



# Passport to your future

## Your future, your hands

### **A Trainee's experience of the second interview.**

I was delighted, proud and a little nervous to be called to second interview and felt a real sense of achievement to have got this far. The second stage of the interview consisted of taking the head gardener on a tour of the property, outlining in particular, what inspired me about the place. This was then followed up by a series of questions, many of them exploring in greater depth the answers given in the first interview. There were also some questions around how I work within a team and what I might do in certain work-place situations. With no horticultural background it was clear that the tour of the garden would require some preparation. The guidance said that we could present our answer to what inspires us about the garden in any format, for example a mime. This threw me slightly and made me think that something imaginative and novel was expected. I decided, however, that it was important for me to be comfortable, natural, and not too contrived, so I opted for the straightforward 'walk and talk'. I dropped in to the garden a couple of days in advance and gathered all the information I could as well as planning my route. I believe this was essential and cannot imagine having gone in cold without a prior reconnaissance. I felt happy with my interview performance. It wasn't difficult for me to talk fluently about the place when I felt genuinely enthused and inspired. I left thinking that I had done my best, that I was probably a good candidate, and that if I was unsuccessful, then it was not because I had left something unsaid or undone, but that someone else was more deserving. At this stage, I thought whatever will be, will be!