

Position: Education & Learning Officer
Reports to: Dark Space Planetarium Manager
Salary: £29,055 pro rata
Hours: Part-Time (initially 24 hrs per week)
Location: Kirkcudbright Dark Space Planetarium

Overview

Kirkcudbright Dark Space Planetarium is an educational charity established in 2021 to promote awareness and understanding of science, technology, engineering and space exploration. Our aim is to be a leading centre for inclusive, imaginative science learning and a welcoming hub for curiosity, confidence and connection for families, school groups, adult learners and tourists alike.

Our small team of passionate staff and volunteers support people of all ages to explore the wonders of the universe, delivering a unique mix of immersive dome shows, hands-on exhibits, 'Science Club' sessions and creative public events.

The Education & Learning Officer plays a key role in bringing space science and curiosity to life for our visitors. This role blends creative science communication with thoughtful programme design, ensuring every guest, from school groups to general audiences, experiences the cosmos in an engaging, accessible, and memorable way. Working closely with the planetarium staff, guest speakers, and our community partners, the Education & Learning Officer will develop the educational impact of the Dark Space Planetarium alongside supporting broader general visitor learning. The education role supports staff development and STEM pathways for young people in the area by providing unique learning and employment opportunities. The role also offers operational leadership by supporting and deputising for the manager when required.

Key Responsibilities

- Design and deliver educational programmes that translate astronomical and science concepts into a clear and informative experience.

- Ensure our educational programme aligns with all forms of current school curricula with school talks and workshops supporting STEM learning.
- Develop learning materials including digital content for planetarium shows and events, talks, demonstrations and informal learning opportunities.
- Organise and deliver educational events, including school visits, afterschool clubs, community sessions, and themed programmes.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with local schools, community groups, and partners, expanding the reach and impact of Kirkcudbright Dark Space Planetarium's educational aims.
- Ensure communities experiencing barriers to opportunity are provided for, including for example children and young children with additional support needs; neurodivergent people; people with dementia; people facing social or economic disadvantage.
- Support staff development and training by modelling best practice in science communication and visitor engagement.
- Evaluate program effectiveness, gather and collate feedback, and recommend improvements to enhance learning outcomes and visitor experience.
- Ensure compliance with safety, accessibility, safeguarding and organisational policies.
- Support fundraising related to our education and learning activities.
- Assist the Manager in operational and other duties, and deputise when required to support the smooth running of the Planetarium.

Skills & Qualifications

- Strong organisational skills and ability to use initiative.
- Ability to translate scientific content into engaging, audience-appropriate formats.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and confidence to deliver talks to large groups of children, families, and adult learners.
- Proficiency with standard Microsoft Office and presentation software.
- Creative mindset with a gift for storytelling and visual clarity.
- Enthusiasm and willingness to learn astronomy and STEM concepts.
- Experience in education, science communication or related fields is desirable but not essential.
- Education to Scottish Higher or equivalent in English & Maths as a minimum.
- Project-management skills are desirable but not essential.

- Full driving licence and access to a car for school and other visits outside the Planetarium.
- This post is considered as Regulated Work with Vulnerable Children and/or Protected Adults, under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. The successful candidate will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG scheme update.

Ideal Candidate Profile

Someone who is:

- Excited about making space science accessible and inclusive.
- Ability to work flexibly in terms of location and hours including evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays.
- Able to show initiative, multi-task and prioritise.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Confident working in a fast-paced, visitor-facing environment.
- Comfortable collaborating with scientists and educators.
- Curious, adaptable, and eager to experiment with new formats and ideas.

How To Apply

Please submit a CV with a covering letter demonstrating your suitability for the role and how you meet the experience, skills and abilities required as set out above. Email your application to careers@darkspaceplanetarium.org by noon on 27th March 2026.

Shortlisted candidates will be sent a complimentary ticket to visit the Planetarium ahead of their interview. Interviews will be held face-to-face in Kirkcudbright, with candidates being required to deliver a pre-prepared short presentation.