



Apprentice Groundsperson 2021

About us

Sussex Cricket is truly unique and is believed to be the oldest professional sports club in the world. Sussex have enjoyed huge success in the last two decades in various formats and are working hard to continue that.

The Grounds team play an essential and integral part in the success of the cricket team. In the last ten years, the Grounds team have twice been awarded the England and Wales Cricket Board's best 'One-Day Pitches' trophy as well as receiving two commendations; including in 2017 coming runner-up for the 'best four-day pitches' and received a commendation for 'four-day pitches' in 2016 and 2019. The Grounds team won the Institute of Groundsmanship 'Professional Cricket Grounds Team of the Year' awards in 2016 and 2019.

In addition to preparing the wicket and the ground for match days at Hove, the Grounds team are also responsible for providing first-class quality practice facilities; re-laying the wickets; the irrigation and ground rejuvenation. With responsibility for the grounds at both Blackstone Academy and the Brighton Aldridge Community Academy.

The Role

This is an excellent learning opportunity and an exciting time to join the groundstaff at Sussex Cricket. As well as gaining experience of all forms of wicket preparation and the day-to-day maintenance of first-class playing surfaces, the Grounds team have been undertaking a programme to re-lay the square. This will provide the successful candidate with experience in producing some of the best pitches in domestic cricket. In recent years, the 1st Central County Ground has undergone a £9m re-development and have embarked on the next phase of developments.

The successful candidate will spend blocks of time at each of the cricket grounds (Hove and Blackstone) gaining hands-on experience as well as learning machinery maintenance and grinding skills.

The Grounds team have run an apprenticeship scheme since 2009, during which time seventeen people have completed an apprenticeship and are now employed in the sports-turf industry.

Working hours during the cricket season can be long and therefore a flexible approach is needed. Working weekends and evenings is also often necessary during the season. Working hours outside of the cricket season are more flexible. College attendance at college will be typically be one day per week.

As well as working as a Groundsperson during the cricket season, during the winter months the Apprentice Groundsperson will spend much of their time preparing the ground for the following season.

Equal Opportunities

Sussex Cricket is committed to ensuring that all job applicants and colleagues do not receive less favourable treatment or are discriminated against on the grounds of their age; disability; gender; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy or maternity; race; religion or belief; sex or sexual orientation.

Please note that this particular role is physically demanding and so the candidate must be physically fit and able to perform the duties required of the role.

Remuneration

The apprenticeship is for a two-year period. In year one, the pay will be £162 per week (this will be amended in line with changes to government changes to the apprenticeship hourly rate) rising to National Minimum Wage in year two.

The Organisation offers 25 days' annual leave per annum.

The Organisation has a pension scheme, with 3% contribution from the employer, and 5% employee contribution.

The Application Process

If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please complete the enclosed application form in full by **5pm on Wednesday 7 April 2021** and return it to:

If you have completed the application form online, you may email it back to:
recruitment@sussexcricket.co.uk

Please note that applications received after this date will not be considered.