



COMMUNITY FOOD GROWER

(25 hours per week)

This new job is provided through the KICKSTART SCHEME and is subject to the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be aged between **16** and **24**
- Applicants must be **currently in receipt of Universal Credit**

SQUASH is a community organisation, based on Windsor Street in Toxteth, Liverpool 8. Since 2010 we have been making positive social change in our neighbourhood through exciting, participatory food and art practices including food-growing and cooking, arts and crafts, and through our affordable food shop and café.

We are a Community Interest Company (CIC) – a not-for-profit membership organisation that is accountable to our community. Squash runs from our community-designed building & kitchen garden which opened in 2018 and from our community food garden that was founded in 2010.

We have a 100-year vision, inspired by nature; we are actively transforming our Windsor Street Neighbourhood into a people-powered place that is known throughout the world for being a playful, resilient and loving community where everybody thrives!

WORKING HOURS

FLEXIBLE. Likely to be 5 hrs x 5 days per week or equivalent and will sometimes include some weekend and evening work

HOURLY RATES OF PAY:

16-17 year olds rate of pay is **£5.20** per hour

18 years and above rate of pay is **£9.50** per hour

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Community Food Grower will support the effective operation of the Squash growing spaces. Our gardens are very much integrated into our holistic food offer and the food we grow is at the heart of our café, catering and food services. We are looking for a proactive, inventive person who has a real passion for learning how to sow, grow, harvest, seed-save and compost. You will be working with the whole Squash team on our prosperous and successful community business and exemplar neighbourhood growing project.

Working in line with Squash food principles, ethos and values, the main duties include;

- Food growing, harvesting and producing food at the Squash food growing sites
- Working in line with sustainable food practices following organic growing principals
- Learning about innovative horticulture including; straw bales growing, hugel beds, permaculture
- Digging, weeding, planting, sowing, propagating, transplanting, watering, fire-making, wood skills, using the outdoor oven
- Preparing, maintaining and repairing raised beds
- Maintaining Squash composting systems at each site

- Keeping records of food growing - weighing and recording food produced in each garden
- Supporting and working alongside our horticultural lead and with existing volunteer gardeners
- Working with food workers to harvest and provide fresh produce for the café and shop
- Assisting participant food growing and outdoor cooking sessions
- Assisting with development of our food plant nursery, seed library, dried herbs and other plant based and seasonal products
- Assisting with marketing of garden work via Squashes social media and blogging platforms
- Assisting with physical marketing distributing posters, flyers when promoting horticultural activities
- Assisting the shop/café team with the veg box scheme, inc. making up boxes and communicating with customers by phone
- Helping to produce and implement Squash's seasonal growing plan

Please note that the Community Food Grower will be working outside in garden settings for the majority of their work time. Outdoor clothing and equipment provided.

Candidates will be trained to **Level 2 Food Safety** as part of this role

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- Excellent people skills
- Interest/enjoyment in working outside
- Willingness to learn new skills
- Enjoy working creatively/problem solving
- Able to work independently and as part of a team
- Energetic, resourceful and flexible
- Positive and friendly
- Excellent time keeping
- Good personal organisation
- Committed to equal opportunities

EXPERIENCE

- Experience/interest in food growing/horticulture
- Experience/interest in care for the environment

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- English & Maths, CCSE or equivalent
- Horticulture/Environmental-based Degree OR A-levels OR equivalent

HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS ROLE

If you're interested in applying for this role please contact your job coach in your local job centre and quote the following postcode as a reference: **L8 8EQ**

If you have any questions about the role please contact us at **admin@squashliverpool.co.uk**

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 25th JUNE