



Museum Education: Physics Lab Summer Internship Position Description

POSITION SUMMARY:

Museum Education interns 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. Interns assist Museum Education staff in the regular presentation and development of the museum halls and labs.

This position is for the Physics Lab and reports to the Physical Sciences Coordinator. Visitors to the Physics Lab explore concepts such as electricity, magnetism, optics, sound and more. Home to some of OMSI's longtime favorite activities like the one-of-a-kind hand cranked Van de Graaff generator, the Physics Lab is growing to include a 3-D printer, and new activities to go along with the classics!

EXPERIENCES THE INTERNSHIP WILL PROVIDE:

- Facilitating hands-on physics and engineering activities and interactions with museum guests of all ages
- Working in a collaborative environment with paid and unpaid staff of a variety of ages, experiences, and backgrounds
- Opportunities to develop individual or team projects including (but not limited to) creation of demonstrations, development of lab materials, or assisting with reserved lab classes

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:

What we are looking for:

- Strong communication, customer service, and problem-solving skills.
- Self-directed and willing to take initiative.
- Desire and/or ability to present science process and content in an engaging way to a broad age range.
- Present a professional personal appearance.
- Must be dependable, punctual, and willing to commit to a schedule.
- Background or interest in physics, engineering and/or education preferred

Training you will receive:

- General informal science education philosophies and pedagogy
- Facilitation best practices, including how to facilitate intergenerational communication, frame questions, gauge and respond to guests' social and educational goals, and cultivate learner-driven investigations
- Culturally responsive facilitation strategies
- Museum safety and emergency response
- Engaging in physics demonstrations and activities
- Lab specific maintenance and procedures

SCHEDULE:

- Schedule depends on needs of the lab or hall, but will be regular and predictable week to week.
- Minimum of 16 hours per week for at least 12 weeks.
- Since the museum is open 7 days per week in the summer, our preference is for both weekend and weekday availability.

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LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Recognizing and promoting of science process skills
- Fostering learner-driven investigations
- Negotiating facilitator and visitor goals
- 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 physics concepts
- Develop and improve science communication skills

PHOTOS OF THE WORK AREA:

