

CUMBRIA CRYSTAL

HAND CRAFTED IN ENGLAND



Glassblower: Experiences & Production Assistant

£21,902.50 - £23,926.50 + assistance towards accommodation.

Initial contract to December 23rd, 2022 with the potential to become permanent in 2023. Due to the short-term nature of this contract initially additional support towards the cost of accommodation is available.

The company is seeking to appoint a glassblower to deliver hands-on glassblowing 'Experiences' to the public. Prior to Covid and suspension of the programme, this primarily consisted of one-on-one bauble and paperweight workshops, with occasional longer workshops. With tourism in Cumbria projected to recover this year we are now ready to restart. In 2020, after only two years of running, the Glassblowing Experiences programme was voted in the top three, 'Best Experiences of the Year' by Cumbria Tourism Awards, so there is a opportunity and demand for the right to really develop this project.

Depending on your expertise, and demand from the public, you may also be asked assist our team of 5 production blowers &/or our glass processing team when Experiences are not running. This role is ideal for a talented graduate possessing sound glassmaking ability, with the confidence to teach, or a more experienced blower wishing to do something different for a while. Cumbria Crystal is the only 'luxury' lead crystal manufacturer in the UK and as such offers the opportunity to experience the processes & techniques used in a production environment. Situated in the picturesque town of Ulverston (16,000 people) the company is on the edge of the English Lake District, Cumbria – a stunningly beautiful county with World Heritage Site status ideal for nature lovers, walkers, cyclists, climbers and artists.

Primary Responsibilities:

- To deliver a variety of short income generating glass-blowing experiences to the public.
- Responsibility for the safe delivery & smooth running of the day-to-day activities.
- To ensure participants are fully briefed & supervised with regard to Health & Safety.
- 5/7 working week may be required (ie weekends with weekdays off).
- To maintain the highest standards of customer experience & service.
- Work closely with key staff to ensure products are packaged & marked for collection &/or dispatch.
- Liaise with Shop and bookings staff to ensure good communication with potential customers.
- To assist the production blowing team when workshops are not running.
- Update 'Trip Advisor' and supply content for use on the company Social Media channels.
- Production of small stock items for sale in the Factory Shop (dependant on experience).
- Charging the furnace; lighting glory holes; ensure materials and safety equipment are available and used appropriately.
- Occasional work with the dispatch staff & to assist with other reasonable duties as requested by the Operations Manager.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

CUMBRIA CRYSTAL · UNIT 4 · CANAL HEAD · ULVERSTON · CUMBRIA · LA12 7LB · ENGLAND

T +44 (0)1229 584 400 E MAIL INFO@CUMBRIACRYSTAL.COM

WWW.CUMBRIACRYSTAL.COM

CUMBRIA CRYSTAL

HAND CRAFTED IN ENGLAND



Person Specification:

- *Bachelor's Degree in Glass, or equivalent glassblowing experience.*
- *Coldworking experience.*
- *Experience & confidence to deliver hands-on, One-on-One, glassblowing experiences.*
- *Fluent English.*
- *Good time-management and organisational skills and an ability to work calmly under pressure.*
- *Ability to communicate clearly, enthusiastically and effectively.*
- *Understanding of the Health & Safety issues relating to glass making.*
- *A positive attitude and strong work ethic.*
- *Computer and social media skills.*
- *Demonstrates respect and consideration towards colleagues.*
- *Ability to work independently on your own initiative and within a team.*
- *Reliable trustworthy and a good time-keeper.*
- *Demonstrate good attention to detail.*
- *A willingness to learn and take instruction.*

Background information:

Cumbria Crystal is the only producer of LUXURY completely hand-made, English 24% lead-crystal in the United Kingdom and one of the leading companies globally. Its aspiration is to produce the highest quality, hand-blown bar and stemware Collections in the world exclusively using traditional glass-making techniques. The small team of 24 highly skilled artisans are committed to mastering processes which have hardly changed in the last 2000 years. Craftsmanship is embraced, automation is shunned and the hand-made aesthetic reigns. As such Cumbria Crystal feels very different to that of most of our competitors.

Located in Ulverston, a small town in the iconic English Lake District, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the factory is open to visitors to watch the choreographed alchemy of glass blowing, browse the shop & try blowing crystal themselves. An informed understanding of the production processes greatly enriches appreciation of the artisan's skills illustrating why they could be classified as individual works of 'art'.

Cumbria Crystal melts its crystal in traditional, closed-pot, hand-made clay crucibles to echo historic British crystal more closely. This has a noticeably different aesthetic to large-scale production tank furnaces many of which now use cheaper alternatives. Crystal is more expensive to make, slower and harder to work, however the benefits it brings include an increased 'refractive index' promoting a brilliant sparkle in the cut, and a reassuring weight in the hand. The company believes these qualities outweigh the additional complexities associated with the material to ensure a superior product that exudes character, quality, uniqueness and production capacity. Unlike most manufacturers, every aspect of the creative process is done by hand. The crystal is completely mouth-blown by the team of five glass blowers (each with a minimum of 15 years training)



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

MULLINER



BENTLEY

MADE IN
BRITAIN



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

CUMBRIA CRYSTAL · UNIT 4 · CANAL HEAD · ULVERSTON · CUMBRIA · LA12 7LB · ENGLAND

T +44 (0)1229 584 400 E MAIL INFO@CUMBRIACRYSTAL.COM

WWW.CUMBRIACRYSTAL.COM

CUMBRIA CRYSTAL

HAND CRAFTED IN ENGLAND



and cut on a lathe (5 years training). The cutting process demands intense concentration and skill requiring the artisans to hand-carve decoration into every item using abrasive diamond and sandstone wheels. The use of sandstone wheels has been abandoned by most companies as it doubles the cutting time, despite noticeably improving the finish. A typical product takes between 10 and 12 days to craft.

