



Curator of Herpetology

Recruitment pack

Proud to be part of

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

About Manchester Museum

Manchester Museum, part of The University of Manchester, first opened in 1890 and it is one of the largest university museums in the UK. The beautiful building, designed by renowned architect Alfred Waterhouse, is home to around 4.5 million objects.

We have reached a huge moment in Manchester Museum's rich history as we transform into a new museum that's fit for the 21st century, showcasing the best of our collections, as well as addressing the urgencies of the present day.

Built on strong values and a clear mission

Our mission is to build understanding between cultures and a more sustainable world. We are driven by our values to be inclusive, imaginative and caring.

A commitment to **inclusion** means greater collaboration and co-production, and foregrounding diverse perspectives, becoming more relevant to the communities we serve.

A commitment to **imagination** means engaging with innovative ideas and research, bringing people together to tell extraordinary stories and explore big questions.

A commitment to **care** means caring for people, their ideas and relationships, as well as objects, so that we can take action to build understanding, empathy and love for our world and each other.



“Manchester Museum is a place of wonder and curiosity where visitors can experience exhibitions that tell powerful stories and engage with big ideas. We are dedicated to building a more sustainable world and understanding between cultures in everything we do and we’re working towards becoming the most inclusive, imaginative and caring museum you might encounter.”

Esme Ward, Director of Manchester Museum

About hello future

hello future is the name given to our once-in-a-generation, £15 million transformation of the Museum that's about much more than simply extending our building's footprint. We're committed to building better understanding, compassion and empathy for each other and our world, and foregrounding inclusive narratives and new perspectives.

At its heart is a beautiful, two-storey extension, which has increased the museum's floor space by over 800m². Together with extensive reconfiguration of existing spaces, this has created a new Exhibition Hall alongside three new flagship galleries: South Asia Gallery, Belonging Gallery and the Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery. Since the Museum re-opened to the public in February 2023 we have welcomed over 650,000 visitors and have developed a vibrant public programme that aligns with our mission and values.

The Vivarium

The Vivarium houses a collection of live amphibians and reptiles including many critically endangered species. It is unusual for a museum to care for live animals, but Manchester Museum has done so for nearly 60 years, offering a unique opportunity to see rare and beautiful creatures and watch conservation in action.

The Vivarium is recognised worldwide for its conservation work. A recent success story, and a landmark moment in the museum's history, was the captive breeding of the variable harlequin toad (also known as *Atelopus varius*), the result of an inspiring partnership project between the museum, Panama Wildlife Conservation Charity and the Faculty of Medicine, Biology and Health at the University of Manchester. The Vivarium's amphibians are small in size but huge in significance. They are living ambassadors for sustainability, conservation and collaboration across continents.



Curator of Herpetology at Manchester Museum

Salary: £36,024 - £44,263

Location: Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester, UK

Employment Type: Permanent

Hours per week: Full time, 35 hours per week, including out of hours working

Leading our Vivarium team and budget, you'll be responsible for keeping our live collections of amphibians and reptiles, including many critically endangered species, well managed and cared for. Manchester Museum has had a Vivarium for nearly 60 years, offering museum visitors an opportunity to see rare and beautiful creatures and to watch conservation in action. You'll use your herpetological knowledge and science communication skills to share insights into these extraordinary animals and encourage positive environmental action in our audiences.

You'll develop the collections in support of Manchester Museum's mission to build understanding between cultures and a more sustainable world. Our Vivarium is recognised worldwide for its conservation work and you'll strive to connect captive populations and in situ conservation programmes. We are seeking a collaborative Curator of Herpetology who can make the most of the museum's convening power, able to forge networks and co-develop impactful work with researchers, co-workers, artists and more.

Your creativity will be critical to the continuous improvement of our Vivarium, and to developing inclusive public and learning programmes within and beyond our walls. Your experience of managing and developing teams will mean that not only the collections receive excellent care, but also the people who work with them.

Manchester Museum is part of the University of Manchester and is one of the world's leading university museums. You'll thrive in this context, contributing imaginatively to field teaching and developing strategic non-invasive research projects. You'll also be a brilliant communicator, able to talk about complex ideas to wide ranging audiences.

At Manchester Museum we believe that our teams should reflect our diverse communities and visitors. Be that age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation. Inclusion and diversity create a more inspiring environment in which to work, where people are treated with respect and can be comfortable being themselves. We provide adjustments for individuals throughout the recruitment process and working career so you can be at your best.

Application forms and further particulars are available from our website
<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/vacancies>

Staff structure

Under the leadership of Esme Ward, Director of Manchester Museum, the museum employs around 117 members of staff and works with many volunteers. The overall staff structure focuses on four core areas of work; Commercial & Operational, Civic Engagement & Education, External Relations and Collections & Exhibitions. However, much of our work requires collaboration both within and between different teams and departments.

Social Justice and Environmental Sustainability Groups sit outside of the formal structure and bring together individuals from across the whole museum. These groups have a rolling chair who represents the group, alongside the Directorate and department heads, at regular Leadership Team meetings.

The Museum also hosts and works closely with Museum Development North West and - through the new Top Floor co-working hub - we are collaborating with a growing number of resident partners.

The role of Curator of Herpetology sits within the Collections and Exhibitions Team and manages two dedicated Curatorial Assistant roles.

