

Candidate Information

Position: Grounds Person
School/Department: Estates Services
Reference: 22/109821
Closing Date: Monday 23 May 2022
Salary: £23,096 per annum including market supplement
Anticipated Interview Date: Monday 6 June 2022

JOB PURPOSE:

The post holder will work as an integral part of the Sports Ground Maintenance Team within the Grounds and Gardening Services Department. The post will be based at the University's outdoor sports venue at Malone Playing Fields performing a wide range of sports pitch maintenance duties and set-up requirements on both natural grass and synthetic surfaces. Additional duties to include hard and soft landscaping, general site maintenance and a requirement to work on other areas of the University's Estate when required. The post holder will work 37 hours over 5 days per week which can include Saturday working with a rota.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake maintenance of all natural grass sports surfaces to include (but not limited to) mowing, line marking, surface brushing, leaf blowing, weed / moss control, fertilising, overseeding, spraying, irrigation and surface divoting.
2. Undertake maintenance of all synthetic sports surfaces to include (but not limited to) surface brushing, leaf blowing, weed / moss control, surface and equipment checks. Regular safety checks reported and records complete.
3. Driving a range of tractors up to 99hp and working with specialist mounted implements to include (but not limited to) Aeration equipment (verti-drain), Multi-boom sprayer, Top-dresser, Deck mower, Flail mower, Overseeder and Fertiliser spreader. Ensuring safe working practices e.g. PTO shaft guard.
4. Ensure all daily and routine safety checks on Tractors, mowers and all other equipment is carried out as per schedules and directed to by the supervisor. Checklists and reporting of all faults recorded.
5. Driving of other sports ground equipment, e.g. utility vehicle, rotary ride on mower, ride on cylinder mowers (triple and 5 unit wide area reel mowers).
6. Operate specialist powered pedestrian equipment to include (but not limited to) Pro-core 648 aerator, cylinder mower, rotary mower and automated equipment. Ensure equipment is set correctly and pre-use checks carried out.
7. Undertake all routine operator maintenance of grounds equipment and machinery. Reporting of faults and record keeping.
8. Set-up and take down of sports equipment to include (but not limited to) erecting and dismantle of goalposts, ensuring goalpost safety, moving goalpost equipment in a safe manner throughout the site.
9. Carry out seasonal renovation programmes and specialist maintenance tasks when directed to include (but not limited to) re-turfing, drainage works, surface repairs, pitch irrigation including portable sprinklers and irrigation repairs.
10. Undertake general hard and soft landscaping to include (but not limited to) external site litter clearance, empty bins, clear leaves, debris removal, trim trail maintenance, and (within the winter weather plan) snow clearance and gritting.
11. Event set-up (Tournaments, Cross country, External elite bookings) and management to ensuring pitch protection, perimeter meshing and signage.
12. General hard and soft landscaping to include (but not limited to) hedge trimming, strimming, weeding, brushing, tree planting, wildlife hedging, bulb planting and minor arboriculture duties, e.g. ivy removal, crown lift and dealing with storm damage / fallen branches working within an established process.
13. Comply with all relevant health and safety procedures, ensure safety on all work areas, safeguarding self and others (colleagues, students, end users and members of the public).
14. Carry out any other duties which are appropriate to the post as may be reasonably requested by your supervisor.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Secondary School Education.
2. Minimum of two years recent relevant experience working in professional sports turf maintenance.
3. Experience in the operation of tractors to include safe use, basic maintenance and routine safety checks including, but not limited to start-up checks and tractor hitch safety guidelines.
4. Experience in the operation of ride on cylinder mowers.
5. Use of pedestrian cylinder and/or rotary mowers.
6. Operation of mechanical / pedestrian aerators.
7. Ability to undertake daily / routine equipment safety checks - record keeping and reporting.
8. Ability to follow daily work schedules but prioritise duties as necessary.
9. Ability to set-up / adjust mowers.
10. Ability to communicate well with other team members, QUB management and sports users / members of the public.
11. Ability to keep in daily contact with supervisor / colleagues.
12. Self-starter and the ability to work on his/her own initiative.
13. Good Team member.
14. Full valid driving license (shortlisted candidates will be required to provide a copy of their driving license prior to interview).
15. Post will involve irregular hours and a degree of flexibility in duties including a rota for weekend working.
16. Must be prepared to work unsociable hours.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. NVQ level 2 or equivalent craft qualification in sports turf management.
2. Certificate of Competence in Pesticide handling and Application (PA1, PA6a & PA2).
3. Relevant industry recognised qualifications.
4. Membership of relevant industry recognised organisations.
5. Minimum of two years recent relevant experience working in an outdoor multi-sport environment.
6. Minimum of one year recent relevant experience operating tractor mounted multi boom sprayer (in line with PA2).
7. Operation of Knapsack sprayers and CDA applicators.
8. Experience in the operation of heavy plant equipment including, but not limited to tractor mounted implements such as aerators, top-dressers, seeders.
9. Experience using 5 unit wide area reel mowers.
10. Setting up and Line marking of winter games pitches.
11. Demonstrate knowledge of maintenance operations on synthetic surfaces to include 3G multi-use and sand dressed Hockey pitches.
12. Demonstrate knowledge of maintenance operations on a water based hockey surface.
13. Working knowledge of irrigation systems.
14. Interest in practical outdoor work.