

Volunteer Role Description: Object Handling Volunteer



The Role

'Hands on Coins' sessions provide visitors with the opportunity to handle and learn about coins ranging in age from Ancient Greek to Victorian and including both Asian and European examples.

- Sessions are offered Saturdays, 11.30 am - 1.30 pm and 1.30 - 3.30 pm in the Money Gallery (volunteers will need to arrive earlier in preparation).
- Volunteers engage with visitors and help them to learn from the objects and discover the stories behind the coins whilst also ensuring that they are handled appropriately.
- Sessions are free, drop-in, and aimed at the general public.
- Sessions are advertised on the Museum website, in its programme, and in the welcome space on the day.
- Volunteers usually work in pairs but may occasionally be asked if they are happy to work alone.
- No previous knowledge or experience is required as full training will be given.

Timing and commitment

Volunteers are recruited and trained for this role periodically. Once they have joined the team, they can expect to deliver a session (i.e. either 11.30 - 1.30 or 1.30 - 3.30) once or twice per month, although the rota is flexible. Coin handlers are occasionally invited to deliver additional sessions by prior arrangement, e.g. as part of money-themed family friendly events.

Training and support

Prior to joining the team volunteers attend a short training course by curatorial and museum staff: currently 2 hours, early evening, on two days – followed by a practice session to be arranged at a mutually convenient time.*

Volunteers learn about 14 coins from the collection but only present 7 at a time. They are encouraged to further familiarise themselves with the Money Gallery in their own time.

**Volunteers become active object handlers by mutual agreement with staff at this point/when they feel ready. They then work independently to set up and run handling sessions without direct supervision on the day.*

We are looking for volunteers who:

- Will enjoy and be confident engaging a diverse audience with the collection
- Will be able to manage groups of people in a potentially busy museum setting.
- You will demonstrate a sense of responsibility for the collections: the coins are museum objects
- Are polite and helpful; you will likely be asked a variety of unrelated questions.
- Won't mind that sometimes it is busier or quieter than at other times

Why you might enjoy this role

The opportunity to:

- join a friendly, enthusiastic, and supportive team of volunteers
- interact with the general public and inspire visitors
- contribute to the museum's public education and accessibility remit
- share your passion for history
- improve your knowledge of the collections
- develop and practise communication skills
- gain experience of enabling learning through objects

Other information

- This role involves moving a table through the Museum and handling small objects. Please bear this in mind if you have any concerns regarding your fitness or manual dexterity.
- Arrangements can be made to accommodate and support young volunteers aged 16-18. Please let us know in your application if this applies to you or if you would like further details.
- We are happy to reimburse travel expenses up to a maximum of £4.30 per session on receipt of travel tickets
- This role is not regulated activity and therefore does not require an additional safeguarding (DBS) check.
- This role does not require a Right to Work check.

Interviews & Start Dates

We expect to hold **interviews** for this role on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th November.

Training for this role will take place on Tuesdays 12th and 19th November 2019 (both dates are essential) from 5-7pm at the Ashmolean Museum. You will also need to complete a public engagement induction.

To apply for this volunteering role please let us know by Thursday 31st October why you would like to help and what you feel you would bring to the role (in no more than 200 words). To apply please contact: volunteering@museums.ox.ac.uk