



Fairfax House
YORK

Volunteer Role Description

Costumed Ambassador

What is a Volunteer Costumed Ambassador?

As a Volunteer Costumed Ambassador you will be a public and visible ambassador for Fairfax House. In summer our Costumed Ambassadors help champion Fairfax House as the finest Georgian Townhouse by providing information, handing out leaflets and helping guide people with directions. Located in the immediate environs of Fairfax House, or taking to the streets of York you will work in pairs or small groups as the ultimate public face of the townhouse, generating interest and questions about who we are, and what Georgian York's history is about.

In winter our Ambassadors help staff the *Georgian Kitchen* serving mulled wine and mince pies, and bringing the annual *Keeping of Christmas* festive installation to life. As the role title suggests you will be asked to wear an appropriate Georgian costume (provided).

What's in it for you?

- This is a unique opportunity to be at the heart of bringing Fairfax House to life
- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Meeting people and making new friends
- Improving your communication skills
- Learning about this fascinating period of history
- Indulging in wearing costume from other periods of history
- Enjoying new experiences
- Great personal satisfaction, since you have the opportunity to make a real difference to our visitors' experience

What's involved?

- Costumed as a member of the eighteenth-century Fairfax household, you will help extend Fairfax House's reach by offering a visible 'Georgian' presence in York.
- Engaging with the public, you will help inform and engage so as to champion York's Georgian history and Fairfax House as *the finest Georgian townhouse in England*.
- You will often be the first point of contact for people and will play an important role in providing a warm and friendly welcome and influencing their decision to visit.

- Developing a good knowledge of Fairfax House to help people understand why this is an important place and heritage site, and why they would like to visit it.
- Communicating with people of all ages and from all walks of life will be a key part and enable you to help set the scene for their experience at Fairfax House.
- Costumed Ambassadors will be equipped with printed materials and information that can be handed out about our events, exhibitions, children's *Townhouse Mouse* trail.
- As the public face of Fairfax House you will play an important role in answering questions from the public in an informed and accessible way and helping to direct people how to find the House.
- In winter you will help us in bringing *The Keeping of Christmas* annual exhibition to life, by serving mulled wine and mince pies in the Georgian Kitchen.
- Developing a good knowledge of the history of Fairfax House, you will also be able to help offer an insight into life below stairs and Georgian food history.

This role will suit people who... enjoy meeting new people and engaging with the public, are confident and outgoing. You may also perhaps have cherished a desire to don historic costume and hold an interest and passion for history, in particular Georgian York. It is important that you are a good communicator, like working in a team and have a common sense approach.

Extra information

Time commitment

As little or as much as you would like but ideally at least once a fortnight in summer. During winter our Georgian Kitchen serves mulled wine in the afternoon, and you would be needed for one full afternoon shift at a time. In order to get ready you will need to be on duty at least 20 minutes before in order to get ready and into costume.

Staff Contact House Steward

What you need to wear

Bring sensible wear for being on your feet and moving around e.g. comfortable shoes. You will be provided with a costume. We ask that you keep to a minimum 'modern' accessories (earrings, watches, hair accessories etc) that can impact on the 'authenticity' of Georgian dress.

Training/Resources All training will be provided by Fairfax House. You will be asked to attend twice-yearly Volunteer meeting so that you can keep up to date with relevant information and news, and network with your colleagues.

This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract.