

Costume Trainee Further Information

Scottish Opera is Scotland's largest performing arts organisation. Many of our productions involve 50 or more performers and over 100 costumes; the Company produces significantly more costumes than any other Scottish performing arts organisation. We are offering a unique opportunity for an enthusiastic person who is passionate about theatre costume to further their skills and gain practical experience working with our costume team.

The trainee will contribute to the work of the department in creating and looking after the costumes for our productions throughout the year, but will also benefit from a structured programme of on-the-job training in all areas of our work, as part of Scottish Opera's Emerging Artists programme.

Training Programme

- Costume-making: specialised techniques of sewing theatrical costumes, dress-making using boned bodices, hand-finished tailoring
- Pattern making: drafting patterns for period and contemporary garments, marking up and cutting
- Costume cutting: hand-cutting garments for production
- Fitting and alteration: alteration techniques and fitting skills
- Maintenance wardrobe: dressing work, costume care and storage, cleaning, packing for get-in and get-outs
- Hire department and costume store: costume storage and organisation, entering records
- Costume supervision: planning skills, budget management, sourcing garments & cloth, creating a costume bible

Costume-making will be taught by Scottish Opera's Senior Costume Cutter; maintenance techniques by the Head of Performance Wardrobe; costume supervision skills by the Head of Costume, who will also act as a mentor for the trainee.

Salary and Conditions

The salary is £17,304 per annum based on a 39 hour week, normally Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm, but some evening work will be required, and some work on Saturdays.

Applications and Interviews

The closing date for applications is Sunday 28 May 2017. Interviews will be held on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 June at our Production Studios in Edington Street, Glasgow.

Candidates selected for interview will be expected to bring a sample of their making work, or photographs of garments that they have worked on. They will be required to undertake a simple test to establish their ability in hand-sewing, and a test in machine-sewing on an industrial sewing-machine. In a short written test, they will answer some multiple-choice questions to show their knowledge of historical costume.