

Salih's Story

Hello, my name is Salih and I am 35 years old. I work part time as an Assistant Gardener for Hackney Council. I started my job in June 2010 on a six-month contract.

I always wanted to work as a Gardener. I started by doing one year of Horticulture training at the Harington Scheme in Highgate. While I was there I got a City and Guilds certificate in Horticulture and had a work placement at Homebase.

When I finished my training and work experience I found it hard to get a job. I went to Hackney Recruitment Partnership for help to find paid work. I went there 48 times between October 2008 and June this year when I finally started my new job. In that time I applied for 19 jobs and I had 3 job interviews. I was advised to make the most of my time while I looked for work so I went on more training courses to get more experience and to improve my skills.

I did all these courses:

- Employability Skills
- Health and Safety at Work
- Emergency First Aid at Work
- Customer Service Skills
- Conservation Skills

Advice I would give to other people looking for work would be to get training and a qualification and work experience in the job you wish to do. Put all your skills on your CV and don't give up applying for jobs.