

Candidate Pack Object Conservator

Part Time, 16 hrs per week
Fixed Term Contract - 20 months



Introduction

The Wallace Collection is an internationally outstanding collection which contains unsurpassed masterpieces of paintings, sculpture, furniture, arms and armour and porcelain. Built over the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by the Marquesses of Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace, it is one of the finest and most celebrated collections in the world. So that it could be kept together and enjoyed by generations of visitors, the collection was given to the British Nation in 1897 and opened to the public in June 1900. It was an astonishing bequest and one of the greatest gifts of art works ever to be transferred into public ownership. The museum is internationally famous for its collection of French eighteenth-century art, Arms and Armour and for its Old Master paintings.

The museum is managed by the Director Dr Xavier Bray, who reports to a board of Trustees appointed by the Prime Minister, and is financed by a combination of grant-in-aid from central government and self-generated income.

We aim to engage with and diversify our audience and attract over 500,000 visitors a year to the museum.



Our priorities

The Collection is committed to providing access to as wide a public as possible and to helping visitors engage with this diversity. Our goal is to create a place of understanding, cultural pluralism, curiosity and learning. To do this, we plan to create a world-class visitor experience for all ages which stimulates engagement with our collection through a new programme of exhibitions, major gallery refurbishments and an enhanced and expanded digital presence.

Our strategic priorities are to:

- To maintain, research and preserve the Collection for future generations;
- To broaden and deepen visitor engagement, connecting with audiences onsite and digitally;
- To build and support a strong exhibition programme;
- To lay a strong financial foundation for the future; and
- To embark upon a Masterplan programme to transform the museum.



The Conservation Team

The Conservation team at the Wallace Collection includes a Senior Furniture Conservator, Conservation Craftsman, Object and Preventive Conservator and a Collection Care Assistant, operating within the larger Exhibitions and Collection Care department. This department further comprises the Collection Registrar, Photographer and Digital Assets Manager, Exhibitions Project Manager, Exhibitions Assistant, and the Head of Exhibitions and Collection Care. Due to the collection's breadth, the department also manages collaborations with external freelance conservators.



Role summary

Working closely within the Conservation team and in liaison with the relevant Curator, the Object Conservator will undertake and oversee the conservation treatment of the Collection's diverse three-dimensional objects - including metalwork, arms and armour, sculpture, ceramics, and glass - for loan, display, exhibition, and photography. The postholder will also support object movements and contribute to preventive conservation activities managed by the team.

This role reports to the Head of Exhibitions and Collection Care.



Role description

General

- Plan and carry out the conservation treatment and preservation of the Collection's three-dimensional objects within your area of expertise, in accordance with professional conservation standards and ethical guidelines.
- Oversee object assessments and conservation treatments carried out by external conservators, and to supervise the work of conservation interns.
- Prepare treatment proposals and full post-conservation reports, where required, for approval by the Head of Exhibitions and Collection Care and relevant Curator.
- Assist in the movement objects for photography, study, display, loan and storage.
- Undertake condition surveys and assessments for loan, exhibition, and display purposes and prepare objects, as required.
- Collaborate within the conservation team in undertaking preventative conservation activities, including gallery cleans, pest control and delivering in-house object handling and salvage training.
- Maintain accurate and timely conservation documentation and records in accordance with conservation professional standards and Collection procedures.
- Ensure compliance to Health and Safety rules and regulations, including C.O.S.H.H, undertake risk assessments as needed.

Other

- Occasionally Chair the Preventative Conservation Working Group meeting.
- Keep abreast of advancements in the conservation profession and participation in relevant external networks.
- Carry out 'Courier' duties for objects from the Collection on loan to national and international venues, when required.
- Acting as 'Collection Representative' on duty for evening events, as required (for which overtime payments are made).
- Perform any additional duties as reasonably requested by the Head of Exhibitions and Collection Care.

Person specification

Essential

- A recognised professional qualification in object conservation or relevant to the Wallace Collection's diverse objects - including metalwork, arms and armour, sculpture, ceramics and glass.
- A minimum of three years' relevant practical experience in conservation treatment, ideally gained within the museum or heritage sector.
- Experience in Preventative Conservation.
- Demonstrable computer skills; including proficiency in Microsoft Office applications.
- A sound understanding of COSHH regulations and related health and safety requirements for conservation.
- Experience in the safe handling and movement of a wide range of objects, either directly or in coordination with specialist teams, using appropriate equipment and following best practice guidelines.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Demonstrable organisational skills; including the ability to prioritise a varied workload.
- Able to work independently, under close supervision, or collaboratively as part of a small team.
- Work flexibly and calmly under pressure with a solution focussed approach.

Desirable

- Able to work at height and lift objects safely, using appropriate equipment and following safety guidelines.
- Experience of overseeing the work of freelance Conservators.
- Experience of Collection Management Systems.

Salary, benefits and working hours

The salary for this role is between £13,737.99 (£34,344.98 FTE) to £15,337.99 (£38,344.98 FTE) per annum dependent on skills and experience.

In addition, the post-holder will receive, pro-rated, 25 days paid annual leave plus bank holidays and 2.5 'privilege' days. Employees are also offered the following benefits:

- **Membership of an Occupational Pension Scheme**
NEST Pension Scheme
- **Interest free loans after six months satisfactory service**
Interest free season ticket loan
Cycle to work loan
- **Eye Tests**
- **Occupational Health Service**
- **Annual Flu Jab**
- **Employee Assistance Programme**
Services available 24/7 and 365 days per year to all employees
Free therapy service of up to six sessions per issue, per year (each session lasts 45-50 minutes)
- **First Aiders**
- **Access to Mental Health First Aiders**
- **Parental Leave**
- **Training and Development Opportunities**

The standard working schedule is two days per week with proposed working days of Tuesdays and Thursdays from 09:00 to 17:00. However, working days are open to negotiation.

How to apply

Please complete the Application Form, and the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, following the links provided on our website. Please note the equal opportunities form is used for monitoring purposes only and does not form part of the selection process. Both forms should be emailed to recruitment@wallacecollection.org by midnight **30/09/2025**. Please note late applications or applications via a CV will not be considered.

Interviews for the role will take place on **06/10/2025** and **07/10/2025**. Candidates who have been shortlisted for interview will be contacted after the closing date. Due to the large number of applications we receive, it will not be possible to contact or give feedback to candidates who have not been shortlisted for interview.

Start date: As soon as possible

Appointment to the role is subject to a satisfactory Basic Disclosure check. The Wallace Collection is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



