

Engage Volunteer

**Main Purpose**

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has nationally and internationally important anthropology, musical instrument and natural history collections and displays, an aquarium, a butterfly house and an art studio space. It is surrounded by 16 acres of beautiful gardens. Further information on the museum can be found [on our website](http://www.horniman.ac.uk).

**Main objective of role**

The Horniman welcomes a wide range of people, including young families, to the museum each year. Engage volunteers help bring our objects and displays to life and enable visitors to have richer, more hands-on experiences at the museum. All necessary training is given – no prior experience is needed.

Tasks include:

* Providing an additional warm and welcoming presence in our public spaces
* Supporting visitors to learn through demonstrating handling of real museum objects i.e. skulls, taxidermy
* Supporting visitors to take part in craft activities in the museum i.e. origami
* Providing live interpretation in the butterfly house and at the bee display (no direct contact with bees)
* Helping to ensure a positive visitor experience by answering general questions about the museum and gardens, and directing visitors to further resources

**Commitment**

Volunteers are asked to choose one shift from the following options and attend on a regular basis (we ask for a minimum commitment of 4 months):

A weekly shift (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday)

Morning shift: 10:15 am –12.45 pm

Afternoon shift: 1.30 pm – 3.45 pm

Full day shift: 10:15 am – 3.45 pm (with a 45 min lunch break)

**The role would suit someone who:**

* Is friendly, welcoming and a confident communicator with a good standard of English
* Is a good listener and can adapt conversations to suit the needs and interests of a diverse range of visitors
* Is interested in informal learning and engaging, particularly, with children and families
* Has a broad interest in natural history, different world cultures and musical instruments
* Is comfortable being around live butterflies and moths in a hot tropical environment
* Is able to stand or sit for a sustained period of time in often busy areas

**What we can offer volunteers:**

* Opportunities for personal and professional growth and development in a supportive learning environment
* Training in customer service, live interpretation and safeguarding
* Reimbursement of travel expenses within Greater London; lunch expenses if volunteering a full day
* Special events for volunteers inc. behind-the-scenes talks and socials
* A 20% discount at the café and the shop
* Free entry to paid areas of the museum

**To apply**

Please contact volunteering@horniman.ac.uk and request an application form.