



South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Office of the Commissioner
Government House
Stanley
Falkland Islands

June 2024

Dear Candidate,

Role of: General Hand

Thank you for your interest in a role with the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI).

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands is a UK Overseas Territory situated in the South Atlantic, 800 miles south east of the Falkland Islands. The Territory is uninhabited, with the only population being a small team of Government and British Antarctic Survey personnel located at an administrative station at King Edward Point, Cumberland Bay. The Territory remains one of the most remote locations on the planet, and is home to globally significant marine mammal and seabird populations. It also encompasses one of the world's largest and longest-standing Marine Protected Areas. The entire landmass was designated as Terrestrial Protected Area in 2022.

The Government's main office is located in Stanley, Falkland Islands with a small compliment of additional personnel in the UK. In 2021, we published a new 5-year values-driven framework that sets out stretching ambitions for governance, environment, fisheries, tourism and heritage. A copy can be found at www.gov.gs.

The administrative centre at King Edward Point, South Georgia consists of a small cadre of GSGSSI staff as well as a scientific research station operated by the British Antarctic Survey on the Government's behalf. The science conducted supports GSGSSI's world-class conservation, environmental management, and sustainable fisheries objectives.

Adjacent to King Edward Point lies the remains of Grytviken, a former whaling station which closed in the 1960s and which is now managed for its heritage value. Some of the buildings have been converted to house the South Georgia Post Office, the Government's workshops and hydroelectric facility, and the South Georgia Museum which is operated by a charity. Many thousands of visitors come South Georgia every year, primarily on cruise ships and yachts during the austral summer. In recent years, sustainable tourism has become an increasingly important part of Government operations, although tourism visits to the South Sandwich Islands are now prohibited by law. In the winter months, the main activity is the operation and management of Marine Stewardship Council certified and sustainable fisheries.

We are now recruiting 2 (two) General Hands to work in a 4 person build team. This role is pivotal to the sound maintenance of this United Kingdom Overseas Territory and as such we are excited to receive applications from candidates who with excellent line management skills, high levels of resilience, and the desire to deliver continuous improvement for these globally significant islands.

The General Hand will work as part of a small team with the Marine Engineering and Technical Services Lead (onsite) and the Lead Civil Engineer and Project Manager (based in Stanley) to complete the programme of works for Grytviken and King Edward Point during the austral summer (October 2024 – March 2025). There will be a 4-person build team on-site for the season; we expect everyone to contribute towards the general daily running of the station. You will be expected to live and integrate into a small isolated community, working alongside other organisations, such as the British Antarctic Survey, South Georgia Heritage Trust, and GSGSSI contractors.

In advance of deployment to South Georgia, via the Falkland Islands, you will be required to familiarise yourself with planning documentation, policies, and biosecurity guidance, and will be briefed with the GSGSSI Stanley based team.

Due to the limited health services available on the island, the successful candidate must be prepared to undergo medical screening and comply with British Antarctic Survey (BASMU) medical and dental assessment. The Government will meet the costs of this assessment. A list of conditions that may preclude employment are available at the end of this letter. Please note that this position is subject to successfully passing the BASMU medical assessment to ensure fitness to work in remote locations such as South Georgia, and holding a passport that does not restrict travel on the military Airbridge between UK and Falkland Islands.

About the terms

The job description accompanying this letter covers the duties of the role. The nature of our small Government is such that the incumbent may be called upon to complete other duties as the needs of the organisation dictate.

The role attracts pay of £14.00 – 17.00/hr, in a 45hr week. There is no pension scheme available for GSGSSI employees.

For international applicants, flights to and from your country of recruitment, accommodation and subsistence, in line with the GSGSSI policy, are available. Applicants are advised to check and consider how working on South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and/or the Falkland Islands will affect their obligations to pay income tax or make national insurance contributions (or equivalents) in their home country. Both South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the Falkland Islands consider someone resident for tax purposes if they reside in the territory for 183 days or more in any calendar year. Depending on where the postholder is employed or retained tax may be deducted at source from salaries or payments.

Recruitment will be conducted in two phases. An initial paper sift, followed by an interview panel, conducted remotely if appropriate. All interviews will be assessed around the person specification criteria below. Final offer of employment is based on the ability of the candidate to successfully pass the aforementioned medical and dental examinations, and receipt of satisfactory references.

Who can apply

GSGSSI is an international team where many nationalities and cultures are represented. Applications are open to individuals of any nationality with a strong command of written and spoken English, excluding those whose nationality preclude them from travelling on the South Atlantic Airbridge operated by the MoD. A list is appended to this letter.

Those applicants who do not hold Falkland Islands Status or a Permanent Residency Permit must be able to lawfully enter and leave the Falklands during the period of employment. This will require that they are in possession of a valid passport with at least 6 months validity beyond the projected end date of the contract.

What is the process

For more information about the position please read the attached job description and person specification. For an informal discussion, and to talk about living and working in South Georgia, please contact recruitment@gov.gs.

If you would like to apply, please submit a CV and a covering letter, each of which should be no more than 2 A4 pages in length, outlining your motivation for applying and how you believe your skills and experience match the essential and desirable criteria to: recruitment@gov.gs.

The closing date for applications is 1600 Falkland Islands time (UTC-4) on Friday 12th July 2024. Applications received after this time will not be considered. Due to the anticipated volume of applications, only those applicants selected for interview will receive feedback, upon request. A request must be made at the time of interview or in writing, no longer than 5 working days after the interview.

