



THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

Americans in Alliance with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Trellissick in Cornwall. Photo: National Trust

Damaris Horan Fellowship in Landscape Design

**Study and Report on the opportunities to create a 21st century
productive walled garden that champions fruit growing and
traditional skills**

Applications Open for 2025 Damaris Horan Fellowship

Trelissick, Cornwall, United Kingdom

Application Deadline: June 13, 2025

The Royal Oak Foundation is pleased to announce the 2025 Damaris Horan Fellowship, a residential fellowship with the National Trust of England, Wales & Northern Ireland focused on planning and consulting with the National Trust to create a 21st century productive walled garden that champions fruit growing and traditional skills with hands-on training. Apples, pears, maybe more exotic peaches and apricots will be grown, and even though it will look and feel like the traditional walled kitchen garden it once was, it will be designed very much with the future in mind.

Established by The Mudge Foundation and named for Royal Oak's Executive Director from 1987 to 2003, the Horan Fellowship provides training and educational opportunities for individuals with a professional interest in the history, management and conservation of historic landscapes and gardens. The Fellowship provides unique opportunities to learn from the National Trust's extensive resources and expertise.

The National Trust has over 170 walled and kitchen gardens in its care. Many are in production providing fruit and vegetables for National Trust cafes and for visitors to take home. Others have been out of cultivation for some time, and some have limited public access. Walled gardens were often one of the more innovative parts of a self-sufficient estate, where new technologies in water collection, heating and protected growing created growing conditions for unusual plants for display and the table.

Trelissick is situated near Truro in West Cornwall, on the Southwest peninsula of the United Kingdom. It is a county full of a rich history across many aspects of heritage and its people have a rich and long maritime history. This landscape experiences a mild and often wet climate, which brings many benefits to the growing environment.

Growing is and has been a fundamental industry in Cornwall for many generations. The origins of this starts with the development of the wealth from the mines. From this the Cornish gentry, with large houses and estates developed a center of excellence for growing daffodils as cut flowers, food crops such as cauliflowers and domestic gardens full of exotic plants and flowers.



“Help Trelissick Grow,” aims to revitalize the property’s long-dormant two-acre walled garden which was once the thriving heart of the estate and known nationally in the 19th century as a center of excellence for growing fruit. The walled garden is a visually stunning, central component of the estate lying dormant for over 70 years. Once revitalized it will again be a beautiful and eminently practical centerpiece for the property, attracting thousands of new visitors to Trelissick each year. Throughout the Victorian era the role of the kitchen garden had been a simple, yet ambitious one: to grow high quality produce to feed the estate. Today, we want Trelissick’s walled garden to become a hub of horticultural excellence once again, growing an impressive array of traditional and exotic fruits.

Ideal Candidate

Cornwall provides a wealth of horticultural opportunities for research and discovery. We welcome an individual with a passion for learning and research. We are seeking an individual with research experience and a landscape and horticultural background.

Supervision

It is important the Fellow is self-motivated and can work independently. Various members of National Trust staff will input and support the Fellow with their work. [Shelia Das](#) has been appointed as the new Head of Gardens at the National Trust in January and will input into the Fellowship activities.

Outputs

- A greater understanding of these significant assets, allowing for prioritization of resources
- Long term increased public benefit through engagement.
- Collated online archive of fruit growing.
- Update the NT gazetteer of walled and kitchen gardens using desk-based research.
- Conduct site visits and team interviews to develop sample case studies of varying uses of National Trust walled gardens E.g. Stackpole, Berrington, Shugborough, Knightshayes
- Visit other Community Garden projects
- Experience in gardening practices at Trellisick alongside the gardening team.

Benefits to Recipient

- Experience working with specialist National Trust landscape and garden staff.
- Opportunity to liaise with National Trust Gardens and Parks staff on regional and national levels.
- Visits to NT gardens in England.
- There will be the opportunity at weekends for the student to visit heritage and other sites and partake in their own leisure and travel activities.
- A laptop computer will be provided together with access to reasonable business support.

