

## Museum Compatibility Quiz

Well, you've probably tried online dating, now how about an online compatibility quiz for museums? Take this quick quiz to find out how well suited you might be for a career in the museum field, and where in the museum you might start looking. Choose a rating for each statement, and then check your score at the bottom of the page.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

### Attitudes and Mindset

	Strongly Disagree			Strongly Agree
1. I don't mind working flexible hours, including some weekends and evenings.	1	2	3	4
2. I need a living wage, but salary takes a back seat to other factors when I think about what is important in a job .	1	2	3	4
3. I need to feel passionate about what I am doing in my job.	1	2	3	4
4. I want to make a difference in my community.	1	2	3	4
5. I enjoy working with other professionals in a team environment.	1	2	3	4
6. I want to stay in my current city; I'm not interested in moving.	1	2	3	4
7. Continuing education is something I'm looking forward to.	1	2	3	4
8. I enjoy connecting with other people doing jobs similar to mine.	1	2	3	4
9. I'm willing to chip in, even if the task has nothing to do with my job.	1	2	3	4

Your answers to the above questions can help determine whether a museum career is right for you.

Score of 27-36: Welcome to the museum field! You have a lot of the attitude and mindset that it takes to thrive in a museum environment.

Score of 20-27: I wouldn't rule out a museum career yet, but give it some serious thought. It can be a difficult road to choose if you have doubts and aren't totally committed to it.

Score under 20: Based on your responses, I don't think a museum career is right for you. If you are still excited about museums, definitely try volunteering or interning to see exactly what would be expected of you as a museum professional.

## Specific Skills and Interests

	Strongly Disagree			Strongly Agree
1. I want a job where I'll be challenged intellectually.	1	2	3	4
2. I don't mind asking people for money, if it is for a good cause.	1	2	3	4
3. I really want to specialize in a particular topic or subject area.	1	2	3	4
4. I really enjoy talking to people, and don't have a problem with public speaking.	1	2	3	4
5. I like to do research, and study art and objects.	1	2	3	4
6. I'm a good writer.	1	2	3	4
7. I'm very good at planning, and love to put together events and parties.	1	2	3	4
8. I love working with children.	1	2	3	4
9. I'm a natural storyteller, and love to create narratives.	1	2	3	4
10. I'm more of a jack of all trades—I can do a little bit of everything!	1	2	3	4
11. I really have a comfort zone, and prefer not to venture too far outside it.	1	2	3	4
12. I'm an organizer; I love keeping things in order, and making sure everything is where it is supposed to be.	1	2	3	4
13. I'm a creative person; I love to do art projects, build things, and display things artistically.	1	2	3	4
14. I can keep my head in any crisis, and never lose my cool.	1	2	3	4
15. I like dealing with numbers and sticking to a budget.	1	2	3	4

## Curators

If you answered 3 or 4 to questions 1, 3 and 5, and 1 to question 4 and 8, you might be most suited to a curatorial position at a museum. Curators do not generally interact with the public, though they do occasionally speak at public programs. They spend their time with objects and documents, and are the primary caretakers for the collections owned by a museum.

## Educators

If you answered 3 or 4 to questions 4, 7, 8, 9 and 13, you might be best suited to the job of Museum Educator. Educators in larger museums often specialize in a particular age group or type of program, but most educators need to be able to create and implement programming for every age of museum visitor. They often run programming, and need to be creative as they coordinate state learning standards, the museum's collection, and visitors' interests, into a potential program or event.

## Marketing

If you answered 3 or 4 to questions 4, 6, 7 and 14, you could be a great Marketing Director. This is another position that doesn't exist in smaller museums, but in larger museums this job can include working with the media and tourism organizations, planning exhibit previews and member events, and serving as the voice of the museum in a crisis.

## Finance

If you answered 3 or 4 to questions 12 and 15, you might make a good Finance Director at a museum. While this job does not usually have much interaction with the public, or with the museum collections, it is essential to the success of any museum. If numbers are your thing, and you love museums, this might be the perfect job!

## Collections Manager/ Registrar

If you answered 3 or 4 to questions 5 and 12, check out openings for Collections Managers or Registrars. These museum staff members need to be extremely well organized, and dedicated to keeping deeds of gift, inventories, collection catalogs, and loan forms in order. You also get to work hands-on with the museum collections, and you often help the curator take care of those collections.

## Development

If you answered 4 to questions 2, 6, and 7, you might have the skills you need to be a Development Director. Development staff don't appear in every museum; it is usually mid-size and large museums that can afford to hire a staff person specifically designated to write grants, plan donor receptions and go after donations. In smaller museums, this is often left to the director or members of the Board of Trustees.

## Exhibit Designer

If you answered 3 or 4 to questions 5, 6, 9 and 13, you might make an excellent Exhibit Designer. An exhibit designer needs to be able to write label copy, graphically pull together an aesthetically pleasing display of objects and information, and be able to build the exhibit itself. This job isn't found in every museum, so it can be hard to break into this as a career. However, you might look at exhibit design companies as an alternative—they aren't museums, but their clients are!

## Small Museum

If you answered 3 or 4 to questions 1 and 10, and a 1 to question 11, you might do better in a small museum. Because there are not a lot of staff members in these museums, everyone plays multiple roles, and chips in on museum-wide projects.

## Large Museum

If you answered 3 or 4 to questions 3 and 11, you might want to look at jobs in larger museums. Larger museums (with a budget over 1 million a year, normally) have more staff, and can hire people with specialized skills and interests. For instance, a small museum will most likely have one or two educators who run all programming. A large museum, on the other hand, is more likely to have a Tour Coordinator, School Programs Coordinator, Adult Programs Educator, and a Director of Public Programs who is in charge of the whole education department.