

## CMoG

### *Blow Glass at Sea*

#### Celebrity Cruises

##### Frequently Asked Questions

Celebrity Cruises is the premium brand of Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, the second largest cruise line in the world. The Corning Museum of Glass is collaborating with Celebrity to blow glass on their new class of ships, the Solstice Class.

##### Ship Info

**Q. How many ships are there?**

A. We blow glass on three ships; *Solstice<sub>sm</sub>*, *Equinox<sub>sm</sub>*, and *Eclipse<sub>sm</sub>*. They sail in the Caribbean and in Europe, following the good weather

**Q. Where do the ships sail?**

A. You can view itineraries by going to this site: <http://www.celebritycruises.com> .

##### Responsibilities & Expectations

**Q. How many glassblowers are on the ship at a time?**

A. There are three at all times. Typically there is one gaffer and two assistants. The Team Leader manages the demonstration schedules.

**Q. What would my status be onboard the ship?**

A. You are considered a crew member, but unlike most other crew members, you have many passenger privileges. You have a single cabin in the crew quarters, but from time to time you may eat in passenger restaurants and use the passenger gym among other privileges. You may not use the pools and you may not go into the casino or guest staterooms. If you are chosen for the program more information will be provided to you regarding privileges and expectations.

**Q. Will I be a Museum employee?**

A. Yes. You will be a "Project Employee" of the Corning Museum of Glass. You will receive a paycheck from the Museum every two weeks while you are working for the *Blow Glass at Sea* program. You will receive more information if you are chosen for the program.

**Q. What will I be expected to do?**

A. Depending on your glassblowing qualifications and experience, you will be designated either as a Gaffer/Narrator or a Demonstrator/Narrator. You will be expected to be able to make a two-gather piece such as an optic bowl or a handkerchief vase. The most successful pieces are blown pieces which show change quickly. Onboard ship, the Team Leader sets the pace and decides who works when and the scale of what is made. Your responsibilities will also include all the day-to-day activities of running a hot shop (i.e., set up, clean up, shut down, maintenance, inventory, moving and storing cullet and materials, narration, charging the furnace, running programmable controllers, loading the annealer, departmental meetings, general housekeeping). You also participate in all safety drills and training. See last page for examples of objects made.

**Q. How many days a week will I work while onboard?**

A. Typically, you'll work about 40 hours a week over six days with one day off. Some weeks you may work a little more than 40 and others you may work a little less than 40. The show operates at various times during the day and sometimes in the evenings.

**Q. How long is the assignment?**

A. Celebrity requires that the assignments are a minimum of three months.

**Q. Three months is a long time. Can I have a shorter assignment?**

A. Given logistics, cost of travel, etc., Celebrity requires that each assignment is a minimum of three months.

**Q. Can I stay on longer than three months if I like it?**

A. Assignments are made several months in advance and it might not be possible to extend your stay. It may be possible to receive a longer assignment in the future. Your skills will be evaluated while you are on the ship. If your performance meets the standards, there will be opportunity for more assignments.

**Q. As a crew member, will I have to do anything special onboard the ship?**

A. Your first week onboard will be orientation to the ship. Normally glassblowers' actual crew responsibilities are minimal.

**Q. I've never worked at The Corning Museum of Glass. Can I be hired and go directly to the ship?**

A. No, you will have to come to the Museum to audition on our stage for at least several weeks. If you are chosen for the program, you will attend an orientation while in Corning. While you are training before your first ship assignment, you will be employed by the Museum's staffing partner, Kelly Services. If you are chosen for the *Blow Glass at Sea* program, you will be hired by the Museum as a Project Employee as of your first ship assignment.

**Q. Can I make glass for myself while I'm onboard the ship?**

A. No, you may only make glass for the Celebrity audience's demonstration purposes. All the glass made belongs to the Museum.

**Q. I think I understand why we are not allowed to make our own work, but can you elaborate on that?**

A. The Corning Museum of Glass has had successful demonstrations because we are focused on the *process* rather than the *product*. This has freed up the gaffers to experiment with colors, form and technique. It keeps both the gaffers and narrators fresh.

