

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE, 2017

**VO'LUNTARY.** *adj.* [*volontaire*, Fr. *voluntarius*, Latin.]

1. Acting without compulsion; acting by choice.
2. Willing; acting with willingness.

(Johnson, *A Dictionary of the English Language*, 1755)



Dr Johnson's House is a charming Georgian townhouse, nestled amongst a maze of courts and alleys in the historic City of London. Samuel Johnson, writer and wit, lived here in the mid-18th century, and compiled his great *Dictionary of the English Language* in the Garret. Today, the House is open to the public from Monday to Saturday, with collections relating to Johnson, restored interiors, and a research library.

## **Volunteering at the House:**

Dr Johnson's House has a dedicated team of volunteers who provide invaluable support to our two members of staff, aiding the smooth running of the house. Volunteering can be a great way to meet new people and gain behind-the-scenes experience, and we recruit people of all ages and backgrounds to join our friendly volunteer team.

Owing to the small size of the organisation, all our volunteers must be prepared to undertake a wider variety of tasks, ranging from occasional Front of House duties to day-to-day housekeeping, as required. We regret that no travel expenses can be offered and no employment opportunities are available at the end of the period, although you will gain a great understanding of the many aspects of running an historic house museum and valuable experience in the heritage sector.

Not all placements require qualifications or previous experience, but an enthusiastic approach and an interest in Dr Johnson, and language and history is vital. Please refer to the person specification for each post.



# CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Collections Volunteer

### Availability:

One day per week, (preferably Thursday) (10am – 4.30pm)

You must be able to commit to the same day and time of the week for the whole of the placement period

### Placement period:

One month, to begin in June with the opportunity to extend this.

### Purpose of the role:

To assist the curator with preparations for our upcoming exhibitions.

### Suggested activities:

- Internet and secondary literature based research
- Creating records for objects in our temporary exhibitions
- Proof-reading exhibition and marketing text
- Updating our archives and records

### Person specification:

#### *Essential*

- A methodical approach and an eye for detail
- Work experience in a collections-based role in a museum or gallery and/or the study of Museum Studies to at least graduate level
- Excellent research skills

#### *Desirable*

- An interest in 18<sup>th</sup>-century history and/or English literature and/or Dr Johnson
- Experience of object handling and/or cataloguing

### To apply:

Please send a short CV and cover letter to [helenw@drjohnsonshouse.org](mailto:helenw@drjohnsonshouse.org) by **Friday 26 May**, clearly stating your availability. Please include the details of **two referees**, both of whom will be contacted before the placement can start.

### Dr Johnson's House

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