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# Seasonal Retail Assistant, Edinburgh Castle

**Closing Date:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Midday

**Expected Interview Date:** Week Beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Recruitment Reference: 225

### Salary:

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

### Pay Band:

Grade 1

### Location:

Edinburgh Castle

### Line Manager:

Retail Manager Kirstie  
Finlay

### Contract Type:

Fixed Term – 4 positions  
from April to September  
2026, 4 positions from  
May to October 2026 and  
one position from May to  
September 2026

### Working Hours:

35 hours per week (5  
days out of 7, including  
weekend working)

We have multiple Retail Assistant roles available on a fixed term basis up until September 2026. The likely start date for this role is in April and May 2026.

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 Edinburgh Castle during the season.

You will be responsible for delivering the highest standard of visitor experience across all areas of Edinburgh Castle, working in one of the three retail gift shops. By engaging with visitors you will proactively sell a wide range of retail products focussing on a strong message of 'Made in Scotland'.

Having dominated the Edinburgh skyline for over 3,000 years, Edinburgh Castle is steeped in history having served as a royal residence, military garrison, prison and fortress. Each year thousands of visitors from across the globe are welcomed into the castle and we pride ourselves on ensuring each visitor receives a 5 star service. No two days are alike which keeps this role very engaging and brings a great deal of job satisfaction.

## 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



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**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

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 – ranging from: greeting our visitors and selling and promoting a range of retail products. You will play a key role in ensuring that every visitor has an enjoyable and informative visit.

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.

## 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.

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH  
Scottish Charity No. SC045925  
VAT No. GB 221 8680 15



- 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.
- Excellent team working skills.
- A genuine interest in working within the heritage tourism industry.
- Retail or admissions sales experience
- 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
- **Teamwork** - Contributing to and supporting working together



- **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 [recruit@hes.scot](mailto:recruit@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 Alexander Monaghan, Deputy Retail Manager via email on [alexander.monaghan@hes.scot](mailto:alexander.monaghan@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 neurodiversity. In support of our Gaelic Language Plan, we welcome applications from Gaelic speakers.



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