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## **TROPICAL HORTICULTURE FIELD PLACEMENT**

### **The Victory Villa – Tobago, West Indies**

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#### **1. Programme Title**

**Tropical Horticulture & Rainforest-Edge Field Residency (Tobago, West Indies)**

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#### **2. Host Organisation**

**The Victory Villa**  
Parrot Hall, Tobago, West Indies

The Victory Villa is an eco-based horticultural and nature-focused property situated in the ascending hills of Tobago adjacent to the Main Ridge Forest Reserve, which forms part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme. This region contains the oldest legally protected tropical rainforest reserve in the Western Hemisphere (established 1776) and represents one of the most ecologically significant tropical forest systems in the Caribbean.

The site provides direct access to rainforest-edge ecology, tropical biodiversity corridors, and coastal-forest transition zones.

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### **3. Programme Overview**

This field placement offers students and early-career practitioners immersive, hands-on experience in tropical horticulture within a rainforest-edge ecosystem.

The programme is designed as an applied learning residency, bridging academic study with practical experience in tropical plant systems, ecological landscaping, and sustainable land development.

Participants will contribute to ongoing horticultural and ecological development projects at The Victory Villa while gaining supervised experience in tropical plant management and landscape design in a real-world field environment.

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### **4. Academic Alignment**

This placement is designed to complement university-level study and may be suitable for academic credit or fieldwork requirements, subject to approval by the participant's home institution.

It is particularly relevant to programmes in:

- Horticulture
  - Botany and Plant Sciences
  - Forestry
  - Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture
  - Conservation Biology
  - Landscape Architecture
  - Environmental Science
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### **5. Learning Objectives & Areas of Experience**

Participants may gain practical experience in:

- Tropical plant propagation and nursery systems
- Fruit tree cultivation and agroforestry design
- Ornamental tropical landscape establishment and maintenance

- Rainforest-edge ecological restoration practices
  - Plant identification and botanical documentation
  - Biodiversity enhancement and habitat creation
  - Bird-friendly planting systems and ecological landscaping
  - Sustainable land-use practices in humid tropical environments
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## **6. Supervision & Local Expertise**

Field activities are supported by experienced local horticultural and forestry practitioners, including Mr. William Trim, a respected authority in Tobago forestry and ecological land management.

Participants will also receive informal mentorship from the host through ongoing landscape development, ecological restoration, and tropical planting projects across the property.

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## **7. Accommodation & Support**

Selected participants will be provided with:

- Private or shared accommodation at The Victory Villa
  - Meals support
  - Access to horticultural tools and on-site resources
  - A safe, residential, rainforest-edge working environment
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## **8. Duration & Flexibility**

Placements are flexible and may be arranged according to academic or personal requirements:

- Short-term: 2–8 weeks
- Medium-term: 2–6 months
- Extended placements may be arranged by mutual agreement

Start dates are flexible throughout the year, subject to availability.

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## **9. Eligibility Criteria**

Ideal candidates include students or recent graduates with interest in:

- Tropical horticulture or plant sciences
- Conservation and ecological restoration
- Agroforestry and sustainable agriculture
- Botanical research or fieldwork
- Landscape and habitat design

Applicants should demonstrate motivation for hands-on field learning in tropical environments.

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## **10. Health, Safety & Responsibility**

Participants are expected to respect ecological sensitivities of rainforest-edge environments and follow basic site safety guidance.

All participants are responsible for securing their own travel insurance and any university-required placement insurance unless otherwise agreed in writing.

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## **11. Application Process**

Interested candidates or institutions should provide:

- Curriculum vitae (CV) or academic background
- Brief statement of interest
- Preferred placement dates and duration
- Area(s) of focus or study interest

Applications may be submitted directly by students or via university internship or placement coordinators.

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## **12. Contact Information**

**Dr. Wayne Warner**

The Victory Villa

Parrot Hall, Tobago, West Indies

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## **13. Closing Statement**

This placement is intended to provide meaningful, structured exposure to tropical horticulture within a living rainforest-edge environment. It supports experiential learning, ecological understanding, and professional development in tropical plant sciences and related disciplines.

We welcome collaboration with universities, botanical institutions, and academic programmes seeking to expand access to field-based tropical education opportunities.