

Polychronis Rigas

I am an enthusiastic, skilled, creative and dedicated graduate from University of Thessaly (BASc, MASc Agriculture). I am deeply interested in agriculture and horticulture. Over the last 3 years (although not continuously) I have worked as a horticultural intern at R.B.G.E. and in various horticultural positions in London.



CONTACT DETAILS



(+44) 07751127344



chronisrigas@gmail.com



facebook/ Chronis Rigas



linkedin/ Polychronis Rigas



Instagram/ beautiful.outdoor



EDUCATION

University of Thessaly

February 2017 - November 2018

Master of Applied Science (Agriculture).

- 1 year of study, 81 ECTS
- Integrated Master
- 11 courses/modules in total
- Examples:

- Aromatic and Medicinal plants.
- Farm Machinery management.
- Biotechnology, molecular Biology.
- Agricultural constructions, Equipment & technology for post harvest treatment.
- Food technology & Manufacturing of Agricultural products.
- Agricultural Pharmacology.
- Viticulture.
- Specific Agronomy.
- Diseases of ornamental plants & vegetables.

University of Thessaly

February 2013 – February 2017

Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture).

- 4 years of study, 240 ECTS
- Thesis: Evaluation of Greek flora species for use in green roofs
- 50 courses/modules in total
- Examples:

- Physics, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Mathematics, Biology
- General Animal husbandry & Farm animal nutrition
- Informatics
- Plant Morphology and Anatomy, Plant physiology
- Biometrics, Agricultural experimental design
- Agrometeorology
- Agricultural Zoology
- Genetics & Plant Breeding
- Soil Science, Soil fertility, Fertilizers & Plant nutrition
- Hydraulics & Irrigation
- Ecology & diversity
- Systematic Botany
- Agricultural constructions & Greenhouses
- Plant Pathology
- Pomology
- Weed Science
- Entomology
- Floriculture
- Physiology, Ecology & Technology of Seeds
- Agronomy
- Farm mechanization
- Organization of Agricultural Enterprises and Business planning
- Urban Landscape Plants
- Apiculture & Sericulture
- Landscape Architecture



EXPERIENCE

Scotscape Group.
London – United Kingdom.
August 2019 – Present

Position – Living Wall Operative & Indoor Plants Specialist

A) Living wall operative (being responsible for various living walls around London):

- **Liaising with clients:** Book visits, chat with clients for any questions or new additions etc.
- **Visual Inspections:** Overall wellbeing of the plants, Inspections for pests and diseases, Inspection for dead plants and gaps.
- **Inspection of the irrigation system:** checking moisture levels of specific plant pockets, Inspection of irrigation control panel and make sure the whole system is functioning correctly.
- **Carrying out remedial works to the Living Wall as necessary:** Light pruning, removing dead parts of the plans (leafs, branches etc)
- **Cleaning and making areas under and nearby of the wall look tidy.**
- **Participating in horticultural visit:** big scale horticultural works twice per year (usually 2 person doing heavy pruning, removing every dead plant or dead parts of plans, replant with new plants when needed etc.).

B) Indoor Plants Specialist (being responsible for interior plants of a world renown company based at Heron Tower London):

- **Maintaining a big selection of indoor plants:** Keeping indoor plants in a healthy and an above of well-presented condition (watering, pruning, fertilizing, pest & diseases control, cleaning the leaves, positioning of the plants etc.).
- **Keep the areas under and near plant containers tidy:** Free of soil, water spills & plant's parts.

W6 Garden Centre & Café.
London – United Kingdom
March 2019 – June 2019

Position - Gardener & Garden center assistant (*Videos on my Linkedin profile)

A) Garden center:

- **Incoming deliveries:** liaising with drivers, checking products, signing order documents, bringing in the products, pricing them, taking out stock, making stock look well presented.
- Cleaning and making areas of the garden center look tidy.
Refreshing and making products look saleable.
Creating beautiful displays.
- **Customer service:** being positive and smiling, finding and presenting the best options to customers, advising customers and finally selling the products.
- **Maintaining plant's good health and appearance:** extensive watering of indoor and outdoor live collection, weeding & pruning plants, repotting & soil filling and finally being aware and spot plant threats (diseases, harmful insects etc.).
- Following health and safety regulations all the time.

