

THE AYRLIES ART OF GARDENING SCHOLARSHIP

AYRLIES GARDEN & WETLANDS CHARTABLE TRUST

What is the Ayrlies Art of Gardening Scholarship?

- This is a unique offering for New Zealand. We recognise that great gardens involve great artistry supported by good architecture and design. This is about the art form of plant combinations; the textures and foliage, the seasonal interest all creating a backdrop for the fleeting beauty of the flowers. It is having an eye for view corridors and structures that hold it together. These skills are not taught at university, but applied and learnt every day on the job.
- Education is a core objective of Ayrlies garden. Beverley McConnell has long recognised the art of gardening is a dying art form. It has been a long term desire to see those skills revitalised and nurtured.
- The Art of Gardening is an advanced level of professional training in garden development and management that is not available anywhere in New Zealand.
- This is a full-time paid Scholarship available only once every two years.
- The opportunity is to be a valued part of a world-class gardening team at Ayrlies Garden participating in a hands-on experiential learning programme at one of NZ's most prestigious gardens. The training you receive is supplemented with formal external learning through Unitec Auckland.

What is Ayrlies Garden & Wetlands?

- Ayrlies Garden & Wetlands is regarded as a leading New Zealand garden of International Significance (as rated by the NZ Gardens Trust) and is an outstanding example of both the diversity of plants but most importantly the way in which plants are combined for outstanding effect. The garden has featured in numerous publications and television shows in New Zealand and internationally, including the documentary series 'Round the World in 80 Gardens' by Monty Don, The Wall Street Journal and The Architectural Digest.

- Ayrlies Garden is the dream and creation of Beverley who shares her insights and wealth of knowledge with the garden team on a daily basis and actively contributes to the Art of Gardening Scholarship.
- The garden, located at Whitford, Auckland is over 50 years old and comprises of the inner Garden (some 6 ha), the extended Garden (12 ha) and the Wetlands (20 ha).

Who Should Apply?

The Art of Gardening Scholarship welcomes talented candidates from the following backgrounds to apply:

- Qualified gardeners (NZQA level 4 qualification or above) with a strong desire to advance their understanding of plants and the art of placing plants.
 - Landscape design graduates; students with a design background and a real desire to experience first-hand the artistry of plants and their combination.
 - Experienced gardeners (minimum 6 years working in amenity horticulture) with a desire to become garden artists.
- Applicants must demonstrate a passion for plants, design and horticulture.
 - The Scholarship is open to New Zealand citizens only.
 - Physically fit candidates, accustomed to working in a hands-on garden environment, 40 hours per week.

What does the Art of Gardening Scholarship involve?

- The Art of Gardening provides hands on experiential learning in one of New Zealand's most renowned gardens. It is an immersion into a total gardening experience. You will actively contribute as a functioning member of a highly skilled garden team. You will be expected to contribute; your views and opinions will be sort after and valued.
- Paid employment on a fixed term 24-month contract, 40 hours per week.
- Attendance at external courses and organised learning events is an integral part of the Scholarship experience. The formal course work provides structure to the experiential framework and enhances the learning process. This will take place one day per week during the first semester of the university year and two days per week during the second semester.

- There is a three month overlap between the incoming and outgoing scholarship student. This is a leadership opportunity where the existing student provides a mentoring role for the incoming student.

Application Process

- Applications forms can be downloaded from the Ayrlies Garden & Wetlands website at <http://ayrlies.co.nz/home/>
- Completed applications are to be emailed to garden@ayrlies.co.nz
- [Applications close 24 December 2017](#)

Timeframe

- All applicants will be notified by email before 31 January 2018
- Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed 12 - 16 February 2018
- Successful candidate will be notified by 28 February 2018
- Scholarship starts 1 April 2018
- Scholarship ends 31 March 2020

Scholarship Assessment

The student will be assessed on how well he/she meets the scholarship programme learning outcomes. The components include:

- Student daily work Journal
- Student monthly Learning Report for specified months excluding those months engaged in external study
- Plant identification and knowledge presentation for those months of the scholarship not engaged in external study
- Final essay titled 'The Art of Gardening'
- Two courses titled 'Landscape Design' and 'Studio Two' at Unitec (Auckland) complying with full course external assessment.

Assessment covers both theoretical and practical aspects of the student's learning. The student will be able to develop their work in relation to their specific areas of interest and creative leanings in the final essay. Feedback will be given on all assessment tasks including external coursework.