

MGS Skills Update

Welcome to March's edition of the MGS Skills Update. This month we have welcomed a new team member to the MGS Skills team, Paige has kindly introduced herself below. We also have an entry from our Business Development Programme partners, BlueSky Experiences. If you would like to know more about our work, then please do not hesitate to contact the Skills Team. You can find the Project Manager's contact details underneath each project update. Enjoy!

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Kickstart Scheme:

We currently have 5 live jobs that people can apply for through their job coaches at the job centre. These are based at The Scottish Crannog Centre, Abbotsford Trust, Glenesk Folk Museum and Grampian Transport Museum. The roles range from Marketing to museum assistants, to maintenance and engagement. It is great to see a variety of real high quality placements being offered by the sector.

Each Kickstart Employee will be assigned an MGS Employment Advisor to help them with their employability and to provide an additional level of support for those involved in the scheme. The training for this has begun and MGS staff will be assigned a Kickstart Employee to support in their journey.

Find out more about the Kickstart Scheme via [this link](#)

Markus Offer, Skills Development Manager
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KICKSTART
SCHEME

Welcome Paige

Hi folks, name is Paige Hughes and I have joined the Museums Galleries Scotland Skills team as Project Administrator. I started my career in museums as one of Museums Galleries Scotland's Heritage Horizons Trainees, based at what was then Scottish Borders Council Museum Service.

Since then, I have worked for various cultural and heritage organisations, with wide ranging remits, from collections, events, exhibitions, planning and heritage policy and commercial development.

As Project Administrator at MGS, my primary focus will be helping to deliver the "Surviving to Thriving: Supporting Sustainable Scottish Heritage Businesses" Business Support Programme, a National Lottery Heritage Funded programme which will support organisations of all sizes by upskilling the heritage workforce, building organisational resilience and developing sustainable business models. I will also assist with the work of the wider Skills team who are responsible for the delivery of other vocational qualifications and skills-based projects within the sector.

Paige Hughes, Business Support Project Administrator
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Business Support Programme

This month we are delighted to hear from our training partners for the Business Support Programme, BlueSky Experiences:

For 20 years, BlueSky Experiences have been supporting business leaders in developing themselves and their teams to thrive in the contemporary environment, and we are thrilled to be delivering the

core training for the 'Surviving to Thriving' Business Support Programme.

The 5-day Leadership module is led by James England and Graeme Wilkinson and will introduce the participants to Insights Discovery – an interactive approach accommodating all learning styles to create a common language for participants to discuss personality and preference in a positive way, enabling them to immediately improve their inter-personal relationships.

The 3-day Governance and Business Planning modules will be led by Pam Judson and Colin Ramsay, and will use examples from the private, public and third sector to deliver the 'what' and the 'why' of good governance, culminating in the 'how'. Pam and Colin will then focus on risk and best practice to support fundraising excellence.

The final module, Local Community Engagement, will be led by Keith Farrell and his team. Over the three days they will support the participants in developing their marketing, commercial and communications skills.

Based on the skills acquired throughout the modules, participants will increase their skills and knowledge to support a thriving heritage business. Organisations will be better able to manage change, embrace opportunity and mitigate risks within their organisations.

The first cohorts will begin the leadership module on 27th April and all of us at BlueSky Experiences look forward to working with everyone on the programme!



Fiona Skiffington, Business Support Project Manager
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Workforce for the Future

Now that schools are going back and museums are re-opening we are starting to see the schools programme take off. Angus Alive's project kicks off on April 20th virtually with a local school and will help to teach them about the different careers in the sector and the transferable skills required. This project has a focus on heritage careers and early years employability skills. The pupils will see virtual tours of the Arbroath Signal Tower, hear from their staff about the skills required for their roles and work towards creating an exhibition based on all they have learned over the term.

We are also seeing an amazing virtual resource come out of Stirling Smith's project working with Stirling Council ASN schools. This resource looks at the basics of what a museum is, what jobs there are and the transferable skills needed for these roles. The resource contains video, audio, interactive activities and skills support. This can be shared with schools as best practice when speaking about careers, transferable skills and museums at an early age.

These projects are targeted at pupils from P5 to S2 in lower SIMD areas. It aims to have ready made resources for future engagement and to enhance early years employability skills. The programme is in partnership with Developing Young Workforce and the local schools.

Flexible Workforce Fund

MGS is working with the City of Glasgow College to deliver a two-day project management course through The [Flexible Workforce Development Fund](#). This course is open to anyone working or volunteering in the Scottish museum and gallery sector and is interested in finding out more about the fundamentals of project management.

Wishing you well,
MGS Skills Team

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