work 4 days a week in the gardens and spend one day a week in the learning centre studying towards my RHS level 2 certificate in the principles of horticulture.

I was awarded funding of £822.00 from The Worshipful Company of Gardeners by the PG Trust to complete my City & Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in Ground Based Chainsaw Operations (maintenance, cross-cutting and small tree felling). The money I received went towards training (£564), registration (£36) and assessment (£222). This training took place at Blake's Training in Middlezoy, Somerset between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of February and then the assessment on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

On the first day of the training I learned about health and safety and the maintenance of a chainsaw. This included practical work with taking the chainsaw apart and also theory work with covering how the chainsaw mechanism works. For the second day, we reviewed the cross-cutting. This involved using the saw to cut up sections of wood. I also gained knowledge on the tension and compression of wood and how logs need to be cut differently depending on where the weight is. The Wednesday was the start of the felling section of the course. The majority of the day was spent inside of the classroom studying the different types of cuts that can be used to fell a tree and what cuts need to be used in different scenarios (for example, a dog tooth cut should be used on a forward leaning tree.) After that, I practiced these felling cuts on logs that were placed in felling sockets. Both Thursday and Friday were spent out in the woods at the felling site. This time was just spent cutting down trees and crosscutting the logs. This was definitely my favourite part of the week as it was practical work and I was given freedom to put what I had been learning into practice.

I believe that this certificate will be very useful for work at my current placement at Rosemoor as well as for future career ventures. As for the job I am in now, this qualification will allow me to work with the arboriculture team and to gain more experience with tree work. There is also a new woodland area of the garden that is being opened in the next few years which will need a lot of thinning and I will be involved in this exciting project thanks to the training that I received. Although I am still young, I love working with trees and feel this is the direction that I want my career to follow. Therefore, I now have a better chance in getting employed in this area for when I look for a job.

I would like to thank the Professional Gardeners Trust for supporting me, I am extremely grateful.