



## WORK-STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: Physics Lab Educator – Work Study  
Reports To: Physical Sciences Coordinator

Department: Museum Education  
Location of Workspace: Physics Lab,  
Turbine Hall, Offices in These Spaces

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### SUMMARY OF POSITION:

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 Physics Lab invites students to explore and teach physical science through hands-on interactive exhibits and demonstrations in the Physics Lab and Turbine Hall. 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! The Physics Lab Educator Work-Study position has two roles: (1) to facilitate visitor learning experiences with informal interactions, demonstrations, and lab activities and (2) to assist with maintenance and daily operations of the labs.

### EXPERIENCES THIS POSITION 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.
- Desire and/or ability to present science process and content in an engaging way to a broad age range.
- Background or interest in education, physics, and/or engineering
- Self-directed and willing to take initiative.
- Ability to contribute to a positive team dynamic
- Must be dependable, punctual, and willing to commit to a schedule.

### *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:**

- Minimum of 8 hours per week; maximum dependent on award and availability
- Shift times generally 9:00am-5:30pm, with flexibility for half days and travel time with class schedule
- Schedule depends on the needs of the lab or hall, but will be regular and predictable week to week

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- List potential learning out comes
  - 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 WORK AREA:**



### **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.