

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE, 2019

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

Front of House volunteer

Availability:

One morning or afternoon per week, Tuesday 11am – 2pm/Saturday 11am – 2pm or 2pm – 5.30pm

Placement period:

Ongoing

Purpose of the role:

To assist with the day to day running of the House on our reception desk/in our shop

Suggested activities:

- Welcoming visitors to the House
- Taking payments for admissions and shop sales
- Answering visitor queries
- Acting as a representative of the House at all times

Person specification:

Essential

- A professional and flexible attitude
- Experience in a public-facing role

Desirable

- Experience processing card payments in a retail environment
- An interest in Dr Johnson and the 18th century

To apply:

Please send a short CV and cover letter to helenw@drjohnsonshouse.org, clearly stating your availability. Please include the details of **two referees**, both of whom will be contacted before the placement can start.



Gardening Volunteer

Availability:

One afternoon per week, Monday – Saturday (Midday – 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:

Three month placement with opportunity to extend.

Purpose of the role:

To help maintain the museum courtyard garden.

Suggested activities:

- General garden maintenance – weeding/pruning/clearing leaves
- Planting and repotting
- Chatting to visitors and answering questions

Person specification:

Essential

- Keen interest in gardening with proven experience in a relevant job or volunteer position
- Happy and confident interacting with the public

Desirable

- An interest in 18th-century history and/or English literature and/or Dr Johnson

To apply:

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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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