



RA Volunteer Guides (weekends)

Closing date for applications: Monday 27 January 10:00

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.

It is a particularly exciting time in our history after having redeveloped our 2.5-acre campus in Mayfair, uniting our two buildings and providing refurbished galleries for the display of art and architecture, a state-of-the-art auditorium, a new learning centre and a dedicated Collection Gallery in Burlington Gardens, and enabling greater public visibility of the art school at the heart of the Academy.

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 daily guided tours. We are specifically looking for volunteers to give tours at the weekend.

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 training and guidance.

What will you do?

- Research and develop, through group and individual work, your own tour content
- Conduct introductory half-hour with our 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
- Confidence to speak in public and be asked questions
- A team player willing to share knowledge and best practice with fellow volunteers and RA team
- **You must be 18 or over to apply**

What will this volunteer opportunity offer you?

- A fulfilling and challenging role in a friendly, welcoming team.
- 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 suitable to the role and to your development
- Opportunity to input your ideas for content and themes of new tours as the programme develops
- Reimbursement of travel expenses, in line with RA policy, of up to £12 per day

Commitment

Initial commitment:

- One full training day in February.
- Ongoing shadowing and practice tours in February-March. The dates and timing of these will be arranged with you.

On-going commitment:

- Due to the level of training offered we ask volunteers for this role to commit to at least six months of guiding with the RA
- An average of 2 tours per month. 30 minute tours are given daily at 11:30 & 12:30.

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#volunteering-and-work-experience>

The closing date for applications is Monday 27 January 10:00.

Interview and Training

Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to a recruitment day where you will be asked to showcase your public speaking skills and working as a group. Successful candidates from this group will then be asked to attend training to become an RA Guide.

You must be available for **both** dates if you wish to apply:

Recruitment morning - Monday 3 February 10:00-12:30

Training - Monday 10 February 10:00-16:30

If you have any questions or problems with your application, please get in touch via volunteering@royalacademy.org.uk