



Job description

Job title	Assistant Frames Conservator
Department	Conservation
Contract	Fixed-term contract, 11 months
Salary	£19,604.40 per annum (pro rata)
Hours	Part-time, 21.6 hours per week
Location	Tate Britain, Millbank and Tate Modern, Bankside, London
Reporting to	Frames Conservator

Background

Tate's vision is to serve as artistically adventurous and culturally inclusive art museums for the UK and the world. We deliver this through activities in our four galleries across the UK (Tate Liverpool, Tate St Ives, Tate Britain and Tate Modern), our digital platforms and collaborations with our national and international partners. At the heart of Tate is our collection of art, which includes the national collection of British art from the 16th century to the present day, and international modern and contemporary art from 1900 to the present day, spanning all continents. We seek to expand access to the collection and deepen understanding of art in all its diversity.

Tate is a leading global institution, and we influence critical thinking about art practice. Tate is committed to maintaining free entry for audiences to our collections. We see access to art for everyone as a universal human right and we see our galleries as sites of creative learning. We want to champion the importance of making art and encourage people to explore the many ways in which art is created and develop their own creative potential.

We want to welcome audiences that better reflect the towns and cities in our nation and attract a diverse international public. Our reach is already powerful. We intend to increase its impact across society, with art that resonates around the world.

Everyone who works at Tate has a role to play in achieving these goals. We offer exciting work built around our love for art, and have a strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, with the aim to have our workforce and audience as diverse as the communities we serve. And everything we do is only possible thanks to our fantastic colleagues, who really know their stuff, support each other and want to do the best for our audiences.

We hope you will consider joining our team.

You can find further information about Tate on our website: www.tate.org.uk.

About the role

You will join the Paintings, Frames & Workshop conservation team, providing frames conservation support across all areas of Tate's programme, this includes exhibitions and displays, loans, acquisitions and collection care. Day-to-day, you will work closely with colleagues in the Paintings, Frames & Workshop Conservation teams to assess, care for and prepare frames for exhibition & displays, loan and acquisition. You will undertake condition assessments and conservation treatments, and provide frames conservation advice for display, storage, packing and loan out.

About your team

Frames Conservation is a small team within the Paintings, Frames and Workshop Conservation team which treats a broad range of frames and enjoys being creative and pragmatic, providing solutions and collaborating with colleagues. They work proactively across all programme areas including Exhibitions and Displays, Loans, Acquisitions and International Partnerships.

The Conservation department sits within the Collection Care division and provides specialist conservation expertise to support the programme, and care for Tate's Collection. Specialist areas include Time-based media, Paintings, Frames and Workshop, Sculpture and Installation Art, Paper and Photographs, Conservation Science and Preventive Conservation. Working together, the department brings excellence and innovation to the care of Tate's Collection, preventing damage and deterioration and ensuring that the Collection is available for future generations to enjoy.

What you will gain

Motivated and skilled people are key to our continued success, and we want everyone at Tate to have the opportunity to develop and thrive. In this team, you will be encouraged to contribute your ideas, realise your potential, learn new skills and expand your knowledge of the conservation of frames in particular.

What you will do (Main Duties and Responsibilities)

You will provide frames conservation support for all areas of Tate's programme, including exhibition and displays, loans and acquisitions. Your key focus will be the assessment and conservation of frames within Tate's collection as well as frames on loan or in the process of acquisition, ensuring their safe display, transit and long-term care. You will need to work flexibly to accommodate schedules and work across other programme areas as required. You will care for, treat frames, and contribute to the development of strategies, procedures and workflows for the preservation of frames in Tate's collection.

Support for Tate's Programmes

- You will support the frames conservation programme, providing advice and recommendations on all aspects of care and use of the collection. This includes display specifications and recommendations for safe transport, handling, installation of frames. You may also be called on to support other programme areas if needed.
- Assist in the provision of accurate time and cost estimates for your activities.

- Undertake condition checks, treatments, display preparation and associated activity in support of Tate's programme. This may include undertaking courier activity to oversee transport and installation of art works at non-Tate sites.

Technical Examination, Research, Treatment and Documentation of Paintings

- Assess and analyse the structure and condition of frames, using a broad range of specialist techniques.
- In collaboration with Frames Conservators apply conservation procedures to formulate treatments ensuring high standards of preservation and presentation.
- Prepare, treat, and document frames in Tate's collection and care for display, loan or storage.
- Create and update frame records for Tate's collection management system (TMS), provide in-depth conservation treatment records, and record associated activity for frames conservation

Collections Care Activity

- Active involvement in the design, development and implementation of long-term collection care procedures, including packing, transport, storage, display and installation.
- Liaise with Frame Conservation, Conservation Workshop Technicians and Art Handling Technicians to ensure works are safely framed, packed and installed.
- Participate in maintenance schedules for frames on display; monitor and undertake maintenance duties.
- Support studio activity and implement Health & Safety measures.
- Act as a mentor to junior staff and support the development of professional expertise within frames conservation

Public and Professional Activities

- Keep up to date on current thinking and best practice within Frames Conservation through Continuing Professional Development.
- Share knowledge and expertise within the Conservation department.
- Liaise with external colleagues to ensure Tate is at the forefront of setting international standards for the conservation profession and collections care.
- Contribute to raising the national and international profile of conservation at Tate.
- Support learning activities and initiatives: contribute to lectures, tours and publications.

