

Royal Botanic Gardens

Kew

Inspiring futures

Nina Davies



Tell us about your job

I am a Senior Curator-Botanist.

Why is science important in your career?

I am currently in the identification and naming department where science is interlinked with the curation of botanical specimens. It is important to understand what a plant is in order to organise and research plant collections.

What is your average work day like?

Working with some of the 7 million plant specimens at Kew from Africa and Madagascar, identifying new collections from recent expeditions, organising specimens and putting them away in the correct place so that they can be located for research. Often going up and down ladders to access the collections in cupboards!

Did you go to university? If so, what did you study? If not, what did you do after leaving school?

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Yes, I studied Biology BSc at Cardiff University, and recently went back to work to study Museum Studies MA at University College London to develop my career.

What sort of personality traits do you have that help you in your career?

Enthusiasm for learning about plants got me to where I am today, even when I was nervous in interviews. I am also a friendly person, helping me to push myself to meet new people.

What helped you get your role at Kew?

Work experience and volunteering at Kew – I did a placement year at Kew as part of my biology degree, then continued to volunteer one day a week whilst working full time in a shoe shop in London until I got a job here.

What advice would you give to someone considering a career like yours?

Volunteering or undertaking an internship in the area you are interested gives you work experience to help you decide on a career. It looks good on your C.V. plus you'll also make contacts with people who may introduce you to opportunities.

What do you want people to know about your work?

The people who work at Kew are passionate about what they do which is a wonderful atmosphere to work in.

Kew is a World Heritage Site and has one of the largest herbarium collections spanning 150 years of plant collecting around the world.

There is still much more to discover about plants; new species are described every year which is an exciting prospect for budding botanists.

Want a career that grows?

Build your skills in science, technology, engineering, art and maths to give yourself a chance to blossom in a career like one of these varied and exciting jobs at Kew.

You could make a real difference to the world.

For further information: www.kew.org

Endeavour



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