

JOB DESCRIPTION



Job Title	Conservation Scientist (Modern Materials)	Duration	Permanent
Division	Collections Care and Access	Hours/FTE	36
Dept	Conservation		
Reports to	Senior Conservation Scientist	Direct Reports	None

Context

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance, and the custodian of an extraordinary and extensive collection spanning decorative and applied arts. Working with and for our visitors, we are changing how our extensive Collections are cared for, seen, understood and enjoyed.

The mission of the Collections Care and Access division is to manage, preserve, and provide access to the V&A's collection in both physical and digital format, working across multiple V&A sites, at South Kensington, Bethnal Green and in Stratford. The division is made up of the following departments: Conservation, Technical Services, Collections Management, Photography and Digitisation and Collections Access.

The Conservation department brings excellence and innovation to the long-term care of the V&A's collections, supporting access to the collections, the V&A's public programme, and care of collections research initiatives.

Main Purpose of job

The Conservation Scientist (Modern Materials) works closely with the Senior Conservation Scientist to provide research and materials analysis support in conservation.

The post holder will interface with conservators, curators, and researchers supporting the planning and completion of all aspects of routine sample analysis. The post holder will ensure the smooth access and running of the conservation laboratory, including equipment maintenance and health and safety procedures.

The post holder undertakes and supports research and materials analysis in conservation, enabling the delivery of the museum's Public Programme and strategic objectives in care of collections and research. The Conservation Scientist facilitates access to the conservation laboratory providing training and expertise on analytical techniques.

Key Responsibilities

Undertake examination of Museum objects according to own specialisms. Interface with conservators and curators on materials analysis, support the planning and completion of all aspects of routine sample analysis, including preparing test methods, Standard Operating Procedures, and reports.
Interpret the results of examinations and analyses and compile appropriate reports.
Advise curators, conservators and other staff within the Museum of the implications of the interpretations made. To publish details of investigations and the development of techniques.
Actively conduct own research, as directed by the Senior Conservation Scientist, addressing Care of Collections priorities, while working collaboratively with others. Address research questions commissioned by conservators, preventive conservators, and curators.
Provide training and support for independent access to laboratory by conservators and curators.
Be responsible for Health and Safety, regularly review COSHH, risk assessments, method statements and

working practices. Ensures Health and Safety compliance is integral to the culture of all research activities.

The above job description is intended to be an outline of the duties and responsibilities for this role. This is not exhaustive, and it is likely to change over time. You may be expected to undertake other duties that are commensurate with this role

Person specification

Job Specific	MSc in conservation science or relevant scientific area.
	Experience of working in lab environment in either an academic or other environment with experience in common laboratory-relevant techniques .
	Ability to perform analytical tests such that results are in agreement with a standard and/or duplicate testing by a recognized laboratory.
	High level of numeracy with robust knowledge of scientific and statistical methods for acquiring, processing and visualizing data, including basic coding skills.
	Knowledge of Health and Safety legislation and ensure implementation and compliance.
	Knowledge of maintenance of equipment and facilities.
	Ability to work independently.
	High level of organizational skills.
	Scientific analysis skills and knowledge of scientific method.
Core Skills	Understanding of good research practices and techniques.
	Demonstrable experience in identifying funding sources and securing research funding.
	Excellent standard of written English and highly numerate with the ability to carry out complex numerical analysis.
	Significant interpersonal, influencing, and consultative skills, including the ability to communicate, present, negotiate, influence and build credibility with colleagues and external parties
	Experience of using MS Office and other relevant IT systems to an intermediate / advanced level
	Significant experience of managing and prioritizing a high workload and multiple complex issues and tasks in a changing environment with tight deadlines
Behaviours	Respects others' expertise, time, perspectives and contribution.
	Takes responsibility for delivering on actions, achieving high-standards and learning from mistakes
	Open to change , new ideas and suggestions; looks for opportunities for improvement and self-development
	Works with others outside their own department in a collaborative, understanding, and, engaging way.
	Actively leads and manages others , taking ownership of corporate decisions and role models positive behaviours.
Desirable	Knowledge of the V&A and its collections.

Hours: Net working hours (i.e. excluding meal breaks) are 36 per week.

Normal working hours are 9am-5.15pm Monday to Thursday and 9am-5pm Fridays.