Once raw materials arrive in the factory they are melted, blown, processed, marked, diamond cut, polished and inspected at least 5 times before dispatch. The collective skills of at least 9 artisans are required to create every piece. Nothing is subcontracted.

It is therefore not surprising Cumbria Crystal it is the crystal of choice for many of the world's most discerning clients including Royalty and the British Embassies & Consulates worldwide. It has featured in numerous period dramas including every film & series of Downton Abbey, James Bond and Darkest Hour as it epitomises quality, luxury living and aspirational lifestyles.

Founded in 1976 by the famous historic Cavendish family, whose estate is nearby, the company was created with incredible foresight to help preserve traditional British crafts. Lady Grania Cavendish designed the [Grasmere Collection](#) used in Downton Abbey. To this day it remains the most iconic of all the Collections. A close relationship with the Cavendish family and Estate continues.

Recent years have seen more contemporary Collections developed to diversify the brand and attract to the millennial and generation Z market. The company sponsors training and design projects with MA & PhD students from the Royal College of Art, London helping new generations of glass designers establish careers. In addition to the core stemware Collections, Cumbria Crystal partners with a select number of luxury retailers, distillers and businesses – including Bentley Motors, David Linley, Fortnum & Mason, Glancy Fawcett, Asprey, Rolls Royce, Diagio, Thomas Goode, Glyndebourne & Hamilton & Inches.

As an official crystal manufacturer for Bentley Motors & their coachbuilding subsidiary, Mulliner, the company produces luxury champagne flutes for the Bentayga Mulliner, the world's most luxurious SUV. Tumbler Collections for the Continental GT; decanter and tumbler collections for the Mulsanne, W.O. Edition by Mulliner. The EXP100GT, Bentley's 100th anniversary concept car incorporates two highly complex sculptural crystal Artificial Intelligence interfaces which are still in development as the company goes electric.

- Last producer of luxury hand blown & hand cut lead-crystal in the UK.
- Located in Cumbria, Lake District National Park, England, UNESCO World Heritage Site
- A small heritage company with only 24 craftsmen & women.
- The training for a glass blower is around 15 years.
- Specialises in using 2000 year-old production techniques avoiding mechanisation.
- Minor variations in hand-made crystal and quality expectations are such that only 50% of what is created is awarded the coveted 'Premium Quality' status.
- The company aspiration is to produce the best hand-made crystal in the world.
- Everything is completely hand-made from scratch & nothing is sub-contracted.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

CUMBRIA CRYSTAL · UNIT 4 · CANAL HEAD · ULVERSTON · CUMBRIA · LA12 7LB · ENGLAND

T +44 (0)1229 584 400 E MAIL INFO@CUMBRIACRYSTAL.COM

WWW.CUMBRIACRYSTAL.COM

CUMBRIA CRYSTAL

HAND CRAFTED IN ENGLAND



- Orders are generally bespoke made especially for the client.
- The company was founded in 1976 by Lord & Lady Cavendish. The House of Cavendish is a famous British Noble House. The Cavendish family is one of the richest and most influential aristocratic families in England with connections to the English Royal family.
- The Grasmere Collection – (Downton Abbey) was designed by Lady Cavendish.
- Grasmere is the name of the lake & local village where the poet William Wordsworth lived for 14 years. He called it as "the loveliest spot that man hath ever found."
- The Helvellyn Collection is used for formal dining by all British Embassies & Consulates worldwide.
- Cumbria Crystal is popular with a number of Royal households.
- Cumbria Crystal is an official manufacturer of crystal for Bentley Motors.
- Cumbria Crystal is regularly specified for private superyachts & jets.
- The Grasmere, DOF whisky tumbler was used by Daniel Craig in Casino Royale.
- Lead crystal has a high specific gravity so refracts light more than 'normal' glass making it sparkle more. The additional weight evokes quality & tradition.
- Production of a typical crystal product takes at least 10/12 working days.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- **Glassblowing Experiences: Short Video:** [Click here](#)
- **Trip Advisor: Feedback about Cumbria Crystal Experiences:** [Click here](#)
- **Cumbria Crystal: General video about the company:** [Click here](#)

APPLICATIONS to:

chris.blade@cumbriacrystal.com Please include your CV, images of your work and a brief statement outlining relevant experience and suitability for the role.

E-mail if you would like to arrange an informal chat.

START DATE:

ASAP



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

MULLINER



BENTLEY

MADE IN
BRITAIN



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

CUMBRIA CRYSTAL · UNIT 4 · CANAL HEAD · ULVERSTON · CUMBRIA · LA12 7LB · ENGLAND

T +44 (0)1229 584 400 E MAIL INFO@CUMBRIACRYSTAL.COM

WWW.CUMBRIACRYSTAL.COM

