

Volunteer FAQs

Thank you for considering volunteering with us! We recognise that volunteering is different everywhere and you may have a question about volunteering with us.

Do I need be Christian or attend church services to volunteer at the Minster?

No; everyone is welcome to volunteer. Our volunteers are from all faiths and none and we ask that you respect York Minster values and the ethos of the Church of England. You can find more about our values [here](#).

Who can volunteer?

Anyone can submit an application to be a volunteer with us. We welcome applications from anyone interested in contributing their time and skill to the Minster.

How many hours do I have to commit to?

The hours we hope you volunteer vary depending on volunteer role. Typically, we recommend coming in once a week or fortnight to keep up to date with changes and news. You can find the recommended hours on the role description under “commitment involved”.

What does applying look like?

You can find current volunteer vacancies online [here](#):

We follow the Church of England’s Safer Recruitment guidance which can be found [here](#). As such, we follow a pathway to recruitment that involves references and role dependent checks, safeguarding training and an induction before you start volunteering.

You can find more information on the “What to expect when applying to Volunteer at York Minster” document that is sent to all applicants. This sets out what steps you need to complete and what we will complete behind the scenes to make the process as smooth as possible.

Are there any upper or lower age limits to volunteering?

We welcome volunteers of all ages including under 18s and we have an under 18 application process. Some roles may not be able to support under 18 volunteers and you can find out more by contacting the People team on volunteering@yorkminster.org

Personal accident insurance cover is provided to all volunteers between 16-80, volunteers over 80 are advised to consult an insurance provider to extend their own personal insurance. If you continue to volunteer without personal insurance arrangements in place for personal accidents, you do so at your own risk.

I am under 18 and want to complete a work experience placement at the Minster, how do I arrange this?

Due to staffing, placements are typically over 4 days and we offer two types of work experience placements. One opportunity is a multi-department placement where you complete your placement across several departments in the organisation. This allows you to get a broad perspective of different teams in the Minster. Alternately, you can request a placement in one department which allows an in depth look with one team.

These opportunities are only available depending on staff capacity. You can contact the People team to enquire about current availability on volunteering@yorkminster.org . High demand means work experiences are typically agreed over 6 months in advance.

I'm receiving benefits, am I allowed to volunteer?

Yes, but you will need to tell your Job Centre about the volunteering. For full details see the Directgov website [here](#).

Will I be paid?

No, our volunteer roles are all unpaid.

I'm living with a disability; how can I volunteer?

We strive to support each of our volunteers to contribute to their role to the best of their capabilities for as long as they would like to volunteer with us. Each role has different tasks and activities and we will make reasonable adjustments to support you. We work with each applicant and volunteer on an individual basis. If you have specific concerns, please contact us.

You can find out more about accessibility in the Minster here.

I have a criminal record; can I still volunteer?

We have a specific policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders that can be found here: [Recruitment-of-Exoffenders-policy.pdf](#)

I am not a British national, can I volunteer in the UK?

Yes, volunteers from outside the UK (including refugees and asylum seekers) do need to have an appropriate visa or confirmation that they are legally able to volunteer in the UK.

There are no volunteer opportunities listed on the website. Can you keep my details on file?

Volunteer opportunities are advertised on our Better Impact page. If there are none listed that means we are not currently taking on new volunteers. It is not our policy to keep applications on file because of the large numbers we receive, so please regular check the website for new opportunities.

Still unsure or have a question that wasn't answered above?

Please contact our People Team by email at volunteering@yorkminster.org