THE ALFRED BEIT FOUNDATION

Applications are invited for the full time position of Curator at Russborough, which is Ireland’s finest 18th Century Palladian Mansion, located near Blessington, Co. Wicklow and which attracts over 100,000 visitors per annum to its visitor centre.

Job Description

The Curator will be responsible for implementing all relevant curatorial and conservation management activities at Russborough; for the on-going development, care, cataloguing and archiving of the collections; for promoting public interest & awareness of the importance of Russborough; and for developing fundraising opportunities.

Key Responsibilities

• Implementing appropriate conservation and curatorial practice to ensure a high standard of care and protection for the house and collections as well as ensuring the proper presentation and display of the house, collections and landscape at Russborough.

• Maintaining and enhancing the documentation of the collections and instituting a detailed collections database.

• Contributing to the management of the Foundation’s interfaces with relevant Museums/Archival / Heritage / Tourism organisations including Government, Statutory and voluntary organisations, including the National Gallery of Ireland, whilst seeking to promote awareness of Russborough’s contribution to the cultural, social and commercial heritage in the wider community.

• Developing and delivering exhibitions and event programmes and fostering academic & PR opportunities to promote the significance of the demesne, house & collections through publications, articles, talks & lectures at home and abroad.

• Developing funding opportunities and assisting in seeking external funding.
- Improving educational and research facilities from the collections.
- Carrying out other tasks as requested by the CEO and Trustees.

**Fixed term employment contract**

The position will initially comprise a fixed term 3 years employment contract. A review of the position will subsequently be undertaken after three years.

Key goals to have achieved within this 3 year contract include:-

- To improve visitor engagement and enjoyment, while raising visitor numbers through the house
- To demonstrably raise the domestic and international profile of the house and collection
- To establish a sound curatorial approach to documentation, presentation and research, and to ensure the house & collection can achieve Accredited Museum status in due course.

**Reporting Structure**

This person will report directly to the Curatorial, Decorative & Buildings sub-committee of the Alfred Beit Foundation, on curatorial strategy and projects, with a dotted line to the CEO for matters relating to staff procedures, protocols and budget management.

**Location**

Russborough, Blessington, County Wicklow.

**Qualifications and Experience**

The successful candidate will:-

- Have a university degree in the history of art or architecture or closely related subject
- Have good knowledge in matters relating to 18th century buildings and a particular interest in fine and decorative arts and architectural history.
- Have practical experience of conservation and curating in an historic house open to the public.
- Have a demonstrated interest in heritage related matters and the ability to set up and operate educational programmes and special events relating to the house, contents and history.
- Be a ‘hands-on’ person who is highly motivated.
In addition, having experience of fund-raising for conservation & capital projects, and of cataloguing & archiving would be an advantage.

**Selection Process.**

Applicants should send a current CV and a letter setting out his or her qualifications and interest in the position to:-

Mr Eric Blatchford,

CEO,

The Alfred Beit Foundation,

Blessington,

County Wicklow, Ireland.

Or [eric@russborough.ie](mailto:eric@russborough.ie)

**Deadline for applications is February 19th 2016.**

Shortlisting will be based on a combination of information provided in CV's plus relevant experience.

Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.