

Role title: Volunteer Contemporary Science Researcher
Department: Contemporary Science Team
Location: Science Museum, London
Overview: To work with the Contemporary Science Team to research, develop and deliver content for temporary exhibitions and events.

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 Contemporary Science Team develops content for the Antenna gallery, and also develops and delivers events in the Dana Centre. The team is also responsible for the Live Science area of the Who Am I? gallery, where researchers run real experiments with visitors.

The Antenna gallery features science news, mini-exhibits on topical issues in science (topic zones), mini-events with engineers and scientists (Antenna Live and Lates) and in-depth feature exhibitions based on contemporary science, medicine and technology.

Events at the Dana Centre take place mainly in the evenings and encourage dialogue around issues relating to science, technology and medicine. Volunteers will assist in this process by researching new developments in contemporary science, identifying potential stories, objects and images for display, identifying potential speakers for Dana events and providing administrative support for the team.

This is an exciting opportunity to assist a vibrant team who deliver innovative content about contemporary science, technology and medicine, and to gain research, communication and interpersonal skills. The role will also give Volunteers the chance to gain or improve understanding of science engagement and exhibit development.

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

- Support the team in the delivery of science news (research content, images, comment moderation)
- Support the team by assisting in researching content for future feature exhibitions and topic zones
- Support the team by helping to develop Dana events (research topics, speakers, formats and marketing)
- Support the team by assisting with Antenna Live and Lates events
- Support the team by assisting in the delivery of Live Science
- Carry out general administrative tasks for the team, the Antenna gallery or the Dana Centre
- Assist as ushers during Dana events (and as group facilitators if they feel comfortable doing so)
- Carry out general office administration tasks.

Commitment required

We are looking for one Volunteer per month for this role. Each Volunteer would commit to one month of full-time volunteering, Monday to Friday 09.45 – 17.00, however, this may be negotiable.

Skills

Applicants for this role should have the following skills:

- Research skills
- The ability to keep calm under pressure
- Problem solving abilities
- The ability to work as part of a team
- The ability to know when to ask for help
- Enthusiasm for communicating science
- A willingness to undertake diverse tasks
- Interpersonal skills

Other skills that might benefit an applicant would be:

- Experience of dealing with/talking about aspects of contemporary science
- Experience of communicating with scientists/researchers
- A scientific background
- Experience in computer programmes and web editing, mainly Outlook, HTML, Excel, Word and Powerpoint.

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.