

# VOLUNTEERING

## AT THE GREAT EXHIBITION ROAD FESTIVAL 2026



**Saturday 6** *and/or*  
**Sunday 7 June**  
**10.00 - 18.30**  
**South Kensington  
Campus**

### CONTENTS

## Welcome! Thank you for your interest in volunteering

You've made it this far, so we know you are interested in the Festival. But you are probably wondering what we mean by 'volunteering for the Festival', as well as what the benefits are for you and how the day works.

We've put together this handy brochure that paints a picture of the volunteering experience so you can join us with confidence.

There's a lot of information to take in, so please take your time to read carefully and don't hesitate to get in touch with the team if you have any questions.

Happy reading, and we hope to see you at the Festival!

*Festival team*

### WHY VOLUNTEER?

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### KEY DATES

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### ON THE DAY

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### WHAT ROLES CAN I DO?

Location volunteering  
Specialist roles

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### VOLUNTEER LOCATIONS

Adults Only Zone  
Be A Scientist Zone  
Exhibition Road  
Family Fun Zone  
Future Food Live  
Happiness and Health Zone  
Imperial College Road  
NextGen Zone  
Tech Zone  
Underground Adventure Zone  
World Science Zone

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### SPECIALIST AREAS

Community Leader  
Deaf Support Volunteer  
Partially Sighted and Blind Support  
Public Evaluator

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### FAQs



[pep.volunteering@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:pep.volunteering@imperial.ac.uk)

# WHY VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering at The Great Exhibition Road Festival can give you the opportunity to try something new, gain experience, develop skills, build confidence, meet new people and have fun.

**It is exclusively open to all current staff and students at Imperial.**

Volunteering is for you if you are interested in:

- Helping deliver events which inspire the public with world class research
- Welcoming the public to Imperial and providing a great visitor experience
- Getting to know people in a fun and supportive environment
- Trying something a bit different from your day to day role or study
- Being part of a diverse community of volunteers across Imperial
- Building transferable skills and experience

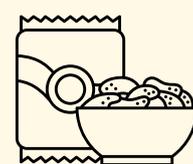


## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?



### FREE:

- Kokoro lunch (worth £10+)
- Snacks throughout the day
- Certificate of participation
- Training for your specific role
- Limited edition **Tony's Festival chocolate** as a thank you gift



# KEY DATES

**MON 9 MARCH**

Volunteer sign up opens for previous volunteers

**WED 11 MARCH**

Volunteer sign up opens

**FRI 15 MAY**

Volunteer sign up closes

**TUE 26,  
WED 27 MAY**

In-person and online briefings

**TUE 2,  
THU 4 JUNE**

Optional walking tour briefings (get to know the site)

**FRI 5 JUNE**

Festival set up

**SAT 6,  
SUN 7 JUNE**

The Great Exhibition Road Festival!

# ON THE DAY

## A day in the life of you

TIME	WHAT	WHERE
<b>10.30</b> (start of your shift)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arrive at the Volunteer Hub &amp; sign in</li><li>• Collect your Festival hi-vis vest, lanyard, badge &amp; lunch voucher</li><li>• Drop off personal belongings in Volunteer Green Room</li></ul>	Electrical Electronic Engineering Building (EEE) off Dalby Court
<b>11.00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Go to your Zone or specialist location</li><li>• Meet your supervisor and get a briefing for the day</li></ul>	Your Zone or specialist location
<b>12.00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Festival opens to the public!</li></ul>	Your Zone or specialist location
<b>Between 12.30 and 15.00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take your lunch break as instructed by your supervisor</li><li>• Exchange your lunch voucher for a hot lunch</li></ul>	Electrical Electronic Engineering Building (EEE) off Dalby Court
<b>18.00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Festival closes to the public</li></ul>	Your Zone or specialist location
<b>Until 18.30</b> (end of your shift)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help your supervisor with tidying and pack down</li><li>• At the end of your shift, head back to the Volunteer Hub to sign out, return your hi-vis vest, lanyard and badge, then collect your belongings, your thank you gift, and head home</li></ul>	Your Zone or specialist location, then the Volunteer Hub



## WHAT ROLES CAN I DO?

To help you choose where you want to be, we have outlined the different volunteer locations and types of roles we have on offer. Each role has a different capacity (so if you really like it, sign up before someone else does!)

You can volunteer for a particular **area** or for a **specialist role**.

Read on to learn more...

# VOLUNTEER LOCATIONS

## PAGE 1

The Festival is largely split into **Zones** to help visitors navigate the programme. The activities within each Zone are grouped by **theme** (i.e. Tech Zone) or **intended age-range** (i.e. young people). As well as Festival Zones, there are also **performance spaces**, and activity happening along Exhibition Road and in partner organisations.

