

An opportunity to work as a volunteer (unpaid) in the British Museum

The AES Coptic papyrus collection in the British Museum, London

The Dept of Ancient Egypt and Sudan holds c. 4000 Coptic ostraca and c. 250 frames of Coptic papyri. BM Coptic papyri were mostly acquired after the 1972 split between of the British Museum and British Library. While the British Library holds the historic collection of Coptic papyri, parchment and other manuscripts (*P.Lond.Copt.* I and II), the British Museum mainly holds the Coptic ostraca (*P.Brit.Mus.Copt.* I and II). The British Museum Coptic papyri are largely unstudied and will be the focus of a documentation project in 2017–2018, when they will be scanned, images uploaded to the BM image database and their BM object records improved. The collection includes letters and documents revealing the everyday life of Christian monks as well as fragments of literary works.

Volunteers are sought to assist Dr. Adrienn Almásy, Curator in the Dept of Ancient Egypt Sudan, with upgrading the available knowledge about the collection and making content more accessible to the public and the scholarly community.

Applicants should demonstrate:

- An interest in Egypt in Late Antiquity and/or Coptic language
- An interest in and some experience with documentation (database) work and scanning software

Volunteers are sought for at least one month (for example in the summer months) or re-occurring days over a longer period (for example one or two days a week over three or four months), starting as early as April or May 2017.

Please note that it is not possible for volunteers to be unsupervised in the study collections or to handle objects. The department cannot offer any out-of-pocket expenses to volunteers or placement students.

Closing date: 20 March 2017

Contact: aalmasy@britishmuseum.org

For further information about volunteering at the British Museum, including other opportunities, please see britishmuseum.org/about_us/volunteers.