

Meningitis Research Foundation Ambassador role description

Role: Meningitis Research Foundation Ambassador

Responsible to: Ambassador Programme Manager

Time commitment: To suit your availability

Location: UK-wide

Background

Meningitis Research Foundation is an international health charity headquartered in the UK, driven by a passionate mission to prevent the devastating impact of meningitis. Founded by individuals whose lives were profoundly affected by meningitis, we are dedicated to enabling positive change by uniting people and knowledge to save lives. The Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (CoMO) is our worldwide network of people and groups who are driven by a shared purpose to defeat meningitis. By coming together to share their diverse experience and expertise, they are a formidable global force against this life-threatening condition.

Our ambassador programme aims to amplify the voices of people affected by meningitis to raise awareness of the disease across the UK. With personal experiences of meningitis – either themselves or through a close family member - they want to share their journey to help others understand the disease, its true impact on people's lives and what to do to defeat it. Our Ambassadors share powerful first-hand experiences of meningitis through talks, presentations, media interviews, events and more to move and inspire others to join the fight to defeat meningitis.

What is an Ambassador?

The role of Ambassador is varied, interesting and highly rewarding. It involves being part of an inspiring network of people passionate about using their experiences to raise awareness of meningitis, its impact on people's lives and what we can all do to defeat it.

Ambassadors are living testaments of our support ethos, sharing their individual experiences of meningitis through talks, presentations, media interviews, events and more.

"I felt that in memory of my boys I needed to raise awareness of this dreadful disease." - Gina Weston, Ambassador



What does an Ambassador do?

Here are some of the typical activities that Ambassadors get involved with, depending on your interests and skills:

- Sharing your lived experience and expertise, to foster greater understanding and knowledge of meningitis.
- Talking about how Meningitis Research Foundation supported you, the work we do, why you are an Ambassador and what your role involves.
- Speaking at local and regional events (e.g. festivals, fairs, colleges and universities), to raise awareness within at-risk groups and increase public understanding of the disease.
- Sharing key messages and resources across a range of channels such as social media, so that we reach audiences far and wide with life-saving information.
- Participating in local, regional and national media interviews (radio, TV and online).
- Supporting and featuring in campaigns such as the world's leading meningitis awareness event - [World Meningitis Day](#), or [One Life. One Shot](#), sharing from a place of lived experience to move and inspire millions of people.
- Research into community groups, schools and businesses in your area so that you can contact them to offer awareness raising talks and activities to increase understanding of the disease in your local area.
- Attending cheque presentation events on behalf of the charity, officially thanking donors for their support and sharing information about Meningitis Research Foundation.

What we offer you

"Being an Ambassador allows you to meet others with similar experiences and see how positive they are. It also allows you to become an engaged and useful member of society at a time in your life when you wanted to hide away." Dianne Spalding, Ambassador

- Being an Ambassador is a life changing opportunity; by sharing your experiences you will help educate and inform people about what it's truly like to be directly impacted by meningitis, so more people will be aware of signs and symptoms and more people will seek help when they need to.
- You'll join a supportive Ambassador network, where you'll meet other remarkable Ambassadors who have faced the unimaginable (as you have) and who share your passion for defeating meningitis.

- Be a central part of our events programme, from local activities where you can make a difference in your community to Ambassador meet-ups and national events, such as London Marathon and the Great North Run.
- Access training and resources to support you in the role, and develop life-long skills such as public speaking, working with the media and community outreach.
- Get support every step of the way with a dedicated point of contact as you develop in your Ambassador role.
- Gain experience working with a professional organisation; a great addition to your CV and reference for future employers.

Skills, experience and qualities

The following are some of the skills and qualities we look for in our Ambassadors:

- Willing to share your experiences, using your journey to help others understand meningitis, its impact on people's lives and what can be done to defeat it.
- Personable, enthusiastic and approachable, helping maintain a positive atmosphere.
- Reliable and trustworthy, representing the charity in a professional manner at all times.
- Strong public speaking and communication skills, including the ability to present and deliver talks to a range of different audiences.
- Social media skills with the ability to create engaging content across different social media channels.
- Time to dedicate to the role and its training.

There are different types of Ambassador roles and opportunities to be involved with, and we will work with you to explore the different ways you can share your story.

You'll receive high quality training and resources in the role and you'll never be on your own – you'll have a dedicated point of contact and we're always there to support you.

Being an Ambassador is a rewarding but challenging role, and it is important that you are self-aware, in the right place in your life to be able to share your experiences with others and know when you need to step away from the role. There are many meaningful ways for you to be involved if being an Ambassador isn't right for you, we're grateful for everyone's contribution and interest.

Is it right for me?

All our Ambassadors must currently be 18 or over and based in the UK.*

Ambassadors have a personal experience of meningitis, whether themselves or a person close to them. It is important that you are self-aware, in the right place in your life to be able to share your journey with others and know when you need to step away from the role.

Our Ambassadors carry out a range of activities and as such there is no minimum time commitment – it is flexible to fit around your life. However, we rely on Ambassadors giving up

their time to carry out activities and attend events, so we depend on everyone to 'do their bit' so we can keep raising awareness of the disease in communities across the UK.

What do Ambassadors commit to?

Whilst we appreciate that our Ambassadors' roles are undertaken on a voluntary basis, we have a duty to protect the image and reputation of the charity and safeguard the people we come into contact with.

We therefore request that all volunteer Ambassadors will:

- Sign and adhere to our Ambassador agreement
- Complete a DBS check**
- Complete any necessary training

We know that people's circumstances change. We'll keep in regular contact and ask that, if you're no longer able to be involved, to please let us know as soon as possible (so we can celebrate your amazing contribution, as well as start the process for finding a new Ambassador in your area). We want to empower families across the UK with vital, life-saving information about meningitis and having a network of active Ambassadors across different locations is a crucial part of that.

*We are looking to expand our Ambassador network across the whole of the UK to reach as many different communities as possible, and particularly encourage applicants from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. For international opportunities, check out [Confederation of Meningitis Organisations](#), our global member network. Currently, we are only seeking Ambassadors aged 18 or over.

**If you have a criminal record, it won't necessarily stop you from being an Ambassador. We'll consider each case individually.