



## Volunteer Role Description

Role Title: Volunteer Seed Technician

Main Purpose of the role: To work with the seeds in the lab, helping get them ready for long term storage in the freezer.

	Questions/Issues	Notes
1	<p><b>What?</b>            Cleaning seeds – this can be wet or dry cleaning.            Checking for seed health, signs of pests and diseases.            Keeping track of seed batches and codes.            Cataloguing and recording.            Plant identification from herbarium specimens.            Weighing, packaging and labelling seed batches.</p>	<p>Seed saving and processing experience would be great, but not necessary as we'll guide you through the learning process. The lab is up steps and outside, it is not on even ground.            For particularly dusty batches we provide a brand new dust mask - which some people don't like to wear and you're not expected to, there's always other things to do.            We provide a lab coat to keep your own clothes clean.</p>
2	<p><b>When?</b>            At the moment we have a back-log of seeds that are dried but not processed. So all hands on deck!</p>	<p>THS is a small organisation, we would hope that our time to impart our valuable training and knowledge would be rewarded with a commitment to stay on once you are trained and work with us for a reasonable period of time.</p>
3	<p><b>Where?</b>            At head office:            36 Ardglass Road,            Kilclief,            Co Down,            BT30 7NS</p>	<p>Kilclief is out in the countryside so you'll probably need your own transport. For particularly dedicated volunteers we may be able to organise collection and drop you off at Downpatrick bus station.</p>
4	<p><b>With whom?</b>            You'll need training so at first you'll be working with either staff or volunteers. After a while you may be able to work on your own, but there will always be someone</p>	<p>Teamwork as well as independent thinking is good. Having your own initiative is good to a degree, but we'd prefer if you're not sure to ask, then later we can include unclear issues in our training.</p>

	onsite with you.	
5	<b>Support, supervision, training</b> THS use methods of cleaning and processing, knowledge from years of training, trial and error. Each seed is different, so you'll learn generic methods that will enable you to use own judgement. There will always be someone on hand to ask and discuss.	Ask, ask and ask again. In truth, yes there are basic guidelines, but there are so many times when decisions will be discretionary and we'll talk through options and best solutions as they arise. Some species have similar methods and you'll become familiar with the more common ones.
6	<b>Expenses, etc</b> We provide tea, coffee etc.	With funding applications we include volunteer expenses. So as long as we have funding we pass it on.
7	<b>What the role offers volunteers</b> You'll learn about best practice seed processing, drying and cleaning, post harvest handling and storage methods. You'll also see herbarium specimens and any other aspect of the charity that you'd be interested in. You can switch roles if there's something else you'd like to try.	You will be contributing greatly to the conservation of Irish <b>origin</b> wild flora now and for future generations.

We continually strive to improve our training for volunteers as it helps you feel comfortable. There is no such thing as a mistake – just insufficient training. We appreciate it takes time to learn, that mistakes are inevitable and believe that they are not important – what is important is our people's sense of wellbeing, achievement, learning, satisfaction and ultimately a safe working environment for us all.

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