The following locations are where we will be placing our Imperial volunteers, although these aren't the only locations where activity will be happening during the weekend.

AREA	WHERE & WHAT IS IT?	HIGHLIGHTS & NO. OF SPACES
<b>ADULTS ONLY ZONE</b> 	<b>Location:</b> Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road <b>Description:</b> Escape from the crowds in our Adults Only Zone! This space is for people aged 18 and over to explore science that connects directly to our bodies, relationships and lived experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bollywood dance classes</li><li>• Science of Attraction quiz</li><li>• Science Cabaret</li></ul> <b>10 SPACES PER DAY</b>
<b>BE A SCIENTIST ZONE</b> 	<b>Location:</b> Flowers Building <b>Description:</b> Get involved in cutting-edge science and shape the future of Imperial research in the Be A Scientist Zone. From trying out surgical robots to designing new wearable tech jewellery, find researchers keen to work with you.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hands on with research</li><li>• Feel live seagrass</li><li>• Surgical robots</li></ul> <b>5 SPACES PER DAY</b>
<b>EXHIBITION ROAD</b> 	<b>Location:</b> Exhibition Road (outdoors) <b>Description:</b> The main thoroughfare of the Festival on the iconic Exhibition Road. Hear performances on our Main Stage, take part in workshops, and watch artists create large-scale artworks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music on the Main Stage</li><li>• Roaming performers</li><li>• Workshops from Festival partners</li></ul> <b>15 SPACES PER DAY</b>
<b>FAMILY FUN ZONE</b> 	<b>Location:</b> Kensington Garden's (outdoors) <b>Description:</b> There's masses for families to enjoy and discover together in the Family Fun Zone. Try awesome activities especially designed for children under 12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family Stage</li><li>• Under 5s tent</li><li>• <b>Relaxed early opening</b> for neurodiverse families on Sunday</li></ul> <b>12 SPACES PER DAY</b>
<b>FUTURE FOOD LIVE</b> 	<b>Location:</b> Imperial College Road (outdoors & marquee) <b>Description:</b> Explore new flavours and ingredients, as chefs and scientists whip up dishes that you can sample right there and then!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Live cooking shows with chefs and scientists</li><li>• Interactive with the audience</li></ul> <b>4 SPACES PER DAY</b>

# VOLUNTEER LOCATIONS

## PAGE 2

AREA	WHERE & WHAT IS IT?	HIGHLIGHTS & NO. OF SPACES
<p><b>HAPPINESS AND HEALTH ZONE</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Sherfield Building (QTR)</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Meet scientists, doctors, and engineers and discover how they are transforming the future of our Happiness and Health in this exciting new zone!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet doctors, scientists, and engineers</li> <li>• Experience future of medicine</li> </ul> <p><b>8 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>
<p><b>IMPERIAL COLLEGE ROAD</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Imperial College Road (outdoors &amp; marquee)</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Explore all that Imperial College Road has to offer, hearing performances from local artists, take part in workshops, and experience the Maths Exploratorium.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Butterfly workshop</li> <li>• Steelpan workshop</li> <li>• <b>Maths Exploratorium</b></li> </ul> <p><b>5 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>
<p><b>NEXTGEN ZONE</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Smith Centre (Science Museum)</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Find the fun in the fundamentals of science and art in interactive displays and hands-on activities. Join us at the NextGen Zone, a high-energy hub designed by and for the innovators of tomorrow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discover the marvels of human biology</li> <li>• Robo-football</li> <li>• A space for teens and young adults</li> </ul> <p><b>5 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>
<p><b>TECH ZONE</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Sir Alexander Fleming Building</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Discover the Tech Zone, where you can explore robotics, medical wearables, and space. Discover the possibilities of the Robot Playground and turn yourself into a 3D avata.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands on activities</li> <li>• Uncover all the ways that technology is transforming our lives</li> <li>• <b>Spotlight on Science talk</b></li> </ul> <p><b>10 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>
<p><b>UNDERGROUND ADVENTURE ZONE</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Prince's Gardens</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Discover what's beneath your feet as you explore fungal networks, urban underground wildlife, glowing microbes, fossils, minerals and structural engineering through games, demonstrations, craft and dance!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about animals, plants, and fungi</li> <li>• Underground silent disco</li> </ul> <p><b>7 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>
<p><b>WORLD SCIENCE ZONE</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Imperial Main Entrance / Business School</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Take a trip around the globe as researchers from Imperial and our international partners showcase scientific breakthroughs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects from all over the planet</li> <li>• Engage with global science</li> <li>• <b>Super Cool Chemistry Show</b></li> </ul> <p><b>12 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>

# SPECIALIST ROLES

There are parts of the Festival that don't fit into a Zone, and require a **special interest** in the role. For these roles, you will be required to **attend additional training** so that we can support you and prepare you for a great experience. These roles are perfect for a volunteer who wants to gain some new skills and have a bit more responsibility.

