

Artroom Supporting Writer - Brief

1. Background

Grampian Hospitals Art Trust is looking to employ a supporting writer to work as part of their highly successful Artroom project at Roxburghe House palliative care unit in Aberdeen.

2. Project Objectives

Artroom is a person centred arts project working within healthcare settings. We provide opportunities for participants to engage with a range of art forms. We aim to:

- Enable patients to discover and develop their individual creativity with the support of professional artists and writers
- Offer inspiration and opportunities to reflect creatively
- Improve quality of life, build confidence and promote independence
- Raise awareness of the benefits of creativity in the NHS and beyond

Artroom staff work as creative guides and facilitators, supporting each participant to develop his or her own creative practice.

The current writer at Roxburghe House works with patients and relatives on a one-to-one basis, sometimes at patient bedsides. This may take the form of weekly sessions over a period of weeks or months, or it may be a single conversation. While some participants choose to produce a record of their writings in book or other form, the emphasis is always on the process of writing, telling and being heard.

3. Artroom Writer Post

The advertised post is for a supporting writer, who will initially work alongside the current writer at Roxburghe House, as well as with visual artists and clinical staff at the unit.

The post will involve planning and facilitating writing sessions with patients, relatives and staff. The writer will also be required to help with a range of supporting tasks, such as editing patient work, producing publications, and sharing information about the project with a range of stakeholders.

The successful applicant will be a professional, practising writer, who will be supported by the current Writer in Residence at Roxburghe to develop the specific skills required for working in a palliative care environment. The following skills and experience are essential:

- Knowledge of a wide range of fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry
- The ability to draw out the creativity in others
- A strong creative identity of your own
- An empowering and collaborative approach to facilitation
- The ability to communicate sensitively with patients, families and staff
- The ability to work on your own initiative, as part of a small creative team

The following would be desirable:

- Local knowledge and use of Doric language
- A background in community arts or arts in health
- Experience of producing publications

As this post involves extensive work with vulnerable individuals, it will be necessary to become a member of the PVG scheme before commencing work on this project.

4. Funding and Contractual Details

Initially this post is 15 hours per week over two days – exact hours to be negotiated. A fee of **£11.54 per hour** will be paid. This includes time for all preparation, planning and research associated with the post. Other costs including travel and accommodation will not be covered. Initial training sessions will be organised to introduce the successful candidate to the project and they will shadow the existing writer. This time will be reimbursed at the above rates.

5. Application Procedure

If you would like to apply for this post, please send:

- A covering letter stating why you are interested in this work and what you feel you would bring to the post
- A current CV with details of two referees
- Samples of your creative work – fiction or creative nonfiction (up to 3000 words) or poetry (up to 40 lines)

GHAT cannot accept responsibility for non-delivery. We advise applicants to use a recorded delivery system for postal submissions and add a read receipt to any email. Applications that arrive after the deadline date will not be considered. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 23rd September 2016

Please submit applications to:

Jo Hastie
Artroom Coordinator
Grampian Hospitals Art Trust
Art Office
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary
Aberdeen, AB25 2ZN
E: grampian.hospitalsarttrust@nhs.net

For an informal chat or any questions about the post please contact:

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E: jo.hastie@nhs.net T: 01224 554399

www.ghat-art.org.uk