

Volunteer Role Description

Gallery Steward

What is a Gallery Steward?

Gallery Stewards have a vital role in providing a warm welcome to our visitors, introducing them to the galleries and inspiring them to learn more about Thomas Gainsborough, Suffolk artists and the temporary exhibitions in an interesting and enjoyable way. They make all the difference to every visitor's experience at Gainsborough's House, sharing the history of the spaces and the significance of the collections. Promoting the Guidebook and other Gainsborough publications will offer continued and more detailed learning during and after a visit whilst actively contributing to the museum's income.

Gallery Stewards also play a valuable part in safeguarding our interiors and collections, helping to ensure their care for future generations.

What's in it for you?

- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Meeting people and making new friends
- Improving your communication skills
- Enjoying new experiences and developing your knowledge
- The chance to give your time in your local community
- Being involved with art and heritage

What's involved?

- Providing a warm, friendly welcome to every visitor as the public face of Gainsborough's House and being available as a point of contact throughout their visit
- Interpreting the exhibition and collections for visitors by sharing the history of the house, its past inhabitants, the significance of the collections and the major project
- Enhancing the visitor experience by engaging in conversation about the museum, collections, resources and services

- Developing a basic understanding about Gainsborough's House, Thomas Gainsborough and the collections of other artists on display
- Being aware of the needs of visitors as they navigate the museum, helping to make Gainsborough's House accessible to all visitors to ensure they get the best experience
- Helping to ensure the rooms are well presented and highlighting any issues to staff
- Promoting the shop and café to enhance a visit
- Following security procedures to help protect the interiors and collection during opening hours
- Ensuring visitors' safety by actively helping to evacuate during an emergency
- Acting as an Ambassador for Gainsborough's House whilst on duty

This role will suit people who... have an enthusiastic and friendly manner; have a keen interest in art and history; enjoy meeting people; like being part of a team; are keen to learn and wish to give some time in their local community.

Hours

Shifts last 2 hours or 2.5 hours depending on the day and time chosen to help. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up to a rota by phone or in person. Scheduling is flexible, the recommended commitment is one shift per week and volunteers are welcome to commit to more if they wish, we value all help offered. The minimum commitment is one shift per month.

Training

A compulsory volunteer induction plus the opportunity for relaxed learning about the collections and temporary exhibitions on display and in our archives.

Benefits

- Unlimited free admission to Gainsborough's House and all exhibitions
- Quarterly volunteer meetings and breakfast tours of each exhibition
- Training on art collections
- Invitation to the annual summer garden party and a seasonal drinks event
- A monthly E-newsletter

This role is purely voluntary, and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract.