

# JOIN THE COLONY

We're looking for someone with the energy, attention to detail and work ethic of a honeybee and an equal love of honey!

# **FULL TIME: APPRENTICE BEE FARMER**

This is a dream job if you enjoy some hard graft.

One minute you're assisting beekeeping on some of London's most iconic rooftops, from Fortnum & Mason to Somerset House, next you're camping out on a heather moor in Shropshire and seeing the sun come up, or taking a dip in a lake after a hot day beekeeping in Kent. Not a 9 till 5, but we make a good brew.

The candidate will primarily be working at our beekeeping sites in the South of England, so it's best if you live in or near London.

The candidate will complete the Bee Farmers Association Apprenticeship Scheme, which takes 3 years and includes block release study weeks and assignments, documenting your professional development as a bee farmer.

More information can be found <u>here</u> on the scheme. Those successfully completing the three-year programme are awarded a Diploma Towards Excellence in Bee Farming by the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers.

The Bee Farmers Association scheme is open to 16 to 24-year-olds and aims to equip young people with the skills and knowledge to make a successful career in the bee farming industry. Bee farming Apprentices will both gain practical experience through working as part of our beekeeping team and expert training on: botany and forage sources, pollen and nutrition, honey bee anatomy, honey bee diseases, setting up a business and food hygiene amongst other topics.

### **ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE**

- Good with hands and capable / enjoy physical work
- Must drive and have a full clean licence
- Practical thinker and doer
- Carpentry skills an advantage
- Some experience and knowledge of beekeeping an advantage

### YOU WILL BE:

- Energetic and enthusiastic to learn
- Practical, can-do attitude working independently
- Polite and sociable working as part of a team
- Professional and considerate
- Trustworthy and responsible

### TASKS INVOLVED (Initially under supervision.)

- Transport hives between our sites across the country
- Conduct routine hive inspections and manage as necessary
- Administer varroa treatments
- Ensure colonies are in peak condition
- Raise queens
- Build and maintain hives
- Occasional involvement in extracting honey
- Maintain hive records
- Crop honey from hives
- Help deliver honey tastings and beekeeping courses
- Occasional involvement in retail of honey and events

### THE DETAILS:

- Location: London Based with regular travel across London and the south
- Type: Three-year fixed term contract, with the possibility for extension.
- Salary: £17,000 £22,000 pa
- Benefits: 20 days annual leave

### ABOUT THE LONDON HONEY COMPANY

Founded by an ex-photojournalist turned beekeeper back in 1999, The London Honey Company are renowned producers of the finest British single origin, raw honey and honeycomb.

We are beekeepers to some of the capital's most iconic rooftops including Fortnum and Mason and the Tate art galleries. As well as managing beehives for top clients, we also tend to our own hives across the country, from Kent to Shropshire. Our honeycomb is now a regular feature on the plates of leading chefs including Angela Hartnett, Marcus Waring and Skye Gyngell, as well as on the shelves of the finest food halls in London and on the continent.

The London Honey Company operates from a railway arch in Spa Terminus, Bermondsey. Spa Terminus is an area of like-minded businesses dedicated to quality food production and distribution, on Saturdays ourselves and a large number of other businesses in the neighbourhood open our doors for the general public to buy food.

Our products can also be purchased through our online shop, in quality food stores across the country and select outlets abroad.

## To Apply:

Please send an email to <a href="hello@thelondonhoneycompany.co.uk">hello@thelondonhoneycompany.co.uk</a> explaining why you are the right candidate to join the team and a CV demonstrating your education and experience so far.

We look forward to hearing from you.