Candidates not selected for interview will be informed promptly and in any case, no longer than 21 working days after the published closing date.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,



Laura Sinclair Willis
Chief Executive Officer

General Hand – Build Team – South Georgia - Job Description

Task Requirements and Responsibilities

The Build Team will be responsible for site maintenance tasks, reactive works and preventative maintenance of buildings and infrastructure in King Edward Point and Grytviken. Activities will follow a programme of works as set by the Lead Civil Engineer and Project Manager, and will include a varied assortment of tasks. The candidate will be expected to:

- Repair and maintain interior and exterior of modern building and heritage mixed use buildings.
- Manage and prioritise own workload in order to complete repairs in a timely manner and in accordance with given timescales.
- Carry out planned preventative building maintenance in line with set programme of works.
- Shape or cut materials to specified measurements, using hand tools, machines, or power tools.
- Prepare, sand, clean, and apply various finishes to interior and exterior of structures, including primers or sealers.
- Move necessary materials around Grytviken and KEP as assigned, using heavy and light equipment, including vehicles and plant.
- Follow established safety rules and regulations and maintain a safe and clean environment, including on-site hazard identification.
- Undertake weather dependent tasks, such as exterior painting, when the conditions are appropriate.
- Carry out such duties as required or delegated by the Maintenance Team Leader or the Lead Civil Engineer and Project Manager, including undertaking tasks in the absence of both if required.
- Undertake duties at the research station to assist the general running of the base, and playing an active role in domestic support, such as but not limited to cooking, and waste management.

Post Season

To facilitate planning and programming for subsequent seasons, the candidate is required to contribute to the following as part of the team:

- Recording in detail all work carried out, including scheduling data.
- Making necessary recommendations for future materials and equipment orders.
- Making necessary recommendations for future works in Grytviken and King Edward Point.

Experience

- Demonstratable technical expertise and experience in carpentry.
- Experience living and working in small teams in remote and/or extreme environments.
- General building experience.
- Experience in a specific trade (plumbing, electrical, painting etc) is preferable.

Knowledge and Skills

- A flexible approach to working and commitment to delivering high standards of work activity outputs.
- A positive and helpful attitude to work and colleagues on station.
- A team player and the ability to work without direct supervision.
- Good interpersonal skills when living in isolated community.

- Good time management with proven ability to meet deadlines and complete work as necessary to deal with multiple and competing demands on a regular basis.
- Effective communication skills with the ability to provide and receive clear verbal and written instruction relative to building maintenance activities and tasks.
- A desire for personal development and to be challenged through unique build tasks.

Qualifications / Skills:

- Building qualifications and/or plant ticket competency or demonstrable experience
- Capable of receiving and following instructions and communicating with co-workers
- Able to read and adhere to labels, safety warnings, and guidelines
- Competent with working on multi-disciplinary work activities and prioritising these based on material availability, weather, and other task programming.
- Experience of living in small and/or remote communities is desirable

List of nationalities not authorised to travel on the Airbridge:

BELARUS
HONG KONG
MACUA
EGYPT
IRAN
LIBYA
NORTH KOREA
RUSSIA
SYRIA
TAIWAN
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)
UKRAINE
VIETNAM

This list is subject to change without notice.

British Antarctic Survey Medical Unit – Guide to Conditions That May Cause Concern

Cardiac (Heart) and circulation problems

Angina & Heart Attacks. * Leaky Heart valves & Rheumatic Fever Previous Heart Surgery* Uncontrolled High Blood Pressure Heart Rhythm Abnormalities Treated abnormal rhythms*. Heart Failure Severe varicose veins Arterial Disease Previous Frostbite* Severe Reynaud's disease* Previous leg thrombosis*. Previous clot on the lung*.

Respiratory (chest) problems

Recurrent "burst" lung (pneumothorax)* Single episode of pneumothorax* History of moderate or severe Asthma* Cold induced asthma* Chronic Bronchitis or emphysema* Active Tuberculosis

Gastrointestinal problems

Active stomach / duodenal ulcer History of these ulcers* Liver Disease Pancreatitis Previous exploratory abdominal surgery* Hernia* Untreated) Severe piles* Recurrent (inflammatory) bowel disease*

Genito- urinary problems

Recurrent Kidney Stones Renal colic* Kidney failure Recurrent kidney infections*

Neurological Conditions

Epilepsy or fits (on treatment) Previous fits clear for > 3 years* Brain Haemorrhage in past* (non traumatic) Previous brain surgery* Unexplained episodes of loss of consciousness Severe ME* Degenerative N.M. conditions Significant Neuro Deficit secondary to Trauma

Metabolic Conditions

Most diabetes Mild type II diabetes if well controlled (exceptional)* Other "endocrine disorder"* Cushing's Disease Thyroid disease Addison's Disease Obesity (severe) BMI >30* Obesity (severe) BMI >35

Musculoskeletal conditions **

Untreated Slipped disc* Recurrent back pain* Lower Limb Amputation* Severe knee problems* Recurrent dislocations *(untreated) Unstable joint* - 6 - 6 Rheumatoid Arthritis* Frequent Gout* Ankylosing Spondylitis*

Cancer and Haematological Disorders

Most cancers Treated cancer with low risk of recurrence* Clotting or bleeding disorders Warfarin Medication Treated leukaemia* Bone marrow disease Treated Hodgkin's disease*

Gynaecological conditions

Current Pregnancy Pelvic inflammatory Disease* Ovarian disease.* Dermatological conditions Blistering Skin diseases Severe psoriasis*

Mental Health Problems

Current psychiatric illness Depression Previous severe mental illness Self harm Schizophrenia Previous drug / alcohol problems* Manic depression Personality Disorder Current Drug or alcohol abuse

* The decision will depend on many different factors and will be made on an individual basis.

** These conditions will be assessed in relation to the capacity to undertake activity/work in the anticipated environment.