



Paintings Conservator

Full-time, Fixed Term (9 months)

Salary £31,707 - £34,677 per annum

Pay award pending plus generous benefits package

Flexible working

About the role

We have an exciting opportunity for a specialist Paintings Conservator to join our small, dedicated team of Paintings Conservators and Conservation Technicians.

You will have a sound knowledge of the history of art and the ability to undertake conservation and art historical research for paintings collections. You'll be passionate about working with our diverse and exceptional collections. This role will help to deliver an ambitious exhibition schedule and a generous lending programme.

You must have a degree with a recognised post-graduate qualification in a relevant conservation discipline or equivalent training/experience. You will have proven practical experience of working with a broad range of art collections within the specialism of paintings gained post education/training.

You'll be able to juggle several projects at any one time, be resourceful and above all, enthusiastic. Excellent time management and planning skills with the ability to prioritise work to meet deadlines are essential.

The difference you'll make

Reporting to one of our Senior Paintings Conservator, you will be part of the Conservation Department which includes other conservation specialisms of paper, frames, and time-based media. It's a busy department, where everyone strives to keep abreast of recent developments within the wider profession and we encourage a culture of research and collaboration. We regularly process new acquisitions as our collection expands, and we provide baseline care across all the collection.

Your core activities will include:

- Assisting with planning and programming paintings conservation work required to deliver the loans, displays, exhibitions, acquisitions, and collections care activities.
- Recording work undertaken and liaising with colleagues to highlight any anticipated issues with the delivery of the work programme.

- Undertaking conservation work required for exhibitions and displays of paintings, including at non-NGS sites.
- Advising on the suitability of works of art for transport and display, condition checking, conservation treatments and application of preventive conservation measures.
- Completing paintings conservation work required to improve standards of collections care, such as condition surveys of parts of the collection and remedial treatments.
- Documentation - requesting photography, communicating findings, and providing data for entry onto our collections management database (Multi Mimsy) and our website.
- Responding to any incident reports relating to paintings.
- Liaising with colleagues to ensure works are safely packed and installed, which may involve designing specialist storage and display cases.
- Undertaking art historical research relating to parts of our paintings collection, and conservation research relating to modes of deterioration, conservation materials and techniques.

Who we are looking for

To succeed in this role, you'll also need the following range of knowledge, skills, and experience:

- Good knowledge and understanding of the materiality of paintings and experience of working with a range of media.
- Ability to devise and carry out treatments to a high standard, where necessary using innovative solutions to resolve complex and unique problems.
- Willingness to continually develop technical skills with regards to new methods and techniques.
- Experience of preventive painting conservation approaches such as environmental monitoring and control; storage, transportation, installation, and display methods.
- Good knowledge of the conservation sector in the UK.
- Professional accreditation through the PACR scheme, or a willingness to work towards this.
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal.
- Ability to produce clear and accurate documentation.
- Knowledge of relevant Health and Safety regulations and approaches.
- Good IT skills, including image processing software.

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.
- Experience of supervising interns and volunteers.
- Experience of writing for traditional publications and social media.
- Driving licence.

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.

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 are trusted, empowered, and engaged to achieve our true potential. We offer a range of benefits to promote healthy working lifestyles for all our colleagues. Details specific to this role are:

Salary

£31,707- £34,677 per annum pro rata pay award pending. Starting salaries will normally be at the minimum rate depending on experience.

Hours

37 hours per week excluding a one-hour unpaid lunch break each day.

Holidays

When you first join, you'll get 36.5 days annual leave pro-rata depending on hours (which includes public holidays). After 5 years your annual leave will increase to 41.5 days.

Where you'll be based

You will mainly be based at Modern One, Belford Road, Edinburgh where free car parking is available. However, you may be required to work across all 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, 31 July 2023

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



National Galleries of Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland (No. SC003728)