



In collaboration with  
**Fast Forward**  
Women in Photography



## Collection & Research Assistant

Full time for 3 months (or part time for 6 months)

Salary £24,171 - £25,225 per annum (Band 7)

Pay award pending plus generous benefits package

## About the role

Are you a really, really good researcher? Are you curious about photography? Are you experienced in Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion issues?

We're looking for a researcher to join our team to work on a fascinating project. National Galleries of Scotland and Fast Forward: Women in Photography are collaborating to complete new research in the photography collection in Edinburgh. Focussing on the archive, you will investigate photography dealing with migrant stories, women's stories, and work by women photographers.

Your research experience can come from any background, or it could have been post-doc. However, you must already have effective research methodologies and a solid grasp of report writing.

## The difference you'll make

Working directly with photography curators and other colleagues you will:

- Conduct research within the photography archive.
- Focus on the photographic stories in our collection that deal with social change - with an emphasis on stories connected to women's lives (including a minimum of 50% women photographers).
- Conduct research on the "Migration Stories" project; evaluating its impact and identifying potential opportunities to commission new work.
- Be part of a team producing a report detailing research findings with a particular emphasis on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI).
- Produce a proposal for either a draft article, proposed curatorial project or a publishing project. This will be evolved in collaboration with all partners to communicate the findings from the research and what type of outputs they can lead to.

## Who we are looking for

In answering our quick questions tell us more about you, how you meet the requirements, and what you will bring to the role. This will be your opportunity to stand out as well as tell us what you are looking for from us. To succeed in this role, you'll need the following range of knowledge, skills, and experience:

## [nationalgalleries.org](https://nationalgalleries.org)

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- Degree in art history or photography or equivalent.
- A strong interest in or knowledge of photography and/or EDI work.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills with the ability to prioritise work.
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal.
- Attention to detail and high level of accuracy.
- Experience in report writing or evaluation documents.
- Competency and confidence in working with digital systems.
- Ability to work as part of a team and develop and maintain effective working relations with a broad range of people internally and externally.

It would also be great if you have:

- Previous relevant work experience ideally within a gallery or museum environment.
- A working knowledge of collection management systems.

### **About the Project**

The focus of the research will be connected to the commissioned researchers' interests who are keen to support enquiry into work from new perspectives and raising questions of value to future generations. The project will examine both how people are being represented and how work can be contextualised to bring new knowledge to bear on our audiences. It will also provide information for future researchers regarding pertinent issues connected to representation and identity.

NGS is partnering with Fast Forward, a research project concerned with women in photography based at University for the Creative Arts. Started in 2014 with a panel discussion at Tate Modern, the project has established a significance within the world of photography for highlighting the work of women photographers and for questioning the way that the established canons have been formed.

### **We are National Galleries of Scotland**

Our three Edinburgh galleries are the National, Modern and Portrait. We house and look after Scotland's amazing world-class art collection – one of the finest in the world. Step inside and explore treasures from Botticelli and Titian to the very best modern art to contemporary portraits of pop culture icons. And, as you'd expect, the world's greatest collection of Scottish art, our national collection. We also have an outstanding collection of Western art from the late Middle Ages to the present day.

We're a space for thinking, dreaming, doing, and playing. Soak up the art. Meet friends in the cafés. Have a family picnic surrounded by the sculptures in the Modern grounds. Be inspired by our amazing art films. Choose your own experience. There is no one way to enjoy Scotland's national collection. We are yours to discover.

As well as displaying our art at our three Edinburgh sites, we also share it through an active programme of partnership across Scotland, the rest of the UK and abroad, as well as online.

We conserve and research our collections and we are committed to reaching the widest possible audience through our ambitious plans. Visitor numbers to our sites in Edinburgh totalled an average of 2.5m visitors a year in the years prior to the global pandemic.

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## What's important to us

We make art work for everyone. That's our purpose and it drives everything we do. This is an exciting time for us, as we move forward with our engaging strategic vision: Art for Scotland: Inspiration for the World.

We're putting our audience at the heart of what we do. Matching Scotland's rich collection, our expertise and creativity with the needs and wants of our visitors. Finding new ways to connect with more people and create an innovative, inclusive organisation that can meet the challenges of our ever-evolving world.

We're committed to looking at how we operate as well as how we engage our audiences. We will play our part in tackling the Climate Emergency, and we're embedding Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in the way we work. We want everyone to feel a sense of belonging and freedom to be themselves at work or at play with us.

## What's on offer for you

Our colleagues will tell you great things about working here. We aim to ensure the National Galleries of Scotland is a great place to work, where our people thrive in a culture where we're trusted, empowered, and engaged to achieve our true potential. We offer a range of benefits to promote healthy working lifestyles for all our colleagues. The benefits for this role are:

### Salary

£24,171 - £25,225 per annum pro rata. Starting salaries will normally be at the minimum rate depending on experience.

### Hours

If full time you will work 37 hours per week excluding a one-hour unpaid lunch break each day. Part time hours of 18.5 hours per week (over 3 days) will also be considered.

### Holidays

When you first join, you'll get 25 days annual leave per year plus 11.5 public and privilege holidays pro-rata depending on hours.

### Where you'll be based

You will be based at the Portrait, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh. However, you may be required to work in any of our Galleries based in the heart of Edinburgh - the National, Portrait, and Modern (One and Two).

### Pension

We are a Civil Service Pension employer. You get to choose if you want a defined benefit or stakeholder pension. The benefits of joining the scheme include generous employer contributions to your future pension, life assurance, and options to increase your pension. If you join the alpha Civil Service pension scheme our contribution will be 27.1% for this role.

### Other benefits

Family friendly working policies, free or discounted entry to various visitor attractions, staff discount at our shops and cafés, Cycle to Work Scheme, wellbeing support and services including our Employee Assistance Programme.

**The closing date for completed applications is 12 noon on Monday, 12 June 2023.**

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*Please note that the successful candidate will be subject to Basic Disclosure Scotland security clearance.*



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