Volunteer Role Description
Costumed Volunteer: Brunel’s Chief Clerk

Purpose of the role:
To inspire and engage visitors to the SS Great Britain by bringing the story of the ship and her designer Isambard Kingdom Brunel to life in an interesting and relevant way.

Main activities:
As a Costumed Interpretation Volunteer you will wear period costume and interact with visitors as yourself. In your role as Brunel’s Chief Clerk there are many ways in which you will bring the history of the ship to life including:

- Welcoming visitors to Brunel’s Duke Street office and establishing the time and place recreated in the space: London in the autumn of 1840
- Describing the role Duke Street played in Brunel’s professional life and the engineering business he conducted there
- Share with visitors the story of the development of the SS Great Britain’s design during a pivotal moment in Brunel’s career
- Answering visitors’ questions and providing accurate information in a lively and engaging way
- Enabling all visitors to explore and interact with Brunel’s office and to follow in his footsteps
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What the SS Great Britain can offer:
- A fun and engaging role where you get the chance to dress in historical costume
- The chance to learn the fascinating history of the ship and the work and life of Isambard Kingdom Brunel
- A social and training program with opportunities and events throughout the year
- The chance to make new friends and to be part of a vibrant team
- A reference when you have been volunteering with us regularly for over six months

About you:
No prior experience is necessary, we will provide you with the costume and all of the training and information that you need. We are looking for people who:

- Are happy wearing historical costume and interacting with visitors in an engaging way
- Have an interest in Victorian or maritime history and sharing their passion with others
- Are willing to undertake training related to the role and carry out some research into their character with staff support
- Are friendly, approachable and confident in a busy public environment
- Are enthusiastic about working with our visitors of all ages and backgrounds
- Want to share their passion for history in an engaging and interactive way
- Can volunteer for at least a morning or afternoon session per week
- Please note: all costumed roles are open to both male and female volunteers

As a Costumed Interpretation Volunteer you will be supervised by Simon Strain, Active Interpretation Manager.

Volunteers are an important part of the charity and play a vital role in enhancing the work of the Trust. We are committed to providing volunteering opportunities of a high standard.

Ready to take the next step?
If you would like to join our crew or have any questions please get in touch by completing an enquiry form, available at http://www.ssgreatbritain.org/support-us/volunteer.

You will be invited to a recruitment event where you’ll have the chance to learn more about the volunteer roles, meet the team, discuss the role further and ensure that it is right for you.

You can contact our Volunteer Administrator by emailing volunteering@ssgreatbritain.org or telephoning 0117 922 5737. We would love to hear from you!