

Volunteering at NIMC

A Volunteer's Perspective

My name is Vicky Jones and I started volunteering with NIMC in January 2019. I am a recent graduate with a bachelor's degree in English and Art History. I volunteer one day a week with NIMC, where I have gained invaluable skills while working with the team. The office-based work with NIMC has included administration support for key projects such as Dementia Friendly and Playful Museums. I've also had some social media interaction as I assisted in the promotion of thirty-four events, across thirteen local museums in Northern Ireland and led the event program on the website. During #MuseumWeek I coordinated the takeover for the Wednesday theme of #Play in museums on the NIMC Facebook page. I have had the opportunity to assist the creation of video interviews.

I have also attended conferences and training days with NIMC, including preschool and primary school curriculum training events, caring for collections, and dementia awareness training to name a few. As a result of working with NIMC I have gone on to volunteer with HMS Caroline and I have secured a place on a Masters course in art history, curating and collections care, which I start in September. These plans are a direct result of the positive experiences I've had working with NIMC.

I believe the experience and benefits of volunteering with NIMC have been invaluable. I've gained confidence by trying something new and working in an environment I'd never really been involved in before. It's been exciting and fun to learn new skills and take on different challenges. Through different events I've also had the chance to meet lots of people within the museum sector. Most importantly I've had the chance to work with an amazing team of women in NIMC. I am excited at the prospect of how the skills I have gained during my time with NIMC will benefit me throughout my career. I would recommend volunteering to anyone as a good way of testing a possible career option.

NIMC'S perspective

Having Vicky as part of the team over the past few months has been really beneficial. Vicky brings a new perspective to the projects at NIMC and embraces all aspects of the role with positivity and enthusiasm! Vicky has provided practical admin support to key projects and brought her experience and creative to social media campaigns. Her commitment meant we had no hesitation in recommending her for other roles within the museum sector enabling Vicky to build up a profile of skills and experiences to successfully secure her Masters place.