

Engage Volunteer

Role description

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has nationally and internationally important anthropology, musical instrument and natural history collections, an aquarium, a butterfly house and a range of temporary exhibitions. It is surrounded by 16 acres of beautiful gardens.

**Main purpose of the role**

The Horniman welcomes a wide range of people to the museum each year including many young families. Engage volunteers help bring our collections and displays to life and enable visitors to have a richer, more hands-on experience at the Museum. All necessary training is given – no prior experience is needed.

Tasks include:

* Providing a warm and welcoming presence in our galleries and public spaces
* Supporting visitors to learn through handling real museum objects on the touch tables within the galleries, e.g. skulls, bones, shells and cultural objects from different countries such as masks, puppets, toys
* Providing live interpretation in the Butterfly House and at the bee display - helping visitors understand the life and behaviours of our living collections. And, when more experienced, providing live interpretation in the Aquarium, too
* Assisting with activities in temporary exhibitions or outdoor activities that support learning about the natural world
* Helping to ensure a positive visitor experience by answering general questions about the museum and gardens and giving directions

**Commitment**

Volunteers are asked to choose one shift from the following options and attend on a regular basis (we ask for a minimum commitment of 4 months):

A weekly shift (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday)

A fortnightly shift (Saturday)

* Morning shift: 10:15 am –12.45 pm
* Afternoon shift: 1.15 pm – 3.45 pm

**Current vacancies:**

* Monday morning
* Tuesday morning
* Tuesday afternoon
* Wednesday afternoon
* Thursday morning
* Thursday afternoon
* Friday morning
* Friday afternoon

**The role would suit someone who:**

* Is friendly, welcoming and a confident communicator with a good standard of English
* Is a good listener and can adapt conversations to suit the needs and interests of a diverse range of visitors to help them learn
* Is interested in informal learning and engaging, particularly, with children and families
* Has a broad interest in natural history and different world cultures
* Is comfortable being around live butterflies in a hot tropical environment
* Is comfortable with standing for long period of time e.g. 45 minutes.

**What we can offer volunteers:**

* Opportunities for personal development in a supportive learning environment
* Training in customer service and live interpretation skills
* Reimbursement of travel expenses within Greater London
* Special events for volunteers inc. behind-the-scenes talks and socials
* A 20% discount at the café and the shop
* Free entry to paid areas of the museum

**Deadline 25 June 2023**

**A group selection session will be held on Friday 30 June and induction will be held on 11 July 2023.**

**To apply**

Please contact [volunteering@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@horniman.ac.uk) and request an application form.