

Volunteering at the National Science and Media Museum

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What volunteering opportunities are available at the museum?

[Our Volunteering webpage](#) gives an overview of the volunteer roles and projects that support the museum. We only recruit for volunteers when our teams have the capacity to welcome new volunteers, or a new role or project is beginning. If we're recruiting for volunteers, opportunities will be listed on this webpage under 'latest opportunities' and appear on the Science Museum Group [volunteering portal](#).

How can I find out more about a role?

When a role is advertised on the [volunteering portal](#) it will always have a **role description** alongside it. Please read this document in full as it tells you what you can expect from the role and what we'd ask of you. It will sometimes include when we plan to hold events like tastings or welcome and training activities so you can plan ahead if your application is successful.

How can I hear when you are recruiting for volunteers?

- 1) We maintain a mailing list for those interested in volunteering. We contact everyone on this list when a role goes live. To be added to the list, please contact us using the email address on our webpage or at the bottom of these FAQs.
- 2) Or, follow the museum on social media; this has the bonus of excellent museum news and content too.



How old do I need to be to volunteer?

Most of our roles are suitable only for those aged 18 or over, but we are planning to offer more youth volunteering opportunities in future.

How do I apply to become a volunteer?

We are committed to our roles being open to everyone, which means we are happy to receive your application in a format that works for you, so there are a few options when we are recruiting:

- The quickest option is to apply online through our [volunteering portal](#). Please be aware we are part of a group of museums called [Science Museum Group](#); please ensure the role shows Bradford as the location.
- You can request an application form to apply by email (contact details on this webpage).
- We are also open to alternatives such as applying over the phone; please get in touch with how we might support you.

Whether you choose to apply online or not, please visit the volunteering portal to read the **role description** to find out more about what you can expect from the role and what we'd ask of you.

What can I expect after I apply for a volunteer role?

The selection process varies by role. Usually you'll be invited to meet with the team to talk more about your motivations, skills or experience. Depending on the role, this might include a taster session to see the role in action or try it out for yourself. It's our chance to get to know you better too, so you can expect us to ask you some simple questions related to the role description. The role description for the opportunity will tell you more about what you can expect.

I will require additional support to attend selection events, how can you help?

On the application form, we encourage you to share if you require any reasonable adjustments or support at your selection event. We will do our best to accommodate your needs. We may contact you to discuss the best access and support for you.

Am I guaranteed a place as a volunteer if I apply?

We're always grateful for offers of support as a volunteer and we hope to accept all offers of help, but sometimes we may need to be selective when we recruit. This might be if we're fortunate to have a lot of interest in the role, or we have limited places to join us. Some roles may require certain skills or experience, but we consider your motivations and potential too if you're willing to learn more.

What security checks can I expect?

All volunteers are asked to do a Basic DBS Check before they can start volunteering. This is a simple security check which we are required to carry out on all staff and volunteers as we are part of an arms-length government body. This check requires 3 pieces of ID which prove your date of birth and address. Our trusted provider is DDC. You can [find out more about the basic DBS check and documents needed](#) on their website. We'll arrange and process this for you and will cover all the costs. Any issues raised in the check will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you don't have the ID documents for a DBS check, this might not prevent you from volunteering, but it may restrict your access to some of our museum spaces and collection. Please get in touch if you have questions about the Basic DBS check.

If the role you are applying for is a very short opportunity (less than 4 weeks), you might not be required to undertake a DBS check, but please check the role description carefully.

How will I be trained?

All new volunteers first attend a volunteer induction. This is a general welcome to the museum where you'll gain an understanding of the museum and how we work with volunteers, and receive some basic health and safety training and a site orientation. In the first few weeks of your role, you'll also be given any training you need for your role, meet your new team and be guided through what's expected in the role. Some roles have essential training you will need to complete; in other roles you may learn as you go along.

Will volunteering help me find a job at the museum?

Volunteering is a great way to gain some experience in a working environment and we welcome applications from anyone looking to develop their skills and improve their CV. Volunteering doesn't guarantee that you would get an interview or gain employment with us, but you might find it helpful in

future if you understand what our mission is and can talk confidently about what we're trying to achieve.

Do you pay expenses?

Yes, we reimburse incurred travel and/or lunch expenses of up to £5.50 a day with a valid receipt. You need to have a UK bank account to be able to claim.

Can I volunteer if I am receiving benefits?

Yes, but you should tell your Job Centre about your volunteering and seek advice before you apply.

Can I volunteer I'm from overseas?

We are legally required to ensure all volunteers from overseas have the right to volunteer in the UK, so please check your visa before applying. You will be asked to show it at induction if your application is successful. SMG is unable to act as a sponsor organisation if you do not have a visa that allows you to volunteer.

Can I apply to do work experience at the museum?

Unfortunately we're not able to accommodate individual work experience requests.

Do you offer opportunities for Corporate/Employer Supported Volunteering?

We are developing our offer, so please check our website in future.

Contact us

Email: volunteer.nsmm@scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk

Webpage: scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/about-us/support-museum/volunteering

Volunteering applications: sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/work-with-us/volunteering

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