B) Garden maintenance team:

- **Perform variety of gardening tasks in order to create beautiful gardens:**
Creation of flower beds, raised beds & window boxes.
Introducing bark, gravel and other materials as a ground cover.
Creating nice displays with putting plant material into pots and containers.
Installing new irrigation systems.
- **Maintain already established gardens:**
Weeding & tidying areas. Hedge trimming & pruning plants.
Blowing, raking and removing leaves, dirt & non useful materials.
Removing heavy materials (such as bricks, concrete etc.) from the soil.
Mowing the grass. Checking & maintaining existing irrigation systems.
- Using tools and gardening equipment according to health & safety regulations.
- Support colleagues and work as a team.

Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh, Port Logan -
Scotland.
February 2018 - September 2018

Position – Intern (*Portfolio video on my LinkedIn profile)

a) General outdoor maintenance:

- Care and maintenance of the living plant collection (weeding, pruning, dead wooding etc.)
- Ground preparation, lawn edging, leaf raking and picking.
- Border cultivation and hedge cutting.
- Mowing & Strimming.
- Small scale garden constructions (paths, sitting areas etc.)

b) Glasshouse work:

- Preparing material for planting out, moving plants.
- Glasshouse hygiene.
- Propagation by seed sowing and cuttings. Potting.
- Care and maintenance of the plant collection (weeding, watering etc.).

c) Other Elements:

- Introduction to RBGBase (plants database).
- Introduction to use, care and maintenance of a range of garden machinery and equipment.
- Educational trips to other gardens.

Selected Accomplishment:

From the Evaluation of the trainee: “One of the best students we have ever had at Logan”, “He is one of the best practical students that we have at Logan in recent years which is to be greatly admired”

Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh, Benmore -
Scotland.
July 2016 - December 2016

Position – Intern (*Portfolio video on my LinkedIn profile)

a) Introduction to the garden:

- Layout & Staff
- Health & Safety procedure
- Protocols & welfare history

b) General outdoor maintenance:

- Care and maintenance of the living plant collection (weeding, mulching, fertilizers application, pruning).
- Planting & Plant protection (caging).
- Paths construction & maintenance.
- Drainage construction & maintenance.
- Milling timber & chipping.

c) Other Elements:

- Care of ferns within fernery.
- Introduction to arboriculture.
- Introduction to plant records – RBGBase.
- Introduction to meteorological recording.
- Assessment of risk.
- Educational trips to other gardens.

Selected Accomplishment:

From the Evaluation of the trainee: “If Polychronis wished to further develop his studies and education in Scotland, I would expect him to be a first class student. He is polite, considerate, organized and a great ambassador for his country”.

Self Employed – Greece.
May 2013 - July 2016

Position – Agriculturist/Gardener

(During my studies and mostly volunteer, in order to gain practical experiences)

- Pruning
- Weed control
- Soil treatment (fertilization, plowing etc.)
- Planting
- Harvesting (fruits, herbs & vegetables)




EXTRA - SKILLS

- Horticultural and design skills
 - Landscape and flower photography (personal interest).
 - Introduction to garden design (2months online course learningwithexperts.com).
 - Architectural design (2years preparation for national exams).
 - Botanical illustration & freehand drawing (personal interest).
 - The Houseplants Masterclass - Summer Rayne Oakes (continuous learning online lessons).
 - Social & Therapeutic horticulture – Introduction (1month online course thrivelearn.org.uk).
 - Everything about Orchids (1month online course - longwoodgardens.org).
- Interpersonal skills
 - Teamwork (member of a diving from board team, previous internships, member of gardening maintenance team).
 - Public relations (current and previous job position as salesman/assistant, internship in R.B.G.E - engaging with many visitors every day, president of my class in high school, garden center assistant).
 - AP Psychology – Part1 What is Psychology (3weeks online course - edx.org).
- Other
 - International driving license (B)
 - Risk assessment awareness (2 hours online course – Vital Skills/UK).



REFEREES

References available upon request (and on my LinkedIn profile).

LANGUAGES

- Greek 
- English C1 (IELTS 7,5/9) 
- Spanish A2 (state lang. certificate) 

SOFTWARE

- MS Office (E.C.D.L.) 
- Photoshop 
- Windows movie maker 