



Volunteer Program

Background

The Australian Seed Bank Partnership (ASBP) is an alliance of 14 leading botanical, plant conservation and ecosystem restoration organisations that collaborate in the collecting and banking of Australian native seed for conservation in the face of changing climates and other threats to Australia's unique plant communities and landscapes. They also contribute to developing enabling technologies and sharing the body of knowledge required to strengthen Australia's capacity to restore and connect landscapes and ecosystems through seed-based restoration. These organisations provide expertise from Australia's botanic gardens, state environment agencies, academic institutions and non-government organisations and aim to bridge the gap between policy makers, researchers, seed collectors and on-ground conservation and restoration activities.

Seed banking is a principal tool for the safe and efficient storage of the genetic diversity of wild plants and is helping to create an insurance policy for our native flora by collecting, researching germination and storage requirements, and securely banking Australian seeds. Members of ASBP have already secured a third of Australia's flora in conservation seed banks, including 25% of our threatened plants. Current projects of the ASBP include the *1000 Species Project* that builds upon existing conservation seed banks by collecting seeds of endangered, endemic or economically significant species, the *Restoring Diversity Program*, that is bridging the gap between seed science and our ability to germinate a wider variety of native plant species, and the *Knowledge Hub* project that is working in conjunction with the Atlas of Living Australia in creating a virtual seed knowledge hub.

Volunteer Position

We want to promote the work of the ASBP and its role in plant conservation to a broad audience. This is the perfect opportunity for someone to contribute to national plant conservation efforts. Not only will you get involved in a variety of projects/activities run by the partnership's secretariat, but you will be actively involved in disseminating scientific information and reaching a variety of audiences.

We offer a friendly and busy environment that will enable you to find out about the world of ex situ conservation and collections and provide you with opportunities to access leading experts in this field, undertake field work, communicate with a large variety of national and international stakeholders and develop contacts for future job opportunities. Volunteers will also gain an insight into working for a not-for-profit organisation, as well as an understanding on how the government and not-for-profit sector work collaboratively on a day-to-day basis.

While volunteering you will work as part of a small team of people, coordinated by the ASBP National Coordinator, located at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. We can offer flexible work arrangements to be negotiated between the volunteer and the ASBP that can cater to various study or work commitments. You will receive practical training in Content Management Systems and will obtain valuable work experience in using social media for promoting and communicating about plant conservation and various other relevant topics.



Specific Roles and Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the volunteer would be to actively disseminate information about the scientific work of the ASBP and its partners to a range of audiences. This would be achieved through multiple mediums, including:

- Journalistic stories for web-based and print media
- Targeted communication for fundraising and engaging sponsors
- Engagement of media (newspaper, TV, radio, online) and preparation of media releases
- Blog writing
- Establishing and maintaining a presence on social media (e.g. Facebook, Flickr and LinkedIn)
- Annual report writing
- Development of a regular newsletter to update and engage stakeholders and partners

The volunteer would also assist the National Coordinator as required.

Skills and Characteristics

Volunteering with the ASBP would suit someone possessing or currently studying to achieve qualifications in science communication, journalism, environmental science or media and communication.

Essential skills and characteristics include:

- Individuals who are enthusiastic, willing to learn and passionate about communication
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent knowledge of MS Office

Desirable traits include:

- An interest in environmental issues and plant conservation
- Proficiency in using social media such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Flickr

Supervisor

National Coordinator, Australian Seed Bank Partnership

Applications:

If you have what it takes to be a volunteer for the Australian Seed Bank Partnership we want to hear from you. Please send a copy of your CV (1-2 pages), details of two referees and a cover letter (1 page) outlining how your knowledge, skills and passion can help us communicate more effectively. Please send your application by email to coordinator@seedpartnership.org.au quoting ASBP Volunteer in the subject line.