



Art Handling 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

About the role

We are delighted to announce a new opportunity for an experienced Art Handling Technician to be part of our talented team. This role will play an important part in helping with the delivery of our ambitious international touring exhibitions programme, enabling works from Scotland's national collection to be shared with audiences around the world.

To succeed in this post, you must have proven skills and experience in the safe handling and movement of works of art within a museum or gallery environment.

Your work will play a vital role in delivering our wider strategy, supporting our Public Offer, equalities, and environmental priorities. Along with installing exciting exhibitions in our galleries, you will ensure art works travel both safely and sustainably.

You'll work across all three of our stunning Galleries based in the heart of Edinburgh as well as our arts store at Granton Art Centre handling our incredible art. The Art Movement Team works to national standards supporting complex national and international programming in the handling, packing, movement, installation, and location tracking of a wide variety of artworks, including those from our collection and those on loan to us.

In this role you will ensure the safe movement, transportation, and installation of all artworks within the National Galleries of Scotland, and to other organisations globally as part of our loan and touring exhibition programme. You will also assist in maintaining the upkeep of the storage areas, exhibits, tools, and equipment.

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.

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.

nationalgalleries.org

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

VAT No. GB1001904 82

The difference you'll make

In all that you do you will be part of a small, dedicated team of Art Handling Technicians who are supported by the Senior Art Handling Technicians. Reporting to the Art Movement Manager your responsibilities will include:

- Providing safe and efficient movement of art works and other objects within the organisation and to other institutions, including risk assessments and method statements as required.
- Contributing to resource and planning discussions as required in line with skills and experience.
- Leading on individual project elements as requested.
- Maintaining location records and relevant paperwork following our procedures.
- Packing and unpacking objects and checking conservation condition reports.
- Undertaking courier duties.
- Sharing responsibility for the care and maintenance of equipment, including highlighting any concerns as appropriate.

Who we are looking for

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

- You must have proven skills and experience in the safe handling and movement of works of art within a museum or gallery environment.
- Awareness of and commitment to health and safety compliance and best practice.
- High standards of accuracy and attention to detail as well as an excellent manual dexterity.
- With the ability to work calmly and carefully under pressure you will actively anticipate and plan for potential problems.
- Can demonstrate sound, timely and appropriate decision-making skills taking responsibility and using initiative.
- You will have a helpful manner and flexible approach, great communication skills and enjoy working flexibly as part of a team with the ability to work alone and committed to getting the job done.
- Apply sound judgement with regards to maintaining confidentiality.
- Good IT skills with proficiency in Microsoft Word and Outlook.
- Demonstrable commitment to updating skills and knowledge.
- Current driving licence.

It would also be great if you have:

- Willingness if required to train towards a category C (formerly known as HGV) driving licence if not already held.
- Experience in completing risk assessments and method statements, working at heights and heavy lifting operations.
- Experience with modern or complex installations.
- Familiarity with a collections management database.

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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

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 Monday to Friday excluding a one-hour unpaid lunch break day. Willingness to occasionally work flexible hours including evenings and weekends to meet deadlines when required.

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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'll mostly be based at Modern One, 75 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DR where free car parking is available on site. However, you'll work across all three of our Galleries based in the heart of Edinburgh - the National, Portrait, and Modern (One and Two) as well as our art store at Granton Art Centre.

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, 30 March 2026.

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