



Assistant Curator Touring Exhibitions

Full-time and Fixed Term to 31 March 2030

Salary £32,171 - £35,093 per annum

Plus generous benefits package

Hybrid / flexible working

About the role

We are delighted to announce a new opportunity for an Assistant Curator to join our Collection & Research team. In this role you'll play an important part in helping to deliver our ambitious international touring exhibitions programme, enabling works from Scotland's national collection to be shared with audiences around the world. The touring programme consists of bespoke exhibitions drawn from works that cover the breadth and range of the collection.

We're looking for a highly organised and detail-oriented individual with the ability to manage time effectively and meet deadlines. You will already have professional experience of working in a gallery or museum environment, or with an art or heritage collection and have a particular area of art historical interest or expertise.

You'll be confident working both independently and collaboratively, supported by colleagues across the Collection & Research team. A clear and professional communicator, you will build strong working relationships with colleagues, partners, and stakeholders, while keeping relevant parties informed of progress and any issues.

You will work with the dedicated international touring exhibitions team, and a wide range of stakeholders across the organisation, as well as with external partners. Therefore, the ability to build effective working relationships and communicate clearly is essential.

You'll also be passionate about making art accessible to everyone and committed to supporting equality, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace.

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.

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VAT No. GB1001904 82

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

As part of the Collection & Research department, you will help with the organisation, administration and delivery of the touring exhibitions programme. Reporting to the Director of International Partnerships your duties will include but not be limited to:

- Acting as the key curatorial point of contact for the touring exhibitions programme with colleagues across the organisation, borrowing venues, and external stakeholders ensuring clear and consistent communication.
- Working closely with colleagues across the Curatorial & Research department in the research and development of the touring programme.
- Scheduling meetings, providing admin support and taking minutes for the project team and other related meetings.
- Assisting in tracking budgets, ensuring they are accurate and updated.
- Maintaining project files and associated documentation, to ensure all information is up to date and easily accessible.
- Collecting and collating relevant information for project reports, evaluations, and KPIs.
- Working closely with the Collections Management team to update loan and object records on Axiell
- Assisting with due diligence provenance research.
- Collating and writing interpretative material for the touring works, in-gallery and on-line, meeting the National Galleries of Scotland tone of voice, interpretation framework and editorial processes.
- Liaising with collections management colleagues to ensure the highest standards of care and protection for the collection.
- Liaising with the Communications team with information regarding the touring schedule.

Who we are looking for

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

- A degree or equivalent in art history or a related subject.
- Professional experience of working in a gallery or museum environment and/or evidence of professional experience working with art/heritage collections.
- A proactive approach with the ability to take initiative.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong organisational and administrative skills, including an ability to prioritise effectively and work accurately without close supervision.
- Ability to work as part of a team and develop and maintain effective working relations with a broad range of people and teams, internally and externally.
- A demonstrable commitment to supporting the organisation's equality, diversity and inclusion principles.

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- Proficient IT skills particularly Microsoft Office 365.

It would also be great if you have:

- A working knowledge of Axiell Collections or another collections management system.
- Knowledge of another language.
- Experience of working internationally.

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 2.6m visitors in 2025.

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:

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

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Salary

£32,171 - £35,093 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 Monday to Friday. We're also committed to supporting flexible working options for everyone which includes flexible working, working remotely 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 Modern One, 75 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DR where free car parking is available on site. However, you'll 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 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 Wednesday, 13 May 2026.

Please note that the successful candidate will be subject to Basic Disclosure Scotland security clearance. This role is also subject to Civil Aviation Authority regulations which require a 5-year background check to meet the required security measures.