ROLE	WHERE & WHAT IS IT?	HIGHLIGHTS & NO. OF SPACES
<p><b>COMMUNITY LEADER</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Entire Festival site</p> <p><b>Description:</b> This role has been created to help make visitors from community groups (some with special needs) feel more welcome and comfortable within the Festival. You will be assigned one group for the day and be their guide for the pre-arranged visit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain valuable experience working with people with additional needs</li> <li>Explore the Festival from a different perspective</li> </ul> <p><b>10 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>
<p><b>DEAF SUPPORT VOLUNTEER</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Entire Festival site</p> <p><b>Description:</b> This role has been created to help make visitors who are Deaf and use British Sign Language (BSL) feel more welcome within the Festival. You will be on hand to help the team of BSL interpreters and Deaf presenters to navigate either the family groups or the adult groups through their pre-planned visit to the Festival.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain valuable experience supporting up to 45 Deaf visitors</li> <li><b>Receive specialist training from our Inclusion Manager</b></li> </ul> <p><b>3 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>
<p><b>PARTIALLY SIGHTED &amp; BLIND SUPPORT VOLUNTEER</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Entire Festival site</p> <p><b>Description:</b> This role has been created to help make visitors who are partially sighted or blind feel more welcome within the Festival. There will be up to 10 individuals with sight loss who are each accompanied with their companion (who will be their assigned guide). You will be on hand to help them navigate each individual and their companion through their pre-planned visit to the Festival.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain valuable experience supporting partially sighted and blind visitors</li> <li><b>Receive specialist training from our Inclusion Manager</b></li> </ul> <p><b>3 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>
<p><b>PUBLIC EVALUATOR</b></p> 	<p><b>Location:</b> Entire Festival site (including partner venues)</p> <p><b>Description:</b> This role requires you to engage with members of the public to get meaningful responses to the Festival evaluation survey (conducted on tablets). You will get the chance to speak with our visitors, hear about their experiences at the Festival and help to improve future events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See all the venues across the Festival, including the <b>V&amp;A, Science Museum, and Natural History Museum</b></li> <li>Receive special evaluator training for this position</li> <li><b>13.00 - 18.30 shift time</b></li> </ul> <p><b>10 SPACES PER DAY</b></p>

# FAQs



## How do I sign up?

Go to our volunteer portal [here](#) and follow the instructions.

## Do I have to choose a Zone/role or can I be assigned on the day?

You **don't need to commit to a Zone or role** if you don't want to. You might be an experienced volunteer who enjoys the idea of being assigned anywhere, or you might just not particularly mind where you are placed. Select '**Flexible shift**' from the list, and you can be assigned when you arrive to the area that needs you. It is helpful for us to have flexible volunteers in case of drop outs on the day.

## Can I volunteer in a few Zones on the same day?

Afraid not. To make sure you get the most out of the volunteering experience, we require everyone to stay in the same area for the whole day so that everyone is briefed at the same time and feels confident in their area. But don't worry - your supervisor will rotate the roles regularly throughout the day within the Zone to ensure the variety of your experience.

## Are there unlimited spaces on each shift?

No, spaces are limited. Look at the number of places available on the list of shifts when you are logged into the volunteer portal. So if you are super keen on volunteering for something in particular, sign up quick!

## I have accessibility needs. Can I volunteer?

Absolutely. Please email the team to discuss your needs and we can advise on where you might be best placed and look at how we can support your volunteering experience - this could include something simple like needing a role that doesn't require a lot of standing, or to be in a quieter area where there aren't as many people and crowds.

## What about lunch?

Not only do we provide you with a yummy lunch from **H-Bar's Kokoro**, we also provide snacks for you throughout the day to keep you energised. Lunch is served in the Volunteer Hub, where you go to exchange your lunch voucher. There is a meat option (which is also halal) and a vegan option for a hot lunch, both of which contain gluten. If you require a gluten free lunch, this is provided by Imperial College Campus Services (sandwich, crisps, fruit and still water).

## Can I volunteer with a friend?

Of course, the more the merrier! If you want to volunteer in the same place, make sure you are both signed up to volunteer in that Zone - then you'll be together all day. But remember, you will make new friends during the day with your team, so don't be afraid to volunteer solo.



Click [here](#) for more FAQs on the Imperial College website