

Events Volunteer at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (MAA)

Why MAA needs this role

MAA runs free, drop-in events for families and adults throughout the year including Science Festival, Summer at the Museums, Twilight at the Museums and programmes for lifelong learners.

Our learning programme aims to give visitors the opportunity to explore the Museum's collection, deepening their enjoyment and understanding of archaeology and anthropology through inspiring activities and events. The purpose of this volunteer opportunity is to provide the highest quality support for both families and adults who visit the Museum so that they obtain maximum benefit from the activities on offer.

Volunteer tasks

- Welcoming all visitors to the event and providing a clear explanation of the activities on offer.
- Helping visitors find activities and the different areas of the museum to explore, appropriate to their age/interests/length of visit.
- Explaining to visitors the aims of the activities and offering unobtrusive support to help them achieve those aims.
- Contributing to the creative development of new activities and workshops.
- Attending planning or training meetings as required.

Skills required

Volunteers from all backgrounds and experience are welcome, especially those who have an interest in working in the Museum and Heritage Sector. An interest in archaeology and anthropology is desirable but no specific knowledge is expected.

Learning and Education volunteers should be comfortable with public speaking. They should be polite, friendly and helpful to all visitors. You will need to have good observation and conversation skills and have an eye for detail. Punctuality, reliability and interpersonal skills are important, as is a willingness to take responsibility for areas such as health and safety and security procedures.

The role is suited to anyone who enjoys meeting people and who likes working as part of a team. You will be volunteering under the guidance of the Outreach Organiser and Education and Outreach Assistant. You will be on your feet for most of your time in the galleries. Applicants need to be aged 18 or older.

What you will gain from this role

- Develop your skills and experience within a University Museum setting
- Join an enthusiastic and experienced team

- Meet new people within your local community
- Gain satisfaction of giving back
- Acquire valuable experience that will enhance your CV and set you apart in the job market
- Gain cultural sector contacts within a supportive environment

Potential time commitment: We are looking for volunteers to commit for half or full days during school holidays and special public events throughout the year. This includes weekends, occasional evenings and weekdays. Education volunteers will need to attend an introduction session and a training session.

Location: Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3DZ

Responsible to: The Outreach Organiser

Training and Support

Volunteers will be offered appropriate information sessions and invited to exhibition opening and social events where they can meet other volunteers and Museum staff. They will also be entitled to discounts on purchases from the Museum shop.

Health and safety responsibilities

You will be responsible for your own health and safety and that of others with whom you volunteer, by reporting all potential and actual health and safety matters including accidents using the correct procedures.

Legal requirements for this role

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to volunteer in the UK before you can start volunteering for us. If you do not have the right to volunteer in the UK already we will not be able to progress your interest any further.

To Apply

Please download and complete the Expression of Interest Form, then send it to: Jenny Williams, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3DZ or email it to: jhw57@cam.ac.uk. For further information, telephone: 01223 333516.

About the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (MAA)

Cambridge University's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology offers a feast of images and ideas and was a 2013 Finalist for the ArtFund Museum of the Year Prize. It houses world-class collections of Oceanic, Asian, African and native American art - canoes, sculptures, masks, and textiles - and major archaeological discoveries, ranging from the earliest stone tools, discovered by Louis Leakey in Olduvai Gorge, to British finds from Roman and medieval periods. As well as being open to the general public, MAA is a research and teaching facility of the University of Cambridge.

About the University of Cambridge Museums

University of Cambridge Museums is a consortium of the eight University Museums, which works in partnership with the Cambridge University Botanic Garden and other Cambridge University collections. They include: Fitzwilliam Museum, Kettle's Yard, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Museum of Zoology, Museum of Classical Archaeology, Whipple Museum of the History of Science, The Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences and The Polar Museum. The University's collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing the country's highest concentration of internationally important collections, all within walking distance of the City Centre.