Who Should Apply

Applications are welcome from graduates with Bachelor's or Master's degrees in one of the following areas: landscape design, horticulture, fruit propagation, environmental studies. Applications are encouraged from individuals with professional experience. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Applicants will need a valid U.S. driver's license.

- Should have a keen interest in plant propagation and supply.
- Be able to work independently within the plant conservation team to a brief.
- Be able to organize and clearly present information.
- Be keen to travel widely and meet independent growers and gardens staff across the Trust's properties.
- A level of education and qualifications that would be associated with a (junior) professional in horticultural garden management.
- An awareness of both the conservation and commercial aspects of heritage gardens.
- Able to deal with a wide range of individuals, including industry professionals and the public.

Deadline and Work Schedule

The application deadline is **June 13, 2025**. The recipient will be announced by early **July**, and the Fellowship will take place from **September 15 through November 21, 2025**. A final report will be required within 90 days after the completion of the fellowship.

Fellowship Support

The Fellow will receive a stipend of \$10,000 (paid in three installments), travel subsidy of \$1,500 for international travel, local housing, and local transport provided by the National Trust. The Fellow will be responsible for food and other personal expenses.

For more information visit <https://www.Royal-Oak.org/Horan>



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The 2025 Damaris Horan Fellowship in Landscape Design

Application Deadline: June 13, 2025

Please read the guidelines and project details before completing this application.

(1) General Information

Last Name First Name Middle Name

Home Address City State Zip Code

Home Telephone Cell Phone Home Email

Workplace

Workplace Address City State Zip Code

Work Telephone Work Email

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) Place of Birth (City/State/Country) Citizenship

Educational Institutions *Attended/Dates/Degree Earned*

I have heard of The Royal Oak Foundation before this application: Yes _____ No _____

I am a member of The Royal Oak Foundation *(not required for application)*: Yes _____ No _____

(2) Essay

Please attach a 500 word essay discussing your qualifications and interest in the specific fellowship project and how you believe it will benefit your academic and/or professional development.

(3) References

Please supply two recommendations from people who are familiar with your work and who are unrelated to you. Letters of recommendation may be e-mailed directly from recommender by **June 13, 2025** bkennedy@royal-oak.org or sent in the mail and sealed with a signature across the envelope seal. Please provide recommenders' contact information below.

(a)

Ms./Mr./Dr./Prof.	Name	Title/Position		
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Institution	<hr/>			
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Address	City	State	Zip Code	
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(b)

Ms./Mr./Dr./Prof.	Name	Title/Position		
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(4) Checklist

This checklist will guide you in assembling your application. Please indicate your name on all materials and on the outside of the mailing envelope or carton.

Application Materials (3 copies required)

- ☐ Completed, signed Application Form
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ Resumé or Curriculum Vitae
- ☐ Letters of Reference from two individuals—indicate if arriving via e-mail

Other Material (1 copy required)

- ☐ Self-addressed, postage paid envelope or Fed-Ex slip for the return of supporting materials
- ☐ Non-refundable \$40 application fee, payable to The Royal Oak Foundation.

You will receive a Royal Oak Student/Young Professional Membership (note: this membership is for those 29 and younger, if older than 29, any additional Royal Oak membership fee is waived.)

- ☐ An example of applicant's work in his/her field of specialization or interest, such as a research paper or portfolio (maximum size 12" x 18").

Please list items:

(5) **Declaration** (to be signed by all applicants)

I declare that I am a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. If awarded a fellowship, I shall pursue my work to the full term and I state that all funds given to me by The Royal Oak Foundation will be used solely for my own education and maintenance. I certify that all information provided in support of this application is true and correct.

Signature _____

Date _____

(6) **Application Deadline June 13, 2025, If mailing, send application materials to:**

The Royal Oak Foundation
20 West 44th Street, Suite 606
New York, NY 10036
ATTN: 2025 Damaris Horan Fellowship

Note to all applicants: All material, original and reproduced, is submitted at the owner's risk. **We encourage applicants to submit all materials electronically.** The Royal Oak Foundation does not assume responsibility for any loss or damage while material is in its custody or in transit. Supporting material will be returned only if a self-addressed, stamped envelope or filled out Fed Ex form is included in the application. Other written materials will not be returned.