

Position of Herm Island Engineer

The Challenge

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a proven, qualified engineer with good electrical and mechanical skills to join our island maintenance team on a permanent basis to take over the running on a 'hands-on basis' of the island's power station and utility services.

The Work Role

Guaranteed never a dull moment working in a healthy, partially outdoor environment with a commute time of just a few minutes!

The Island Engineer's responsibilities include:

- The production and distribution of electricity from the Powerhouse with 3 diesel 80-180KVA generators, including regular servicing and general repairs.
- The pumping and distribution of water from 7 boreholes and the up-keep of the supply network and numerous tanks.
- Maintaining the island's sewer system.
- Maintenance of the island's vehicles including tractors, quads, gators, mini digger etc.
- Upkeep and maintenance of island equipment including lawn mowers, chippers, hedge cutters and trimmers.
- Electrical wiring, fuse boards etc across the island buildings, mainly involving fault finding and minor alterations. An outside contractor assists with larger projects and fire detection systems.
- Plumbing and heating: Repairs to plumbing and heating systems mainly involving minor repairs. Outside contractors assist with boiler servicing and larger plumbing work.
- Gas Supply and Equipment. There may be the possibility of further training to gain the qualifications to become a registered gas operative although a basic understanding of gas equipment would be an advantage.
- General works – this could be fixing a leaking tap, changing a broken toilet seat, unblocking a drain, fixing a door handle or changing a light bulb. This busy & successful tourist island has to keep running 24 hours a day with limited access to immediate outside assistance, therefore a willingness to muck in and help is very important!
- Fire Team – There may be an opportunity to join the island's well-equipped retained fire-fighting team which is part of Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service

Assistance

The Service team comprises of one 'hands on' Island Engineer, an assistant Engineer, a Skipper/relief engineer, a carpenter, a builder, a painter, a Estate Manager, 2 gardeners, a recycling & refuse operative, and 2 outdoor maintenance team/tractor drivers.

Each member of the team has their own skills but will assist other members of the team as required.

The Skipper, Carpenter and Builder all have general plumbing and electrical skills and provided the Engineer is skilled and a good team player who gains the respect of his peers, this is a proven and successful system.

Good 'back up' is provided by selected Guernsey contractors/service agents.

The Managing Director-Services, who is an engineer, is well experienced in all aspects of property, electrical and mechanical maintenance; he directs the team and is not afraid to give 'hands on' assistance.

Out of work 'call outs' are successfully handled by the maintenance staff on a rota basis with the engineer responsibilities restricted to power production/utilities and those problems that are too technical or difficult for the person who is on call.

Therefore, whenever a problem arises there is always a good level of support available if the solution to the problem seems evasive.

Maintenance Policy

The company spends consistently on running and refurbishing the island, such as the hotel, holiday cottages or the cargo vessel. It is the maintenance team's job to ensure that preventative maintenance and good winter planning restrict 'summer season' problems to the minimum.

Working Week

The engineer must expect to be on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week. In practice he works Monday to Friday from 08.00 – 17.00 in the winter & 08.00 – 17.30 in the summer but must willingly respond to 'call outs' as and when required in order to maintain continuity of services.

Family/Schooling

For applicants with a young family we have the excellent island school (States of Guernsey Education Authority) which can take children up to the age of 11 years, there are currently 8 pupils. For children who have lived on the island for some years, subject to certain criteria, we can, subject to there being space in our boarding house, offer a weekly boarding arrangement in Guernsey, to take advantage of Guernsey's excellent private schools.

The island offers an ideal safe outdoor environment for children with first class schooling.

It is not essential for couples living on the island to have children as long as they're prepared to get involved with the community and make the most of island life.

Recreation

Enjoy wonderful beaches and walks, swimming after work in summer, fishing, dinghy sailing and many other outdoor activities. The hotel has a Tennis court. The Mermaid Tavern is open for most of the year, except January – mid February. Good restaurants with a 20% discount on food for island residents. Guernsey is just 20 minutes away by hourly ferry in summer and twice daily in winter with additional midday sailings on Wednesdays and Saturdays in winter. Nominal charge for out of high season visiting family in self-catering units.

Housing

Unfurnished but double-glazed and centrally heated accommodation will be provided with the only charge being for heating, electricity, gas and broadband.

The broadband charge is £125 per year (subject to review) and our utility charges are far lower than the UK.

The Rewards

This is an exciting and challenging position in a healthy environment with an idyllic lifestyle. A realistic salary plus bonus, 4 weeks' holiday, good rent-free housing, quad bike for work usage, (applicant must have full driving licence) low tax of 20%, no rates or council taxes and no need for a car! 50% of relocation costs. This represents a generous package when compared to UK salaries and living expenses.

Commencement

Ideally January or February 2019.

Selection Procedure

The Managing Director considers the selection of staff to be one of the most important aspects of the success of Herm Island. Therefore, applications should be as detailed as possible to ensure the recruitment of a capable engineer who will work well with existing staff but also someone who will enjoy the island and all it has to offer. A key issue is to ensure that the applicant's partner/family will be happy living in a relatively small and remote community.

On receipt of applications those short-listed will receive an initial telephone call from the Managing Director. A follow up call may be made by his wife to the applicant's wife/partner to discuss the many domestic matters relating to island life - shopping, medical issues, schooling etc.

If shortlisted a 2-day interview will be held on the island (travel & accommodation costs at Herm's expense). The family/partner will need to attend the interview.

Applications

Applications in writing addressed to 'Managing Director', Herm Island, Via Guernsey, Channel Islands. GY1 3HR. Include full CV, current family photograph and a letter with family details and enough background information for us to assess the suitability of the applicant to live and work in our small island community. Emails to: - simongearge@herm.com

Closing Date for applications

6th December 2018