



Fairfax House
YORK

Volunteer Role Description

Fairfax House Room Host

What is a Room Host?

Room Hosts play an important role in creating a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for our visitors, underpinned by an informative approach. Our Hosts help bring the house to life by sharing its history and stories with visitors and contributing to the quality of their visit.

What is Fairfax House?

A classical architectural masterpiece of the eighteenth century, Fairfax House was originally the winter home of Ann Fairfax and her father, the 9th Viscount of Emley. Its richly decorated interior was designed by York's most distinguished architect, John Carr. Extensively adapted in the twentieth century as a cinema and dancehall, Fairfax House was saved from collapse and returned to its former glory by the York Civic Trust in 1983-84. Today, Fairfax House once more transports you to the splendour of city living in Georgian York, the centre of polite society. The superb Noel Terry collection of furniture, clocks, paintings and decorative arts, described by Christie's as one of the finest private collections of the twentieth century, perfectly complements the house, bringing it to life and creating a special lived-in feeling.

Is this Role for Me?

To be a Room Host, you don't need vast knowledge, just a passion to inform, inspire and engage the thousands of people who visit this property each year. This role is suited to those who have an interest in history, particularly the Georgian period, and is ideal for people looking to enhance career opportunities or explore a loved topic as a new hobby.

What's Involved?

- Greeting visitors as they enter a room and being ready to help them with any questions they might have.
- Offering details and talking engagingly about the house, collection and room in which you are hosting.
- Helping to inspire visitors to discover more about our collection.



Induction, Training & Support

Prospective volunteers will be invited on site to visit the house and meet with our Volunteer Coordinator. This informal chat helps us to get to know you a little more and answers any questions you might have about the process. We will then be able to book you onto your first volunteering session, in which you will shadow existing volunteers whilst you settle into the role. We have digital and physical information resources, all to help you learn about the house, collection and family at your own pace. You will be supported throughout your volunteering by our Volunteer Coordinator and Front of House team.

What are the Benefits of Volunteering?

- The opportunity to volunteer in a beautiful historical environment where you can grow your knowledge of Georgian York.
- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team where you can meet people from all walks of life and make new friends.
- All volunteers receive 10% off in our museum gift shop and are gifted a Northern Museums Pass to encourage free and reduced visits to other museums across the North of England.
- An invite to our monthly volunteer events and access to our monthly newsletter filled with new research and updates about the house.

Commitment

Our volunteering slots are split across Saturday – Thursday every week in 3 slots of 2 ¼ to 2 ½ hours. We offer volunteers the chance to commit fortnightly or weekly (or even more if you like) for one of these time slots. Our rota is completed at least 4 weeks in advance so that we can stay as organised as possible and if you are ever unable to make a slot, we ask that you provide us as much notice as possible.



How do I apply?

Fairfax House is always looking for more friendly people to join our Room Hosting Team!

If you would like to apply, please email evie.andrews@fairfaxhouse.co.uk for our simple application form, or feel free to pop into the museum and ask for one at the front desk.

For more information or any questions, please don't hesitate to contact evie.andrews@fairfaxhouse.co.uk

This role is purely voluntary and does not create a legally binding arrangement or employment contract.