

The Majestic Trees Sponsored Travel Scholarship

The owners of Majestic Trees, Steve and Janet McCurdy, first met in California whilst Steve was an exchange student in 1979/80 sponsored by the UK nursery, Thomas Rochford in conjunction with the Future Farmers of America. This year's work experience opportunity changed his life, and opened his eyes to the bigger world and the endless possibilities. In fact, it taught Steve to think anything is possible and changed his business thinking and the way he now runs Majestic Trees. It is for this reason that Majestic Trees would like to provide this sponsored scholarship for someone passionate about tree production.

This opportunity is open to anyone who meets the following criteria;

1. To a student who has completed or is completing their studies in commercial horticulture, and has a passion for trees.
2. Two letters of reference will be required, one from the college where the student is studying, and preferably one from a previous employer or if not available a personal reference.
3. The scholarship is for a maximum of £3,000 that will be paid out in stages; 1/3rd at the point of visa application to pay fees, 1/3rd for travel to the placement and 1/3rd for return travel at the end of the placement; on occasions the return travel money may be paid at the beginning.
4. The scholarship will be awarded for an amount of up to £3,000. The final amount will be determined with reference to the desired location for the work experience.
5. Majestic Trees and the David Colegrave Foundation will help the scholarship winner find paid placements at quality tree nurseries anywhere in the world, ensuring that it is not only a life changing experience, but in an environment where the student will learn and be stretched. We have contacts and trading relations with the best nurseries throughout the world, including Australia, Germany, Holland, France, Canada, the USA and Japan. When applying, the applicant should consider that some countries are easier to obtain a work visa from, especially when done under recognised agencies in these countries, but we can give guidance on this issue to the applicant prior to submitting an application.
6. The scholarship winner is expected to undertake the bulk of the planning themselves with regards to obtaining necessary work permits, travel plans and identifying accommodation. The David Colegrave Foundation, in conjunction with Majestic Trees, will however provide support as needed.
7. There is no age limit, but the successful applicant must be pursuing a production career and not research.
8. Students that have previously worked on a tree nursery or studied courses more closely linked to tree production are especially encouraged to apply.
9. Successful applicants will be invited for an interview in early March to present their placement plan.
10. The placement should be for a minimum of 9 months, typically starting in September, but preferably closer to 12 months to see a full growing season. At the end of the placement the successful applicant may spend 4-6 weeks traveling on their way back home depending on visa limits.

11. After the student has returned from their placement abroad, they will have the opportunity, if interested and subject to an interview, to work at Majestic Trees starting in October till the following June, which could well become a permanent position if both parties desire.
12. At the Majestic placement, the successful student will be provided the opportunity to see the complete production cycle, go on one European tree buying trip, plus be exposed and given the opportunity to observe the marketing, sales and business side, which is an important skill and understanding for a successful career in production horticulture.
13. Throughout the student's year abroad, quarterly reports via email, with photographs, will be required for press articles and to stimulate interest for the next application period.
14. On return, the successful applicant will be required to act as an ambassador for the David Colegrave Foundation and Majestic Trees for the following 12 months, to stimulate interest in production horticulture, by being willing to be interviewed for press and media opportunities, write articles, and attend select industry events. Reasonable expenses will be covered.