



Assistant Curator, European and Scottish Art

Full-time and Permanent

Salary £32,171 - £35,093 per annum

Plus generous benefits package

Hybrid / flexible working

About the role

We're excited to offer a permanent opportunity within our Collection & Research department. We're looking for a highly motivated, well-organised and collaborative individual who is passionate about engaging our visitors with art, to support our curatorial team in delivering a range of activities.

Are you a champion of European and Scottish art with a particular interest in the largely pre-1900 collection displayed in the National at the Mound in Edinburgh? Do you have experience of supporting curators in a gallery or museum environment, or with an art or heritage collection? Are you a good communicator and committed to promoting equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusion? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

You must be forward-thinking, detail-oriented, positive and confident in managing your time effectively to meet targets and deadlines. You will also be able to work both independently and collaboratively, while being supported and guided by colleagues in the curatorial team.

This is a great opportunity to develop your skills and gain experience across a range of curatorial activities, particularly in display maintenance, provenance research and audience engagement. You'll assist with several aspects of work carried out by the European and Scottish Art curators. You'll also undertake research into the National Galleries of Scotland's art collection, with a particular focus on spoliation-related provenance and collection audit and review, and will respond to enquiries about the collection.

In addition, you will help to maintain existing collection displays, document future display plans and support our acquisitions and loans processes, as well as the department's contributions to our transformative capital project: The Art Works. The role includes developing and sharing information about European and Scottish art with our focus audiences, including giving in-gallery talks and tours across the collection and writing digital interpretation.

The difference you'll make

Reporting to the head of the team, you will:

- Support colleagues in the European and Scottish Art team with various aspects of curatorial work.
- Assist with due diligence provenance research and collection audit and review programmes, in collaboration with Curatorial and Collections Access & Care colleagues.

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- Work closely with colleagues within the team, department and wider organisation in the maintenance and delivery of displays and overall audience offer, especially but not exclusively at the National, including the new Scottish galleries. This includes supporting colleagues to implement artwork changes within collection displays.
- Share information on the collection with our audiences and partners, including answering research enquiries about the collection and facilitating access to items in store.
- Undertake directed research into the collection and potential acquisitions.
- Create and update collection records and future display lists on Axiell, our Collections Management system and support curatorial reporting and evaluation activity.
- Write accessible and engaging in-gallery and online interpretation about the collection for our focus audiences, in line with our organisational strategy and interpretation framework.

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.
- Knowledge and enthusiasm for a subject area relevant to the National Galleries of Scotland's European and Scottish Art collection displayed at the National (largely 1300–1900, although the Scottish rooms extend to 1945).
- Some experience of provenance research.
- Relevant professional experience of working in a gallery or museum environment and/or evidence of relevant professional experience working with art/heritage collections.
- An enthusiastic, 'can-do' approach with the ability to take initiative and contribute to a positive working culture.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong organisational and administrative skills, including an ability to prioritise effectively and work accurately without close supervision, and in alignment with our strategy.
- 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 aim to embed equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusion in all areas of our work.
- Proficient IT skills particularly Microsoft Office 365.

It would also be great if you have:

- Working knowledge of Axiell Collections or another collections management system.
- Knowledge of a second, ideally European, language.
- Some knowledge or experience of Scottish art (1600–1945).

We are National Galleries of Scotland

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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 2.6 million 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 Equity, Diversity, Accessibility 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

Salary £32,171 - £35,093 per annum. 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. Typically, you will be required to work a minimum of 2 or 3 days per week on site.

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.

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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 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 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 Friday, 21 August 2026.

Interviews will likely be held around week commencing 07 September 2026.

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