



About us

The Royal Academy is a unique organisation which was established in 1768 to professionalise art practice in Britain. It is one of the UK's leading arts institutions, dedicated to making, exhibiting and debating art.

The Royal Academy presents a world class programme of exhibitions which are visited by over one million people a year. Our purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists and our public programme promotes the creation, study and enjoyment of art and architecture to a wide range of audiences through exhibitions, education and debate.

This year the Royal Academy will be celebrating its 250th Birthday. To prepare for this historic anniversary, our campus is undergoing a radical redevelopment, led by architect Sir David Chipperfield R.A. This project will unite our two buildings - Burlington House and 6 Burlington Gardens - providing new exhibition spaces, a 260-seat lecture theatre, a dedicated learning centre and free spaces showcasing our Collection. To animate these new spaces, we will be running an exciting programme of events and activities, including an increased free tour offer.

To read more about our plans for RA250, visit our website:

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/page/ra250>

The role

We are looking for enthusiastic and outgoing volunteers to join our team of knowledgeable RA Guides, to share the heritage and Collection of the Royal Academy with a wide range of visitors through our free guided tours. You'll be joining us at an historic moment as we look to increase and diversify our guided tour programme and offer the public an opportunity to see the RA Collections up-close for the very first time. You'll be key to bringing the stories of our history, architecture and Collections to life!

We do not have standard scripts for our RA Guides, instead we work with our volunteer guides to use a mix of their own knowledge and specialisms, together with our content and information, to shape a varied programme of tours. This way tours reflect their interests and provide visitors with an interactive, enjoyable and informative experience. The RA will provide volunteer training and guidance.

What will you be doing?

- Research and develop, through group and individual work, your own tour content
- Conduct introductory half-hour and thematic hour-long tours with a variety of visitors
- Gather visitor feedback on tours through comments cards and questionnaires
- Attend regular meetings, talks and training to keep knowledge up-to-date
- Support fellow volunteers by acting as chaperone for larger tour groups

- Offer visitors additional information about what's on and how to get around the site
- Represent the Royal Academy to visitors

What are we looking for?

- A friendly and approachable manner
- Passion for arts, architecture and heritage
- Enthusiasm and desire to communicate to diverse audiences with many different interests and learning styles
- Good time management
- A flexible approach to telling the story of the RA
- Confidence to speak in public
- A team player willing to share knowledge and best practice with fellow volunteers and RA team

What will this volunteer opportunity offer you?

- A chance to engage, enthuse and inspire visitors using the rich heritage of the RA, its buildings and Collection
- Develop detailed knowledge of the RA's world-class Collection and its Grade II* listed home of Burlington House and 6 Burlington Gardens
- Training on how to engage audiences and ways to talk about art and architecture
- Opportunity to input your ideas for content and themes of new tours as the programme develops
- Be part of an exciting stage in the history of the Royal Academy and celebrate our 250th Birthday
- Join a friendly and welcoming team of like-minded people
- Reimbursement of travel expenses, in line with RA policy, of up to £12 per day

Commitment

Initial commitment:

- Approximately 20 hours of training to cover a wide range of topics and give you confidence in leading RA tours – April and May
- Practice tours and final developments throughout June – At least two practice tours as a minimum

On-going commitment:

- Due to the level of training offered we ask volunteers for this role to commit to at least **one year** of guiding with the RA
- An average of 2 tours per month, either mornings or afternoons, on a weekday or weekend. Some flexibility in the days of the week you are available is preferable

Interview and Training

You will need to be available to attend **one** of the following recruitment days:

Wednesday 14 March: 10.30am – 1pm

Saturday 17 March: 10.30am – 1pm

Wednesday 21 March: 10.30am – 1pm

An intensive training programme will run between April - June 2018, a variety of dates and times (weekdays, evenings and weekends) will be offered to ensure you can attend.

How to Apply?

If you are interested in applying for this role, please visit our recruitment page and complete an Expression of Interest Form:

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/careers-at-the-ra#other-opportunities>

If you have any questions or problems with your application, please get in touch via

volunteering@royalacademy.org