



Position title	Senior Conservator, Paintings
National Gallery level	Executive Level 1
Position number	5008
Employment type	Ongoing
Department	Conservation
Portfolio	Artistic Program
Immediate supervisor	Head of Conservation – Debbie Ward
Direct reports	Conservator, Paintings – 1-2 roles Conservation Technician, Framing
Position location	National Gallery, Parkes, Kamberri/Canberra
Requirements	Australian Citizenship Police Check Security Clearance – level Baseline Drivers Licence Accurate colour vision, excellent manual dexterity and the ability to lift, climb ladders and use tools and equipment. Tertiary qualification in the conservation of cultural materials.

ABOUT THE GALLERY – ABOUT OUR TEAM

The National Gallery is one of Australia’s leading visual arts institutions. The National Gallery is based in Canberra and is a vital part of the Australian cultural landscape. Our Purpose is to collect, preserve, promote and share the national collection of art. The Vision of the National Gallery is to be the international reference point for art in Australia, inspiring all people to explore, experience and learn. Our Values include boldness, integrity, respect, and excellence.

WORKING AT THE GALLERY

When you work at the National Gallery you will be exposed to some of the world’s leading Australian and international art and artists.

The National Gallery is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our people and we expect our people to share this commitment and work safely at all times.

We value the contribution that a diverse workforce brings and encourage people from a diverse background to apply. This might include identifying as First Nations peoples, people with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse people and LGBTQIA+ people.

Position description – Senior Conservator Paintings (PN 5008)

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

The Senior Conservator, Paintings will lead a small team of 1-2 conservators and one framing technician to manage all aspects of the care of paintings within the national collection and on loan to the gallery. The paintings team is responsible for the preparation and treatment of traditional paintings on fabric and board and provide advice on painted surfaces other media areas.

The National Collection has an internationally acclaimed paintings collection and the most diverse Australian collection. The Gallery is a leader in lending, touring and exhibiting traditional and contemporary art and this role will play a key role in meeting these requirements. To achieve this, you will work closely with a wide variety of internal stakeholders and clients. This role is also responsible for framing and stretching paintings and the senior conservator will manage the framing technician employed to undertake this work and when required external framing contracts.

This position reports to the Head of Conservation and is responsible for managing staff, research, resources, and the workflow through the Paintings Section to manage the permanent collection and to meet the Gallery's exhibition, touring and lending program. This position of Senior Conservator, Paintings, is an ongoing full-time role with the conservation team.

OUR IDEAL CANDIDATE

Our ideal candidate will have strong leadership skills and will be required to demonstrate their skills and experience to successfully manage, supervise and develop staff. You will manage resources, budgets, and work schedules in an environment of competing demand and priorities. Experience in managing multiple projects with conflicting deadlines is a requirement.

You should be able to demonstrate your ability to build good working relationships and work collaboratively with other conservators, curators, technical staff, and to engage and supervise contractors using well developed interpersonal skills.

Our ideal candidate will have professional qualifications and extensive experience in the conservation, documentation and analysis of a wide range of paintings from all cultures and throughout art history. You will be required to make expert decisions to assist inward loans from international organisations. Experience within a large cultural institution across a wide variety of paintings is essential.

You will have extensive knowledge and understanding of the materials and techniques of traditional and contemporary paintings and a sound knowledge of art history. You will be able to use this knowledge to effectively contribute to scheduling and providing advice on storage and the condition of the collection.

You will have a demonstrated ability to initiate, conduct and co-ordinate research in fields relevant to paintings conservation. Experience in publishing, lecturing, and sharing knowledge about this research is essential. Experience is also required in training and developing staff within the institution in the correct care of the collection.

Excellent oral and written communication and interpersonal skills and proven ability to liaise effectively with people in a diverse range of professional disciplines and the public. Experience in corporate reporting is required.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

In accordance with the APS EL1 work level standards, you will:

- Develop, monitor, and maintain the workflow of the Painting section to ensure exhibition, loan and travelling exhibition deadlines can be managed and resourced effectively. Manage staff within the paintings section and promote their development.
- Supervise the conservation, documentation and research of paintings within the National Collection and on loan to the NG. Carry out examinations, treatments and maintain conservation records of paintings to the highest professional standards.
- Provide expert advice on all matters relating to the preservation of paintings and paint layers on all works of art. This may include discussions with internal stakeholders, exhibition development,

scheduling, storage, movement, and transportation of works of art. Develop and contribute Risk Assessments to assist with caring for the collection.

- Initiate and coordinate research and development into conservation methods and materials and the techniques of works of art. Participate and encourage staff to develop lectures and research projects relevant to the NGA collection.
- Participate in preventative conservation activities including design and manufacture of packing and display systems, design and maintenance of storage systems, integrated pest management, environmental control activities and disaster response.
- Undertake other duties as required by the Head of Conservation, including preparations of policies, guidelines, corporate and financial reporting for the Department.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

To be successful in this role you will need to demonstrate, or have the ability to develop the following,

You will:

Determine strategic direction for the work area and align longer-term planning with agency goals and objectives.

Generate new ideas approaches and strategies. **Implement change** and business improvement strategies in the workplace.

Make decisions that are based on professional judgement, evaluating risks and in the context of a complex and changing environment.

Develop and manage a range of stakeholder relationships. **Engage and collaborate with key stakeholders** to identify opportunities, achieve outcomes and facilitate cooperation.

Will be responsible for **building capability in a team** environment through coaching others, providing performance feedback, conflict resolution and encouraging career development.

Responsible for the **achievement of own and team outcomes**, monitor team progress and follow through to deliver quality outcomes.

HOW TO APPLY

You should provide a tailored CV (**maximum of three pages**) along with a statement of no more than **two pages** that outlines your skills, capabilities and experience, against the 'Our ideal candidate' information above.

In your statement response you should keep in mind the capabilities and behaviours required to be successful for this role, as identified in the 'Who are we looking for?' section.

Try not to duplicate information that can be found in your CV but do highlight any specific examples or achievements that demonstrate your ability to perform the role. As part of your application process, we ask that you also complete the personal particulars form as well.

To apply for this role please forward your application to recruitment@nga.gov.au.

QUALIFICATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

To be eligible for this role you **must** have the following:

- Australian Citizenship,
- satisfy a police check.
- Tertiary qualification in the conservation of cultural materials
- Drivers Licence

- Accurate colour vision excellent manual dexterity and the ability to lift, climb ladders and use tools and equipment.
- Membership to a conservation professional body.

Work, Health & Safety Obligations

The National Gallery is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our people and we expect our people to share this commitment and work safely at all times.

This role is required to ensure that they meet duty of care obligations as required under WHS legislation. This is achieved by:

- being accountable and taking ownership of health and safety matters within their control or ability to promote a culture of health and safety within the National Gallery
- working with colleagues to enhance health and safety and ensure that it becomes a part of everyday National Gallery business.
- completing health and safety reporting in an accurate and timely manner.

CONTACT

Further information about the position may be obtained by contacting Head of Conservation, Debbie Ward on +61 2 6240 6657 or debbie.ward@nga.gov.au.