

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Read all of the information below carefully
2. Fill out the application form
3. Wait to hear back from us via email
4. Chosen candidates will then be asked for a follow-up zoom interview call
5. Final candidate will be given a 3-month trial period at Eisei-en
6. Following the 3-month trial period, the full 5-year apprenticeship will begin

ESSAY QUESTIONS

For the application form, please answer the following essay questions and upload them as a single PDF:

Question 1 (minimum 500 words)

What is your motivation in applying for an apprenticeship at Eisei-en?

Question 2 (minimum 300 words)

What is your long-term career plan and how does your apprenticeship at Eisei-en factor into that equation?

Question 3 (minimum 200 words)

What is your personal background in bonsai?

Question 4 (minimum 300 words)

What is your philosophy of bonsai?

Question 5 (minimum 200 words)

What assets can you bring to bear at Eisei-en?

RESUME

For the application form, upload your current resume in PDF format. Include all educational, job and career experience, as well as any additional pertinent skills or life experiences. Include an attached current profile picture of yourself as well.

APPRENTICESHIP DUTIES

As an apprentice, your duties will include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Working a minimum of 6 days per week, from 8am to whenever we finish for the day
- Cleaning the nursery each morning upon arrival
- Sweeping and cleaning the workshop
- Taking out the trash and breaking down boxes
- Lifting and moving heavy trees around the nursery
- Weeding the nursery
- Packaging and shipping products
- Conducting inventory checks
- Running errands for nursery-related needs
- Unloading and shifting pallets of soil and other products
- Working outside in often harsh weather conditions
- Assisting students during intensive course sessions
- Unloading and loading student trees during intensive course sessions
- Being respectful at all times to guests and clients at the nursery, no matter the circumstance

- Listening to all directions carefully and completing tasks in a timely manner
- Spraying fungicides and pesticides
- Applying fertilizer
- De-wiring trees
- Watering everyday
- Showing guests around the garden
- Wiring and styling bonsai
- Assisting Bjorn in wiring and styling bonsai
- Managing the nursery operations when Bjorn is away (sometimes for extended periods)
- Pruning and maintenance of bonsai and the landscaping
- *Self-study (limited verbal teaching will be conducted)*

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

A vast majority of your time as an apprentice will be spent working on menial tasks around the nursery, with limited time styling and designing trees. You will be expected to unwire, clean, weed and perform these menial tasks on a daily basis. ***A majority of your educational experience will require self-study, as verbal explication will be limited, so do not expect to be taught or for things to be spelled out and explained in detail.***

Whether or not you are permitted to work on high-quality bonsai is entirely up to you. If you show the necessary effort, progress and skill development, you will be given better and better material. If you don't, you won't - simple as.

There will be extended periods when Bjorn is away, either on teaching trips, buying trips or on tours to Japan. During these periods, you will be expected to operate the nursery in a professional manner, maintaining the watering, pruning and maintenance schedules, and completing whatever tasks are assigned each day, without question. This may require extended periods in which you do not receive a day off, perhaps for weeks at a time.

We also often have guests visit the garden for tours. You will be expected to show these individuals or groups around the nursery, explain the background and history of prominent trees, and answer any questions they might have.

REMUNERATION & LODGING

If you are accepted as a tentative apprentice, you will be given a 3-month trial period. During this period, you will not receive any pay. However, we will provide you with free lodging. If you successfully pass the 3-month trial period, *you will be required to find your own accommodation*, and you will then be provided with a minimum monthly stipend to cover basic lodging and food costs each month (details will be discussed in the follow-up zoom interview call). ****Note - You will also need to have your own car.****