

December 2016

Education and Outreach Volunteer at the Whipple Museum of the History of Science

Why the Whipple Museum needs this role

The Whipple Museum of the History of Science runs free drop in events for families and adults throughout the year. The Museum also contributes to special public events during school holidays such as 'Science Festival' and 'Summer at the Museums', and late night openings during 'Twilight at the Museums' and 'Museums at Night', with programmes for lifelong learners.

Our learning programme aims to give visitors the opportunity to explore the museum's collection and deepen their enjoyment and understanding of the history of science 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.

Find out more about the Whipple Museum at: <http://www.sites.hps.cam.ac.uk/whipple/>

Find us on Facebook *Whipple Museum*

Follow us on Twitter *@WhippleMuseum*

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.
- Stewarding the galleries to make sure that visitor and collection safety is maintained.
- Attending planning or training meetings as required.

Skills required

Volunteers from all backgrounds and experience are welcome, especially those who have an interest in the history of science and working in the Museums and Heritage Sector. Excellent customer care together with good observation and communication skills are essential. Applicants must be punctual and reliable and feel comfortable representing the museum to members of the public as well as being approachable and friendly. 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 on 1 February 2017 and a training session on 8 February 2017.

Location: Whipple Museum of the History of Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RH.

Responsible to: The Learning Coordinator

Training and Support

We will provide you with the information and training necessary for you to perform your volunteer role through a Training session on 8 February and other events as deemed necessary.

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 check 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 contact opendoor@hermes.cam.ac.uk or Opening Doors Project Coordinator, University of Cambridge Museums, c/o The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB for further information and an Expression of Interest form.

Deadline to submit Expression of Interest form: 12 noon on 15 January 2017

You may also be asked to attend an Introduction Session at the museum on 2 February 2017.

About the Whipple Museum of the History of Science

The Whipple Museum holds an internationally important collection of scientific instruments, apparatus, models, pictures, prints, photographs, books and other material related to the history of science. The museum's holdings are particularly strong in material dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries, especially objects produced by English instrument makers, although the collection contains objects dating from the medieval period to the present day. Instruments of astronomy, navigation, surveying, drawing and calculating are well represented, as are sundials, mathematical instruments and early electrical apparatus.

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.