



Retail Assistant– Stirling Castle

Closing Date: Monday 12 January at Midday

Expected Interview Date: 26/1/26 – 5/12/26

Recruitment Reference:

245

Salary:

£25,770 pro-rata (proportionate to hours worked and length of contract)

Pay Band:

Grade 1

Location:

Stirling Castle

Line Manager:

Baiba Vanaga/Hannah Torley,
Visitor Experience Supervisor

Contract Type:

Fixed Term

Working Hours:

Fixed Term Position 1:

April 2026 – 30 September 2026: 35 hours per week, 4 days on/2 days off

October 1st, 2026 – 21st February 2027: 24 hours per week, 4 out of 7 days

Fixed Term Position 2:

April 2026 – 27th October 2026: 26.1 hours per week, 4 out of 7 days)

Your role of Retail Assistant will be seasonal.

The likely start date for the role is in April 2026.

We are currently recruiting for two fixed term Retail Assistants at Stirling Castle. The working hours and durations are outlined below:

Fixed Term Position 1:

April 2026 – 30 September 2026: 35 hours per week, 4 days on/2 days off

October 01, 2026 – 21 February 2027: 24 hours per week, 4 out of 7 days

Fixed Term Position 2:

April 2026 – 27 October 2026: 26.1 hours per week, 4 out of 7 days)

Are you looking for a flexible seasonal job that is both fun and unique? You'll get an insight into Scotland's rich history and gain valuable experience in the tourism industry and help bring Scotland's dramatic history to life for our visitors from across the world. Explore the fascinating stories from Scotland's past and share your passion with international and local visitors who come to Stirling Castle during the season.

This is an exciting opportunity to work for the lead body responsible for the historic environment in Scotland. You will be actively involved in work which supports providing the best experience for our visitors.

We are looking for someone who enjoys interacting with diverse groups of people, who has a passion for customer service and who would thrive in a fast paced and constantly changing workplace.



Stirling Castle staff pride themselves on delivering a first - class visitor service. We have welcomed over 466,000 visitors from April – September 2025, visitors from many countries around the world who are all looking for a unique experience, with the anticipation that we will welcome even more visitors in 2026/27 and beyond and the retail team play a huge role in the visitor experience, with the selling of retail products to the benefit of the customer, a core part of visitor engagement.

Benefits of working with HES

Generous Holiday Allowance: 25 days annual leave plus 11.5 public holidays (pro-rata based on hours and contract length)

Civil Service Pension: Employer contribution of 27% of your annual salary

Free Site Entry: Complimentary access to Historic Environment Scotland sites (with up to three guests), and all English Heritage, Manx, and Cadw properties

Retail Discounts: Savings at hundreds of online retailers

Travel & Cycle Support: Interest-free loans available for bicycles and annual travel passes

Overview of the role and more about my team

Stirling Castle Retail is spread across three shops, Courtyard Gift Shop, Palace Gift Shop and Argyll and Sutherland Highlander Museum Gift shop. All shops stock unique products. You will be responsible for delivering the highest standards of visitor experience across all areas of Stirling Castle, working within the three retail gift shops, with proactive selling of retail products to visitors, as well as replenishing stock, assisting visitors and maintaining shop presentation standards.

What will my role involve and what will be my responsibilities?

- Engage with customers helping them with their buying decisions and answering any questions to improve their enjoyment of the Castle.
- Carry out the daily operational duties of the shop as requested by the Retail Supervisor or Manager.
- Processing and promotion of retail transactions through the till system.
- Responsibility for the retail areas including ordering of stock, pricing, rotation and attractive display of stock.
- Ensure a high standard of presentation throughout the site, including following appropriate cleaning processes in both public and staff areas.
- Processing sales, while ensuring that all financial procedures are adhered to and carried out accurately and efficiently.
- Support the team in achievement of quality assurance Key Performance Indicators as well as working together to achieve overall commercial performance targets.
- Assist with pop-up retail event both within the castle grounds and the local community.
- Actively support HES seminars, events, functions and promotions.



