

January 2019, Joshua Irvine

After recently completing my MSc in Environmental management, I have found myself volunteering at Dyffryn gardens in the arboretum and gardens. Such an experience has reinforced my love for the outdoors, conservation and horticulture alike, so much so that I have devoted myself to make this work my long-term career.

This has meant the hard fact of accepting that this is no instant process and is a journey I must continue to follow; I have thus acquired a part time job as a means to fund my volunteering at the gardens to gain as much experience as possible.

It was advised that obtaining a pesticide certificate was the next step, potentially giving me the edge in my pursuit of a career in the sector. I therefore was recommended to get in contact with the professional gardeners' trust to fund a PA1/6 course as my current finances have hindered such development.

I was so fortunate to be awarded a National Garden Scheme (NGS) grant of £400 covering all but £50 of the fees, an extraordinarily generous donation.

The training took place at Coleg Cambria's site in Llysfasi. The course was delivered brilliantly, advising in areas of uncertainty and demonstrating the correct methods of procedure. After being successful I hope to be able to go on and undertake further courses such as PA6PP and continue to progress towards my dream.

This would not have been possible without the trust, it has given me hope that my goal is within reach and for that I am eternally grateful.

