

## **Job Description**

ROLE:	Universities Shed Development Officer
SALARY:	c. £28,000 per annum, dependent on experience
HOURS:	Full time, 37.5 hours per week – for one year
LOCATION:	Home working, with travel required and occasional overnight stays
ANNUAL LEAVE:	25 days plus bank holidays
CLOSING DATE:	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
INTERVIEW DATE:	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December, Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December

## **MEN'S SHEDS & UK MEN'S SHEDS ASSOCIATION**

The UK Men's Sheds Association (UKMSA) exists to help people to be healthy and happy through inspiring, growing, and enabling Shed Communities across the United Kingdom.

The Shed movement is growing and this is an exciting time to join UKMSA as we work to support and promote Sheds for the improvement of health and wellbeing, adding years to life and life to years.

As part of a pilot programme, made possible by the generosity of one of our funders, we are seeking a full time Universities Shed Development Officer to support the creation of new men's Sheds across selected universities in the UK. This pilot project will run for one calendar year.

As part of our Shed Development Team, the Universities Shed Development Officer will initiate, and facilitate the delivery of, a number of new Sheds across UK universities.

Men's Sheds create community connection, increased social contact and the sharing of skills. This role will see you primarily engaging with universities to help others develop new Sheds in a way we know to be effective.

You will be responsible for delivering a pilot programme adapting and introducing the concept of men's Sheds in a university setting. In this pilot, Sheds will be targeted primarily at young men aged 18-25 years and may include provisions for students of other genders, university staff and the wider community. Men's Sheds are an academically acknowledged, well evidenced, non-traditional method of reducing feelings of anxiety, social isolation and loneliness in men, particularly effective during times of significant life transitions and with those at high risk of dying by suicide.

You will deliver information about the concept of men's Sheds, their positive impact and the history of the Shed Movement to university staff, students, local groups and individuals in order to build relationships,

establish interest, form Shed Steering Groups and support the development of new Sheds in university settings, engaging with local and/or existing Sheds to develop learning and further connections between universities and the community.

Throughout the course of the pilot programme, you will develop resources that will enable the development on new Sheds in universities, guiding them through the process, developing templates and sharing learning and best practice by utilising existing resources and working with existing UKMSA staff and volunteers.

You will support the universities and the young people involved, to take ownership of their Sheds, determining the look and feel of the Shed in whatever way they believe will have the widest impact. Success will be measured quantitatively (the number of pilot Sheds, attendance and well-being survey data) as well as qualitatively by collecting stories from students involved. It is anticipated the learning from this pilot will be used in various contexts to understand the impact and potential for the Shed concept in a university setting and establish future plans.

The Universities Shed Development Officer role is critical to developing an understanding of the potential for Sheds in this context and will see the UKMSA move further toward our Mission of a Shed for every person that wishes to access one.

This is a home-based role with frequent travel across the country. It may require occasional overnight stays and some national meetings.

If you are interested in joining us then please visit <https://menssheds.org.uk/about/work-with-us/> and send your C.V. with a covering letter detailing your suitability for the role(s) to [vacancies@ukmsa.org.uk](mailto:vacancies@ukmsa.org.uk) **Please apply as soon as possible as we will be arranging to meet potential candidates at the earliest opportunity.**

## **PURPOSE**

The development and growth of men's Sheds is made possible through a network of volunteers and partnerships across the UK. This role will develop new Sheds across universities, coordinate and manage partnerships with other organisations and charities to support the growth and development of the movement. This role has the focus to support the growth and development of new men's Sheds, enhancing our reach and the reach of Sheds. Our partnerships underpin the development programmes of the charity.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Actively engage with university staff, students and other stakeholders in the academic or health sectors to promote the Shed Movement.
- Initiate and support others in the delivery of multiple new Sheds.
- Initiate and develop strong working relationships with relevant stakeholders across communities that can support the development of new university Sheds.
- Develop the creation of templates, guides and promotional materials tailored to universities that can be used as future resources.
- Identify members of the Shed community that may wish to volunteer for the UKMSA.
- Attend regular team meetings and update on targeted development work.
- Support the development of insight across the programme including the acquisition of case studies and quantitative data.

## **Essential Skills/Experience**

- Initiative to quickly develop and manage multiple project streams, at different stages of completion.
- Experience of community development work or working with volunteer led groups within the charity sector.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work across different sectors to build effective relationships with a variety of stakeholders.
- Excellent organisational skills with proven experience working across multiple tasks/projects to deadlines.
- The ability to inspire and empower others to achieve their aims.
- An understanding of gendered health inequalities and the challenges faced by men in regards to suicide and accessing mental and physical health support.
- The ability to maintain and update records.
- Self-motivated to work from home/remotely.
- Own vehicle and a valid driving license for frequent travel.

## **Desirable Skills/Experience**

- Knowledge and understanding of the men's Shed Movement.
- Experience in gathering case studies to demonstrate impact.
- Experience of university life, either as a recent student, staff member or other related occupation.
- Experience working or volunteering with marginalised groups or communities.

**Equality, diversity, and equal opportunities**

UKMSA is fully committed to, and promotes, equality and diversity in all aspects of the organisation and its work. As part of their employment, all staff are expected to understand, comply with and promote the UKMSA's Equal Opportunities policy.

**Eligibility**

Proof of eligibility to work in the UK is required. A DBS check may be required.