

Curator - Maternity Cover (one year)

Job Description & Person Specification

The Freud Museum London is seeking an interim Curator to cover for Bryony Davies, who will be on maternity leave from August 2022. The post-holder will be responsible for the range of curatorial duties, including collections care and management of the Museum's collections, archive and library.

The Curator is a key member of the Museum Management Team. This is an excellent opportunity to work in a curatorial role in a high-profile small museum.

Organisation	Freud Museum London
Location	Based at Freud Museum London, 20 Maresfield Gardens, London, NW3 5SX Flexibility over home working is also possible.
Job Title	Curator (maternity cover)
Reports To	Director
Works with	Staff team, and Board of Trustees. Manages curatorial volunteers
Hours of work	Full-time, 40 hours per week. Strong part-time applications will be considered.
Pay	£27,000 pa
Application	CV & Covering Letter to Bryony Davies, by post or email: bryony@freud.org.uk, outlining suitability for the job and why you are applying.
Closing Date	Closing date for applications: Sunday 22 May at 5pm
Interviews	Interviews will be held if possible in the week beginning 30 May

Background Information

The Freud Museum London was the last home of Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), the founder of psychoanalysis, and the place of his death. The Museum houses all the personal effects which Freud brought with him when he was forced to leave Austria following its annexation by Nazi Germany in 1938. It also houses the personal possessions of Freud's daughter Anna, herself a prominent child psychoanalyst, who lived in the house until her death in 1982.

Vision: Our vision is that Sigmund and Anna Freud's home and unique collections will inspire discovery and debate across the world on the history and continuing centrality of psychoanalysis

Mission: In Sigmund and Anna Freud's last home we explore their psychoanalytic legacy and the difference this can make to people's lives. This is a welcoming place for learning, engagement and creativity, which encourages all, in Freud's words, to 'stimulate thought and upset prejudices'.

The Freud Museum London is an extraordinary, atmospheric place, quietly located in a residential side street in North London.

As an independent charity the museum receives no government funds, but generates the majority of its income through its own successful and wide ranging activities - admissions, events, retail sales, private hire - and the balance through donations and grants.

The Museum has developed an international reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions, innovative education and public programmes, and also for research and publications, thanks to its significant archives and photo library. In the last decade visitor numbers have risen consistently, and the Museum attracts an international audience and reputation.

However the Museum, like all arts institutions, was severely affected by the Covid pandemic. Its financial position was maintained through use of the government's support schemes, successful fundraising and grant applications, and developing new income streams.

Returning to a financially stable position is key, but like so many other organizations, the Board and Director have recognised that this is a chance to refocus, not just assume a return to 'business as usual'. For instance the Museum is uniquely placed to respond to the increasing emphasis and interest in promoting good mental health. This is an exciting time to join the Freud Museum, and to help deliver change.

Further information on the Museum can be found at www.freud.org.uk

Museum Collections

The collections are divided as follows:

Antiquities: Freud's personal collection of approximately 2000 Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Near Eastern and Asiatic antiquities, mostly on display in his study or elsewhere in the house.

Household possessions: Freud's desk and consulting couch, and furniture brought from Austria and later purchased by Anna. The furniture includes Biedermeier furniture and Austrian painted furniture, and later modernist pieces. There are a number of prints and paintings included in the collection, and also a fine collection of oriental rugs. There are a number of personal effects, for instance Freud's glasses and boots.

Freud's Personal Library: This library of over 1600 titles is composed of the volumes that Freud selected to bring from Vienna in 1938. These line the walls of his study and library and include books on a range of topics, including medicine, literature, archaeology and history. The collection also includes rare volumes and offprints of Freud's own works, and other early psychoanalytic books and journals.

Anna Freud's Library: This includes books on the theory, practice and history of psychoanalysis collected by Anna, and is the basis of a valuable reference library. The library is continually updated with donations and purchases of contemporary writing in the field of psychoanalysis and Freudian studies.

Archives: The archive holds both original material, and copies of many personal letters and documents otherwise only available at the Library of Congress Freud Archive in Washington. The archive is divided into the following sections:

- Personal letters and documents – approximately 6000 letters to and from Sigmund Freud, 1500 other letters, and over 1000 documents. This collection consists primarily of copies
- Photographs – approximately 4000. These include images of the Freud family, friends, relatives and colleagues, early psychoanalytic conferences and events, home and work, and the life of Anna Freud
- Press cuttings – approximately 2000, on all aspects of Freud's life and work.

Researchers have access by appointment to the reference and Sigmund Freud's libraries, their personal papers and photograph albums. A number of national and international loans are made annually from the collections, and these provide a significant source of income.

Key responsibilities

Collections Management:

- To care for the collections, library and archive material on display and in storage to the highest professional standards
- To monitor and manage the environmental conditions for the collection, archive and library
- Responsibility for collections documentation, including plans to address the documentation backlog identified in the Documentation Plan
- To be responsible for Adlib, the Museum's collections management database, and ensure it is working, up to date and accurate
- Responsible for the online presentation of the collections
- To lead on the Museum's Accreditation process

Interpretation, displays and research:

- To carry out research and writing on the collections and archive
- To make the collections and archive more accessible, both physically and online, and encourage digital engagement, including work on an archive digitization project.
- To help plan and manage the Museum's temporary exhibition programme
- To assist with the preparation of permanent and temporary displays, including researching and writing exhibition text and supporting material
- Promoting engagement with the collections, including giving talks and involvement in educational sessions

Management

- Making appropriate fundraising applications for grants
- Managing curatorial volunteers
- Contribute to the development plans for the Museum

Other

- To deal with loan requests and research enquiries.
- To deal with photo library requests
- Other reasonable duties as requested that contribute to the running of the museum

Skills, Knowledge and Experience

- Educated to degree level
- Master's degree in museums studies or equivalent
- At least two years curatorial/collections care experience in a museum or heritage environment
- Good knowledge of Adlib and Microsoft Office applications
- Flexible in approach
- Experience of working in a small organisation
- Ability to meet deadlines, handle competing priorities and adapt to changing priorities
- Good attention to detail and excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Confident, enthusiastic, hard-working and a committed team player
- Tact, discretion and understanding of the need for confidentiality

- Good knowledge of social media and the digital environment
- Interest in Sigmund Freud, Anna Freud, psychoanalysis, mental health issues and the work of the Freud Museum London

April 2022