Volunteer Role Description: Object Handling Volunteer

The Role
‘Hands on Coins’ sessions provide visitors with the opportunity to handle and learn about coins ranging in age from Ancient Greek to Victorian and including both Asian and European examples.

- Sessions are offered Saturdays, 11.30 am - 1.30 pm and 1.30 - 3.30 pm in the Money Gallery (volunteers will need to arrive a little earlier in preparation).
- Volunteers engage with visitors, helping them to learn from the objects and discover the stories behind the coins, whilst also ensuring that they are handled appropriately.
- Sessions are free, drop-in, and aimed at the general public.
- Volunteers will usually work in pairs but may occasionally be asked if they are happy to work alone.
- No previous knowledge or experience is required as full training will be given.
- There may be opportunity to support object handling with other collections in future.

Timing and commitment
Volunteers are recruited and trained for this role periodically. Once they have joined the team, they can expect to deliver a 2 hour session (morning or afternoon) once or twice per month, although the rota is flexible. Coin handlers are occasionally invited to deliver additional sessions by prior arrangement, e.g. as part of archaeology-themed family friendly events.

Training and support
Prior to joining the team volunteers attend a short training course by curatorial and museum staff: currently 2 hours, early evening, on 2 dates (both essential, please see below) – followed by a practice session to be arranged at a mutually convenient time.*

Volunteers learn about 14 coins from the collection but only present 7 at a time. They are encouraged to further familiarise themselves with the Money Gallery in their own time.

*Volunteers become active object handlers by mutual agreement with staff at this point/when they feel ready. They then work independently to set up and run handling sessions without direct supervision on the day.

We are looking for volunteers who:
- Will enjoy engaging a diverse audience with the collection.
- Will be able to manage groups of people in a potentially busy museum setting.
• Will demonstrate a sense of responsibility for the collections: the coins are museum objects.
• Are polite and helpful; you will likely be asked a variety of unrelated questions!
• Won’t mind that sometimes it is busier or quieter than at other times.

Why you might enjoy this role
The opportunity to:
• join a friendly, enthusiastic, and supportive team of volunteers.
• interact with and inspire visitors.
• contribute to the museum’s public education and accessibility remit.
• share your passion for history.
• learn about the collections.
• develop and practise communication skills.
• gain experience of object-based teaching.
• Gain training and experience in handling museum objects.

Other information
• This role involves handling small objects. Please get in touch if you have any concerns regarding your manual dexterity.
• Arrangements can be made to accommodate and support young volunteers aged 16-18. Please let us know in your application if this applies to you or if you would like further details.
• We are happy to reimburse travel expenses up to a maximum of £5 per session on receipt of travel tickets.
• This role is not regulated activity so does not require an additional safeguarding (DBS) check.
• This role does not require a Right to Work check.

Interviews & Training
We expect to hold interviews for this role online via Teams on 8th and 9th November (evening slots available). Training for this role will take place on Wednesdays 15th and 22nd November (both dates are essential) from 5.30-7.30pm at the Ashmolean Museum. To apply for this role please get in touch by Monday 6th November to tell us briefly why you would like to help and what you feel you would bring to the role (in no more than 200 words). To apply please contact: volunteering@glam.ox.ac.uk