 

**Herbarium Conservation Volunteer**

**Role description**

**About South London Botanical Institute (SLBI)**

The Institute was set up a hundred years ago by Allan O. Hume, who wished to bring an interest in botany to working people in Tulse Hill. It has changed little since then and the Institute presents modern resources within a unique historic environment, much of which is still as Hume would remember it. The Institute provides facilities for the study of plants, including ecology and conservation and aims to encourage interest in all aspects of plant life. It has enabled many to develop a satisfying and absorbing interest, become better botanists, pursue their own studies, share their knowledge with like-minded individuals and contribute to our natural heritage. The Institute has a beautiful historic herbarium – 172 cabinets of historic plant specimens - as well as a botanic library and garden.

We hold many different activities from school visits and adult workshops to open garden

days, talks, walks, films etc - see [www.slbi.org.uk](http://www.slbi.org.uk) for more information.

**What is a Herbarium Conservation Volunteer?**

Due to recent funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as from a general individual donor, the SLBI is refurbishing its historic herbarium and conserving its cabinets. We would like to offer conservation students the opportunity to participate in this project by learning from an expert how to conserve the cabinets and then helping with the restoration work.

**What is involved?**

* Learning how to handle the historic herbarium specimens with care
* Preparing the area for the conservation work, including moving specimens & cabinets
* Learning how to conserve the cabinets
* Cleaning, painting & waxing the cabinets where attention is needed
* Other relevant tasks as necessary

**This role will suit people who…**

* Are studying Historic Conservation or have similar skills/knowledge
* Are looking for work experience in a historic building open to the public
* Like working alongside people of all ages and backgrounds
* Enjoy plants and nature so will enjoy working with plant specimens and helping to conserve them

**Applying for a placement**

Please complete a volunteer application form (available on our website or by request) and return either by e-mail to caroline@slbi.org.uk or by post to South London Botanical Institute, 323 Norwood Road, London SE24 9AQ by **Monday 22 May**. You will be invited for an informal interview.

**What’s in it for you?**

* Learning about historic conservation, plants and botanical history
* Joining a team of dedicated and enthusiastic plant lovers
* Working in an unusual place, often described as a ‘hidden gem of South London’

**Extra information**

**Time commitment:** We will be carrying out this project in **August 2017** so would like Herbarium Conservation Volunteers to commit to participating in the training day (9 or 10 August tbc), plus around 8 days of helping with the conservation work (flexible - between 7 and 31 August and the exact amount of time dependent on number of volunteers and their availability etc).

We will be carrying out the conservation work from Monday to Thursday. (The Institute is open to the public from 10am-4pm on Thursdays so volunteers will also need to work safely around visitors then).

 Volunteers are welcome to continue helping at the Institute in a different role, when this project is complete, subject to a suitable opportunity.

**Training/Resources:** Necessary trainingwill be provided;

After 50 hours of volunteering, volunteers are able to benefit from free SLBI workshops (up to a certain limit).

**Line manager:** Project Manager

**Expenses:** Out-of pocket travel costs from home to SLBI; lunch expenses when working a full day.

**Getting there**

Tulse Hill train station is five minutes’ walk away (direct trains to London Bridge, London St

Pancras, West Croydon, Sutton, Wimbledon & others). West Norwood train station is ten

minutes’ walk away (direct trains to Clapham Junction & others).

Bus routes 2, 68, 196, 322, 415, 432 and 468 (from Brixton, Clapham Common & others) pass

close to the Institute.

We are just off the A205 South Circular Road. Cycle racks on available. Car parking is limited & we would recommend the many more sustainable travel options.