

Summer Staff support the studios and campus operations during the program season. A few days before classes begin, staff arrive to get ready for the session. Review the dates closely when applying and on any paperwork you receive--you must arrive on time. On the day of arrival, we dive right into orientations and training for the session. The night before the students arrive, the instructors, teaching assistants, artists in residence and their assistants arrive, this group is referred to as the program. The night the program arrives, a planning meeting is held. Staff must be ready to help the program get settled on campus, locate supplies, orient to the studios and any other logistics needed before the students arrive the next day. During the session, Summer Staff participate in their roles, attend meetings, host a gallery opening and campus events, have studio access, sit in on artist talks, observe demos, explore the campus surroundings and network with peers and professionals. Most staff depart the same day as the students and program.

You can apply for one session or multiple sessions, often participation is limited to 2 sessions on Summer Staff per season. Due to the competitive process it is recommended that you apply for as many roles and sessions you are interested in and ready to take on. The staff opportunities are in two categories: Campus Assistants and Coordinators.

Generally, Coordinators are the point people in the studios and require extensive technical knowledge, previous experience on Summer Staff, the ability to clearly communicate at a variety of skill levels, experience fabricating work for others and creativity in handling competing priorities within the studio. Coordinators often have an undergraduate degree and are in MFA programs, already have an MFA or currently work in the industry with similar studio responsibilities.

Campus Assistants either support a role in a studio or other operational parts of the school. Campus Assistants that provide support to Coordinators require knowledge of the studio, previous experience on PGS Summer Staff, ability to clearly communicate and confidence in monitoring peers use of equipment and reinforcing safety. Campus Assistants also help in non-studio areas on campus, this requires a willingness to follow direction, working in a team, a friendly demeanor and an interest in the success of the PGS program and community.

First and foremost, Summer Staff is a learning and training opportunity in arts administration in a busy educational environment. Individual learning and participation occurs during the performance of duties as well as during off-duty time when Summer Staff are encouraged to experience the campus, interact with classes, attend educational events, access available studios and host campus wide activities. Pilchuck donates housing, meals and studio time for Summer Staff. Studio time is available during off-duty times, while many of the studios are shared, there is good availability to use these resources with designated time in the Hot Shop during the session.

International artists are encouraged to apply if you have the ability to travel to the United States on a visitor or volunteer visa. As an international craft school, artists from all countries bring important cultural perspectives and unique skills to campus. Unfortunately due to the short duration on campus and the complicated process for visas, there is no support for special travel or work visas. English is the primary language on campus, often with several languages represented each session. While you do not need to speak English as your primary language, an intermediate proficiency is recommended.

Being on Summer Staff is a rewarding experience and is well worth the time and effort you will dedicate to Pilchuck Glass School. You will gain skills in glass, practice diplomatic communication and increase confidence in leading within the community that will help you in your artistic pursuits. The professional connections and introduction to a broad range of glass peers can lead to different career, residency or exhibition options for you in the future.

If you have any questions, contact Abram Deslauriers, Operations Supervisor via email: adeslauriers@pilchuck.com well in advance of the February 1st, 2019 deadline.