- Strive to provide the warmest welcome to our visitors and engage proactively with customer service.
- Proactively communicate with colleagues across the site to ensure high performance, standards and consistency.
- Work as part of a team to ensure that the Customer Service Industry Standards and Quality Services Awards are maintained and participate in local action plan delivery.
- Maximise commercial opportunities and capitalise on income generating opportunities through selling and upselling appropriate merchandise and promoting other sites and products.
- Assist Retail Supervisor to ensure accurate stock management and assist with stock ordering and deliveries as required.
- Ensure the security of the site, buildings and contents, including acting as key holder (where required).
- Ensure that the health and safety of staff, visitors and contractors is paramount at all times and follow correct procedures to ensure safe operation of any equipment

Knowledge, skills and experience

To apply for this role, we are looking for you to demonstrate examples of how you meet the following requirements in your Cover Letter ([guidance can be found here](#))

Essential requirements:

- Experience delivering high standards of customer service.
- Retail or admissions sales experience
- Excellent team working skills.
- A genuine interest in working within the heritage tourism industry.
- Knowledge of Electronic Point of Sale till systems.
- Experience dealing with cash, credit transactions and end of day procedures.

Desirable requirements:

- Knowledge of the monument(s) and surrounding area.
- IT skills and ability to use basic online functions.
- Experience in working in a high end fast paced retail environment.
- Product knowledge of alcohol, jewellery and textiles.
- Ability to communicate in a second language.
- An existing first aid qualification, or willingness to be trained in first aid skills.

Our Interview Process

If you have been shortlisted for this role, we will send you an email to invite you to meet with us for an interview. This will take place either in-person or by video call (we will let you know which one in advance). Our panel will ask you some questions to get to know you and better understand how you meet the key competencies and behaviours of the role that you are applying for. This is also an opportunity for you to know the team better and make sure that we are the right choice for you



There may be a task included in the interview, which is relevant to the role you are applying for. If this is the case, we will let you know what to expect beforehand. Should you be shortlisted for interview, we will send you out the key questions in advance to help you prepare. Your questions will be based on the following selected key requirements of the post:

Key Competencies:

- **Delivering excellent Service** – Demonstrating a commitment to quality services
- **Planning and Organising** - Putting plans and resources in place to achieve results
- **Communication** - Communicating appropriately and clearly

Key Behaviours:

- **Taking personal ownership** – We are the 'local experts' in our area. Recognising this expertise and feeling empowered to make decisions and owning the issues to deliver the bigger picture.
- **Learning as we work** – Ensuring we are all accountable for our own personal growth and learning. Ensuring we reflect on these moments and are brave enough to seek them out and grow with our changing world.
- **Exploring challenges together** - Collaborating with others to solve problems to ensure the highest quality results. Owning our learnings and behaviours together rather than defending or attributing blame.

How to apply for this post

You can apply online by visiting our [vacancy page](#) on the Historic Environment Scotland website. If you are unable to complete an online application process, please email centralrecruitment@hes.scot, quoting the job title and recruitment reference, and we will arrange for an application form to be sent to you. Alternatively, you can call 0131 668 8600 to request this.

Guidance on completing your application can be found in the 'How to Apply' section in the Job Summary, please ensure that you read this to understand what should be included in your cover letter. If you are applying internally, please read our CV and Cover Letter Guidance included in the advert under the section 'Key requirements of the role'

Your application must arrive by the advertised closing date. Please note that when applying online, we will only be able to see your application once you fully submit it.

Please note that, as we operate an electronic recruitment system, we will contact you via the email address that you provide in your application to inform you of the outcome of your application.

For further information about the post, please contact Tapio Hara, [Retail Deputy Manager] via email on tapio.hara@hes.scot

We are dedicated to building a workforce which is reflective of diversity within Scotland. We warmly welcome applications from candidates of all backgrounds, regardless of age, race, gender or gender identity, religious beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or

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neurodiversity. In support of our Gaelic Language Plan, we welcome applications from Gaelic speakers.