



## WORK-STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: Life Sciences Work Study  
Reports To: Life Sciences Coordinator

Department: Museum Education  
Location of Workspace: Life Lab

### POSITION SUMMARY:

Museum Education Work Study Students are in the halls and labs of OMSI where they facilitate hands-on science experiences and inspire museum guests to make amazing connections with science through activities, demonstrations, and informal interactions. Work Study Students assist Museum Education staff in the regular maintenance, upkeep, and development of the museum halls and labs.

The Life Sciences work study position has two main roles: (1) assist the Life Sciences Coordinator in class type programs for grades K-12, and (2) assist with maintenance of the lab, including animal husbandry. Visitors to the Life Science Lab explore concepts such as ecology, anatomy, animal biology and more. With living collections such as snakes, rats and insects, guests of the life science lab can view these animals in a safe learning environment. Also with activities such as microscope exploration, DNA extraction and owl pellet dissections, this lab offers facilitated hands-on learning of Biology.

### EXPERIENCES THIS POSITION WILL PROVIDE:

- Assist the coordinator in the class type programs; such as organizing supplies, maintaining equipment, leading and encouraging small group discussions.
- Assist in preparation and clean-up of class type programs.
- Update curriculum content.
- Maintain integrity and appearance of hall and lab exhibits on a daily basis. This includes animal care, lab cleaning, and assistance with opening and closing procedures.
- Share accurate science and museum information with visitors.
- Maintain a safe and secure environment for visitors.
- Support coordinator to train, coach, and supervise Life Science Lab volunteers.
- Be prepared to be trained and work in other science halls or labs as needed.
- Assume tasks and responsibilities as assigned by the Science Educators.

### KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:

*What we are looking for:*

- Ability to present science process and content in an engaging way to a broad age range.
- Basic knowledge and interest in Life Science – Biology, Anatomy, Zoology, etc.
- Strong communication and customer service skills.
- Comfortable working with and handling live animals.
- Experience working with the public in educational settings highly desirable.

### TRAINING YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Animal care and animal handling
- Lab specific maintenance and procedures
- Engaging in life science demonstrations and activities
- General informal science education philosophies and pedagogy
- Culturally responsive facilitation strategies
- Facilitation best practices, including how to facilitate intergenerational communication,

For more information, contact Volunteer Engagement at 503-797-4615 or [Volunteer@omsi.edu](mailto:Volunteer@omsi.edu). Visit our website at [www.omsi.edu](http://www.omsi.edu). OMSI is located at 1945 SE Water Ave, Portland, OR 97214



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frame questions, gauge and respond to guests' social and educational goals, and cultivate learner-driven investigations

- Museum safety and emergency response

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Recognizing and promoting of science process skills
- Fostering learner-driven investigations
- Negotiating facilitator and visitor goals for optimal museum experience
- Supporting culturally responsive facilitation techniques
- Identifying benefits and disadvantages of using different types of objects and models in learning experiences
- Gaining knowledge of museum culture and practices
- Strengthen understanding of basic biology concepts
- Develop and improve science communication skills

### SCHEDULE:

- Ideal candidates will commit to 6 – 12 hours a week for at least 1 academic term/semester.
- Must have Tuesday availability.

### HOW TO APPLY:

This position is only available to students who have been awarded Federal Work-Study funding as part of their financial aid award package. To apply and submit your [online application](#), along with a resume and cover letter. As part of the hiring process you may be invited to interview. If hired you will need to complete a background check.