The Hunterian

Founded in 1807, The Hunterian is one of the leading university museums and galleries in the UK. Scotland’s oldest public museum, it houses the largest non-national museum collection in Scotland.

The collections build on William Hunter’s founding bequest and include: scientific instruments used by James Watt, Joseph Lister and Lord Kelvin; Roman artefacts from the Antonine Wall; natural sciences; coins and medals; ethnographic material from the Pacific Ocean; a major collection of Scottish art; and one of Britain’s top six graphic art collections. The Hunterian is also home to the world’s largest permanent display of the work of James McNeill Whistler, the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and The Mackintosh House, the reassembled interiors from his Glasgow home.

For details of current exhibitions and further information, please see: www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian

MUSE Guide Role Description

The Hunterian seeks to recruit 20 University of Glasgow students to join its team of Museum Student Educators (MuSE) for the provision of Art Gallery and Museum tours. During 2018/19 the programme is developing to include CollectionsTaster sessions, allowing invited groups to access our collections at The Hunterian’s Collections Study Centre at Kelvin Hall.

Tour Topics

The MUSE tours include Museum, Art Gallery, History of Science (Physics / Engineering) and Medical History tours, as well as tours of temporary exhibitions. We are very interested to hear from students from all areas of study.

Key Dates

- Interviews: between 27th June and 3rd July
- MUSE Induction w/c 9th July

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Deliver guided tours (20 – 30 minutes, allowing for visitor Q&A). Consideration is given to the importance of study and guides can opt out of tours during exam periods.
- Add to the basic tour script with additional information derived from personal research
- Ensure efficient communications and record-keeping
- Attend and assist occasional evening events
- Support Hunterian promotional activities such as University Open Days
- Support Hunterian Community Engagement and Widening Participation Collections Taster events (Object Handling Training will be provided)
- Share experiences, tour research and object research with the team
- Once settled in the role, supporting newer guides in their development

Salary: Unpaid

Duration:

On completion of a satisfactory 3-month period in the MUSE programme, guides are welcome to continue volunteering for as long as they are registered students at the University of Glasgow.
What the organisation will achieve by taking on a MuSE Guide:

1. Through the operation of the MUSE programme The Hunterian is able to offer a greatly enhanced visitor experience. It is dependent on MuSE guides for the delivery of its advertised tour programme (excluding Mackintosh House). (http://www.gla.ac.uk/hunterian/visit/tours/).

2. The enhancement of the student experience by means of work-related learning is high on The Hunterian’s priorities, in line with the University Strategy. The MuSE programme is one of various student engagement programmes contributing to that goal.

What the volunteer guide get out of the experience:

The guides will:
- make a significant contribution to the work of a cultural institution,
- build their confidence in public speaking and supporting public engagement events,
- develop research skills,
- develop personal qualities and transferrable skills, as outlined in the UofG Graduate Attributes Matrix.

Required Year of Study: All. (All other factors being equal, preference may be given to UG years 1-3 in the interest of offering development to this student group and fostering a long-term volunteering relationship).

Required Degree Subject: Any (but particularly keen to recruit from Science and Social Science disciplines)

Person Requirements:
The Hunterian is looking for candidates who meet the following criteria:

Essential
- E1: Confidence and good public speaking skills
- E2: Excellent interpersonal skills, demonstrating the ability to quickly develop a rapport with diverse audience groups
- E3: Self-motivation, demonstrating the ability to act on initiative if required
- E4: Commitment to developing subject knowledge and a willingness to develop tour content beyond the basic script
- E5: Flexibility, demonstrating the ability to adapt to various situations and audiences

Desirable
- D1: An interest in cultural heritage, the arts, natural and life sciences or the history of science and medicine
- D2: Experience of public speaking

To Apply:
If you are interested in applying for this opportunity at The Hunterian please fill in the application form and email it to ruth.fletcher@glasgow.ac.uk by 12noon on 18/06/2017. Late applications will not be accepted.