



## Conservation Technician Touring Exhibitions

Full Time and Fixed Term to 31 March 2030

Salary £30,900 - £32,250 per annum

Plus generous benefits package

On site with flexible working

### About the role

We are excited to have a new opportunity for a Conservation Technician to join our Conservation team. You may already be working as a Conservation Technician looking for a new opportunity or have relevant experience handling artworks and fitting works into frames. If so, we'd love to hear from you.

In this specialist role you will work closely with Conservators and Senior Conservation Technicians to deliver high-quality technical solutions. You will provide bespoke framing and glass cutting, mounting, packing and transit solutions for a wide variety of objects. You'll work with both paintings and works on paper, in line with recognised industry standards.

Your main focus will be ensuring that objects from our collection are displayed, stored, and transported safely and appropriately, particularly those travelling as part of our touring exhibitions. You will also contribute to the ongoing care and maintenance of collections on display and in storage.

We are looking for someone with woodworking / machine shop skills, ideally gained in a museum, gallery or with clearly transferrable experience from a commercial setting. This is a practical, hands-on role, requiring confidence in working with tools and machinery, excellent manual dexterity, and a careful, methodical approach.

Initially, the role will focus primarily on paintings, with some time spent supporting paper-based projects. With training and support, your responsibilities will develop to include a broader involvement in both paintings and paper conservation preparation and mounting. While training will be provided, some prior experience of working with either paintings or paper is preferred. This role offers an excellent opportunity for a skilled technician who enjoys problem-solving, working with their hands, and contributing directly to the care, movement and sharing of nationally important collections.

### About the Touring Programme

National Galleries of Scotland is launching an ambitious international touring programme contributing to our aim to make art work for everyone. This new initiative builds on past touring success and increases opportunities for the collection to be shared with audiences across the world. The touring programme is also part of our strategy to grow our income to ensure our future financial sustainability.

[nationalgalleries.org](http://nationalgalleries.org)

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VAT No. GB1001904 82

Work has already begun and we are now recruiting a number of posts from May 2026 to support taking the touring programme forward. The programme will run initially to 31 March 2030. The success of the initiative will determine next steps for both the programme and the team supporting it.

You will help to deliver this ambitious new initiative. This is an excellent opportunity for a results-driven individual to demonstrate their impact and contribute to shaping the success of the programme.

### **The difference you'll make**

Reporting initially to the Senior Conservation Technician (Paintings & Frames), your responsibilities will include but not be limited to:

- Producing bespoke technical solutions, including framing, glass cutting, mount-making, and packing systems for safe transit and display.
- Recording technical work using documentation and photography. Entering data into the collections management database and creating written guidance to assist with the packing and display of non-standard objects
- Preparing artworks for touring exhibitions, ensuring they are framed, mounted, packed, and documented to agreed professional standards and ethical frameworks.
- Supporting the planning and delivery of the touring exhibitions programme by helping to organise object movements, monitoring progress and meeting agreed deadlines.
- Contributing to the care, maintenance, and housekeeping of collections on display and in storage.
- Helping to maintain safe, efficient, and well-organised studios and materials stores, including stock control, equipment maintenance and compliance with health and safety requirements and documentation.
- Providing practical advice to colleagues throughout the organisation as required.
- Contribute to your own professional development through training and knowledge-sharing.
- Assisting with the supervision of placement students and volunteers if required.
- Supporting internal and external engagement to publicise conservation activities by contributing to talks, tours, presentations and writing content for publications and social media promoting conservation work.

### **Who we are looking for**

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

- Proven hands-on experience in woodworking / machine shop, operating and maintaining fixed and hand-held wood working equipment ideally gained in a museum, gallery, or commercial setting.
- Confident use of tools and machinery, with excellent manual dexterity.
- Some experience handling artworks and fitting paintings and works on paper into frames preferably using historic or artists' own frames. Ideally with experience of constructing museum standard frames and designing and making mounts for works on paper.
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to produce clear and accurate documentation.
- Time-management and planning skills, with the ability to prioritise workload and meet deadlines.

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- Strong problem-solving skills and attention to detail.
- Experience of following health and safety practices in the workplace ideally gained in a workshop or studio environment.
- Willingness to continually develop technical skills with regards to new methods and techniques, actively engaging in professional development.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively as part of a team.

**It would also be great if you have:**

- Some experience of working in a museum or gallery in a technical role.
- Some experience or qualification in wood working (e.g. City and Guilds).
- Awareness of conservation issues and environmental risks.
- Experience of cleaning objects on display.

## **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.

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## 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

£30,900 - £32,250 per annum. Starting salaries will normally be at the minimum rate depending on experience.

### Hours

35 hours per week excluding a one-hour unpaid lunch break each day. Weekend work and flexibility with working schedule and some early evening work may be required. We're also committed to supporting flexible working options for everyone which includes flexible working, and flexitime policies.

### Holidays

When you first join, you'll get 36.5 days holidays per year (including public and privilege holidays). After 5 years your annual leave will increase to 41.5 days.

### Where you'll be based

You will be based at the Modern One, 75 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DS where free car parking is available on site. However, you will work across all of our Galleries based in the heart of Edinburgh - the National, Portrait, and Modern Two - and will also work regularly at our off-site art stores.

### 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 28.97% 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, 06 April 2026.**

Interviews will likely be held in person week commencing 20 April 2026.

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