

Professional Gardeners Trust – Funding report Errol Reuben Fernandes

My name is Errol Fernandes and I am the Senior Gardener at Kenwood House in Hampstead, London. I have worked here in this role for three years and felt that my career would benefit from some additional training. I decided that the RHS level 3 certificates at Capel Manor, September 2019 - July 2020 was professional qualification that I wanted to study and my employer, English Heritage allowed me time off work in order to attend the course.

I contacted the PGTrust for advice and to see if there were any bursaries that I could apply for and they were very helpful and encouraging. The course fees and expenses amounted to £3,610.60 and the Molly Salsbury Bequest, which was administered by the PGTrust, awarded me £1,650 towards these costs.

It was a strange year to be studying this course due to Covid-19 and as we entered a national lockdown in March the course was then taught via online, distance learning and video conferencing. This added an additional challenge to the learning experience but myself and my peers did our best to embrace the experience. Due to the unusual circumstances the exams were delayed and while I have completed them, I am still awaiting my results.

I want to thank the PGTrust, the Molly Salsbury Bequest and English Heritage for their support in enabling me to complete this professional training.