What you will bring to the team

- An interest in and commitment to the work of Tate
- Professional qualification within organics conservation and or frames conservation.

- Some experience carrying out condition assessments, treatment estimates and documentation on a wide range of frames.
- Some experience and understanding of a broad range of frame types and conservation procedures to formulate appropriate treatments.
- Some proven experience treating a wide range of frame problems to a high standard with full consideration of practical and ethical issues.
- Demonstrable analytical and problem-solving skills where complex conservation challenges have arisen.
- Understanding of the long-term care issues of frames and the ability to provide expert advice.
- Experience providing advice for storage, transport, installation of frames and works of art in general.
- Effective interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to collaborate and create networks with others, both internally and externally.
- Demonstrable organisational, time-management and planning skills with the ability to work well under pressure, prioritising your workload to meet agreed deadlines.
- Ability to work effectively within a large and complex organisation as part of a team.
- Good end-user IT skills, including image processing and database software to document artworks.
- An understanding of the principles of equality and diversity in relation to learning and the ability to apply and promote these in everything you do at work.
- Willingness to undertake courier trips in the UK and internationally.

The requirements listed here are guidelines, not hard and fast rules. You don't have to satisfy every requirement, and we welcome candidates who bring transferable skills. Applying gives you the opportunity to be considered.

Tate for all

Diversity and Inclusion

Our jobs are like our galleries, open to all.

Our aim is to become a truly inclusive organisation with a workforce and audience as diverse as the communities we serve. This is fundamental to Tate's future success and our ability to continue to contribute to culture and society in the UK.

We want our workforce to be more representative of all sections of society at all levels in the organisation. The range of perspectives and experience diversity brings is an asset to our organisation and we want to create an inclusive, welcoming environment for visitors, artists and all those who work at Tate. Tate expects all employees to contribute to this aim as part of their role. More information about diversity and inclusion at Tate can be found on our [website](#).

Our Values

- **Open:** we're welcoming, generous-spirited and inquisitive, with an open-source attitude that thrives on collaboration.

- **Bold:** we have the courage of our convictions, we're willing to take imaginative risks: we aren't afraid of failure - so long as we learn from it.
- **Rigorous:** we'll win people's trust if we're accountable for our actions and excellence underpins everything we do.
- **Kind:** we value and respect each other, our partners, and our visitors, striving to make every encounter memorable and enriching.

Employee Benefits

- Birthdays off each year
- 25 days leave per year, rising to 27 (pro rata for part time colleagues).
- A pension scheme with generous employer contributions.
- Life Assurance and Income Protection for DC scheme members.
- Interest-free Season Ticket Loan.
- Cycle to Work scheme – enabling you to buy a bike in a tax efficient way, for travelling to and from work.
- Rental deposit scheme – an interest free advance to help towards the cost of a deposit for privately rented accommodation
- Discounts in the Tate Restaurants and Cafes.
- Access to Tate Benefits which offers access to discounts in high street stores.
- Access to a 24/7 Employee Assistance Programme to support you with any work, personal or family issues. This includes telephone-based support, as well as comprehensive online resources.
- Free entry to paying exhibitions at Tate Galleries. Opportunities for family and friends to visit the major exhibitions out-of-hours.
- Discounts on items purchased in the Tate shops.
- Free access to a number of other galleries and museums throughout the UK on production of a valid staff pass.
- Free access to other galleries and museums abroad through the International Council of Museums (ICOM) membership

Safer Recruitment

Tate is committed to providing a safe environment for all those who work at Tate and all those who come into contact with Tate as visitors to the galleries, as participants in Tate activities, and online. The safe recruitment of all those who undertake work on behalf of Tate is the first step to ensuring that we are fulfilling this commitment.

All positions at Tate are offered subject to the following conditions:

- Receipt of satisfactory references covering the last 3 years of your employment or education.
- Health clearance
- A satisfactory Disclosure Check.
- Proof that you are legally entitled to work in the UK

You can find out more information about our pre-employment checks and what they mean for you in our 'Guidance Notes for Applicants' document.

How to apply

Our opportunities are open for you to apply online. Please visit:

www.tate.org.uk/about/workingattate/ to create an account by registering your details or, if you are an existing user, log into your account.

For all opportunities we ask candidates to complete an online application form for the vacancy they are interested in. If you need an application form in an alternative format please call us on 020 7887 4997. Once you have submitted your application you can keep track of its progress by logging into your account.

The closing date for the submission of completed application forms is 23 April 2026 by midnight. Interviews will be held on 30th April or 1st May 2026. We will ask to see a portfolio with a minimum of two strong examples of your conservation work relevant to the frames conservator role.

Where vacancies attract large volumes of applicants, we reserve the right to close this vacancy early. Therefore, if you are interested, please try to submit your application as early as possible.

