

Frequently asked questions about volunteering for Barts Charity

Where can I volunteer?

We support the five hospitals of Barts Health NHS Trust (St Bartholomew's, Mile End, Newham, The Royal London and Whipps Cross). There are roles supporting our work within these hospitals, as well as in the local communities. There are also opportunities to support our staff at our head office near St Bartholomew's.

Will I have contact with patients?

Our roles don't have direct contact with patients. However, if the role is based in one of the hospitals we support, you'll see and sometimes interact with patients and their families. You should therefore be comfortable in a medical environment, sensitive to the feelings of patients, and aware of the working demands of staff.

What support will I get?

You'll have a full induction with us, as well as training and support to help you feel confident in the role. We're also always here for any questions and support throughout your volunteering for us.

Will I need references?

Yes – they help us confirm your identity and build up a better understanding of you and your suitability for roles. We'll ask for references for all roles and ask you to supply this information on your application form.

Can I claim expenses?

We'll ensure you're not out of pocket as a result of volunteering for us. We reimburse reasonable travel costs and other expenses by arrangement.

Will I be interviewed?

For all roles we'll invite you to our head office for an informal chat. This helps you to find out more about the role and us as a charity, and we can also get to know you better to make sure the role is the best match to your skills, experience and needs.

What if I have a criminal record?

Having a criminal record doesn't automatically mean you can't volunteer with us. We recognise that potential volunteers with criminal records may fear they will not be treated fairly because of them. Where a criminal record is disclosed, we will always discuss this with you and make a decision based on the type of offence committed, how recently it occurred, your explanation of the circumstances of the offence and how relevant it is to the volunteer role you have applied for. If you have any unspent convictions or any criminal charges which have yet to go to court you should disclose this to us on your application form. Guidance about when offences becomes spent can be found on the Ministry of Justice's website or you can use disclosurecalculator.org.uk or contact NACRO on 0207 840 6464.

How do I apply?

If it's for a specific role advertised on our Volunteer page, please complete the application form on the page and send back to us either via email (to simon.pitts@bartshealth.nhs.uk) or post. Otherwise, please contact us by email to enquire about other opportunities.

None of the volunteer roles suit me, can I still help?

If you're interested in sharing your professional skills and there are no opportunities that match this, please contact us on appeals@bartshealth.nhs.uk or call 020 7618 1720.

**If you have any other questions, we're happy to help. Please email:
appeals@bartshealth.nhs.uk.**