**Q. Can I bring my own glassblowing tools with me?**

A. Yes. We will provide additional information on this if you are chosen for the program.

**Q. I make glass for sale. Will I be able to sell it onboard the ship?**

A. There may be an opportunity to sell your own glass on the ship. We will tell you who to contact at Celebrity to make those arrangements. Remember, any glass you sell on the ship must have been made elsewhere; you may not make glass for sale while you're on the ship.

**Q. Is there a uniform requirement?**

A. Yes, all of the glass blowers are required to wear a shirt with the program logo, which will be provided to you. An allowance will be provided to purchase pants and shorts for the assignment. We will talk to you about that when you're at the Museum for training.

## **Pay/Expenses**

**Q. What will I be paid on the ship?**

A. Your rate of pay will be determined based on your qualifications and experience. You will also receive a 15% "Sea Pay" premium. You are paid bi-weekly and your payment will be directly deposited to the account you designate.

**Q. What is a Sea Pay premium?**

A. The premium is in consideration of gratuities and other out-of-pocket expenses you will incur while on board. Normally the Sea Pay premium more than covers these expenses.

**Q. How would I be paid while I'm on the ship?**

A. We will deposit money directly into the account you designate. Payment is made in US dollars every other week for the previous two weeks.

**Q. What will my expenses be onboard the ship?**

A. Your room and meals are paid if you eat in the crew quarters as well as in several passenger dining areas. You will have to pay for soft drinks, beer, etc., but they are very inexpensive in the crew area. If you go onshore in port, anything you buy is your own expense. You will need to leave a gratuity for your cabin steward at the end of each cruise and possibly some other gratuities. The Team Leader will help you determine the proper amount to leave. Reimbursable expenses will be wired to your bank account with original receipts.

**Communication/Logistics/Travel**

**Q. How will I communicate with my family and friends while I'm onboard?**

A. While you're at sea, cell phones and internet are very expensive. You will want to limit communications to when you're in port (which is often). In Europe you might want to purchase an inexpensive cell phone there with a SIM card, or use your own as long as it has international capabilities. Internet has been a challenge on the ship and we're working with Celebrity to rectify this.

**Q. How do I get to and from my home and the ship?**

A. Celebrity Cruises will make your air reservations. If you have to stay overnight in a hotel either as you embark or disembark, Celebrity will make those arrangements also. Your meal expenses en route will be reimbursed based on Celebrity's travel policy. You will need to supply receipts.

**Q. Will I be able to get off the ship when we're in port?**

A. Although you may not be able to disembark at every port, you will have ample opportunity to get off while the ship is docked.

**Q. After I am finished with my tour, is it possible for me to stay a few days in the city of departure before going home?**

A. Celebrity Cruises' policy is that all crew members must fly home as soon as they sign off from their tour. The policy does not allow for the crew member to even pay their own way home. They have to take the flights offered to them by Celebrity.

**Q. What should I pack if I'm chosen for the program?**

A. We have a packing list that we'll give to you to help you plan.

**Necessary Documents**

**Q. Do I need a passport?**

A. Yes, you need a valid passport with an expiration date of more than six months after your assignment ends. The name on your passport must match the name on your other IDs such as your driver's license. You are responsible for all costs related to obtaining or renewing your passport. Go to <http://www.usps.com/passport/welcome.htm> for more information.

**Q. Do I need a credit card?**

A. Yes. Since you'll be traveling outside the US, it's especially important to have a credit card. Although most expenses are reimbursed, you will need your own credit card for any out-of-pocket expenses you may incur or any unforeseen circumstances. We suggest that you have an available balance of at least \$1,000 when you leave for the ship.

**Medical Requirements**

**Q. Do I need medical insurance?**

A. Celebrity requires medical insurance regardless of whether you have your own or not. The Museum will assist you in securing short-term insurance for your assignment at sea. You are not responsible for the cost of this insurance.

**Q. Will I need to have a physical exam?**

A. Yes, Celebrity requires a comprehensive physical exam. Celebrity's doctor determines who is medically qualified to work onboard ship and Celebrity pays for the exam. If you are in the Corning, NY area, we will make the appointment with our Occupational Health office. If you are not in the area, we will discuss where to get the exam.

**Q. Will I need to take a test for drugs?**

A. Yes, a drug test is included in the physical exam.

**I'm Ready to Sail!**

**Q. It sounds like something I'd like to do. How do I apply?**

A. Go to <http://www.cmog.org/atsea>. Complete the Application form and send it to us with your resume and images of your work.