

Role title: Volunteer Research Assistant for Making Modern Communication
Department: Exhibitions
Location: Science Museum, London
Overview: To assist with the research of satellite models and archive material for a new communications gallery.

Role background and description

The Science Museum Group comprises the Science Museum in London and Wroughton, the National Railway Museum in York and Locomotion in Shildon, the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester and the National Media Museum in Bradford. It is the world's pre-eminent museum group in the fields of science, technology, industry and medicine. The Museum is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Prime Minister, and is funded by grant-in-aid through the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

The Science Museum is planning a major new gallery for 2014 about the history of communication. We will be displaying a large number of satellite models in the gallery, some from our own collection and others that will be on loan or acquired. The Volunteer will assist content developers by researching these satellites – possibly both communication and navigation satellites – and their history, highlighting potential candidates for display and locating useful research archive materials and images.

This is a fantastic opportunity to develop skills and gain experience of researching objects and archive material for a major new Museum gallery, with a focus on satellite communication.

Volunteers would be required to perform the following tasks within their role:

- Conduct research on communications satellites, objects in the collection and from other museums and external sources
- Consult a range of sources including the Mimsy database, files, the web, books and articles
- Write research summaries
- Conduct research on satellite types and various uses of satellites in communication.

Commitment required

We envisage one Volunteer working in this role. We would ask each Volunteer to commit for a minimum of two months, volunteering approximately 1 day per week.

Skills

Applicants for this role should have the following skills:

- Experience of researching from a range of sources
- Good writing and summarising skills.

Some knowledge of satellites and satellite communications technology is preferable.

Please note that the Science Museum Group is unable to reimburse travel expenses.

The Science Museum Group is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

How to apply

Application emails should be sent to volunteer@sciencemuseum.ac.uk by 17.00 on Friday 26 October 2012, and should cover the following:

- Why you would like to be a Science Museum Volunteer
- What you feel you would gain from being a Volunteer
- What makes you suited to the role you are applying for
- Your personal details.

You may also include a CV with your application, but this is not mandatory.