

National Museum of Ireland

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Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

**Archaeological Conservator
Assistant Keeper Grade II**

INFORMATION BOOKLET

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The **National Museum of Ireland (NMI)** is seeking applications from suitable candidates to fill the post of an **Archaeological Conservator (Assistant Keeper Grade II)** based in the Conservation Department, National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7. This is a full time, permanent position and will be filled by open competitive interview.

Job Title

Archaeological Conservator (Assistant Keeper Grade II)

Location

The Archaeological Conservator will be located primarily in the Conservation Department, National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7 or any other National Museum of Ireland site as may be designated from time to time by the Director.

Reporting to

The Archaeological Conservator reports to the Head of Conservation.

Job Purpose

The post holder will have a primary focus on the conservation of Irish archaeological collections and will address freshly excavated material as well as the conservation and collection care needs of objects from many historic excavations. Additionally, the post holder will play a key role in preventive conservation for archaeological collections of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). The post holder will be based primarily in the Conservation Department, Collins Barracks but will work across all NMI sites containing archaeological collections. The post holder will manage or oversee and influence the work of other staff, volunteers, contractors and interns in matters of collection care.

Conservation is a busy Department engaged in the preservation of the collections through investigative, remedial and preventive conservation measures. It is primarily located in Collins Barracks, Dublin with further facilities at some of our other Dublin sites and in the Museum of Country Life, Mayo. Conservation cares for well in excess of 6,000,000 objects in the Museum's collections across four curatorial Divisions (Irish Antiquities, Natural History, Irish Folklife and Art and Industry) and in their storage facilities. In addition, staff of the Conservation Department contribute to Conservation Education through delivery of course modules for university undergraduate and post-graduate degree, public programming and other means.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties include:

- Undertaking a range of conditions surveys of archaeological objects in the museum's collections: including assessments of potential acquisitions; objects for exhibition, for loan and those in the reserve collections.
- Examination and analysis of objects using a variety of investigative techniques, both as part of the assessment process for remedial conservation and for the purposes of research and publication.
- Carrying out a range of remedial conservation treatments to museum objects, as agreed with the Head of Conservation.
- Upgrading and promoting the collections through Conservation and collection care, exhibitions, research, publication and lectures both at home and abroad.

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- Overseeing, devising and implementing safe packing procedures and methods to conservation standards.
- Assessing storage and display conditions and materials used, and carrying out such improvements to them as are required for the long-term preservation of the museum's collections.
- Liaising with Curators in relation to conservation procedures for archaeological objects.
- Liaising with architects / designers on case design materials and environmental control for exhibition work and building redevelopment.
- Monitoring objects on display.
- Monitoring, together with colleagues the environmental control systems, pest management and housekeeping in order to safeguard archaeological collections whether on exhibition, in store or in transit.
- Acting as a courier as requested.
- Undertaking fieldwork and on-site conservation for NMI excavations as required.
- Fieldwork inspections of archaeological excavations and archaeological premises where objects are processed and stored for duration of post excavation research.
- Consult and advice on licence to alter applications for conservation purposes.
- Compiling and maintaining detailed records of all work carried out.
- Sourcing, operating and maintaining the conservation laboratory equipment and supplies.
- Guiding the work of other staff, private contractors and OPW staff as required in conservation matters.
- Line managing staff and assigning duties to conservation student interns as required by the Head of Conservation.
- Providing advice to local museums and heritage centres regarding environmental monitoring and control; and to inspect such locations to assess potential for storage and display of artefacts.
- To liaise effectively with colleagues within Conservation and IAD, across the Museum and with the professional archaeological community and museum sector.
- To liaise closely with Conservation professional bodies and other statutory authorities in relation to archaeological collections.
- Assisting with the promotion of conservation and providing advice on conservation related matters.
- Giving explanatory tours of the department and contributing to Conservation Education programming at university level with presentations and lectures across conservation specialist areas as requested by the Head of Conservation.
- Keeping up to date with & contributing to developments in the area of archaeological conservation and publishing findings of research projects.
- Working with colleagues in developing strategies and Implementing Conservation and Collection Care policy, procedures and protocols for archaeological collections.
- Complete and /or review relevant sections of Facilities Reports for potential out-going and in-coming loans.
- Such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Head of Conservation.
- Contribute to the NMI's Disaster Preparedness and management with particular attention to archaeological collections.
- Compiling and maintaining systems and controls and creating written procedures, protocols and advice notes for all areas of preventive conservation for archaeological collections.

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Personal Specification

Essential Requirements

- Hold a recognised professional qualification in Archaeological Conservation to honours degree or to post-graduate degree level and have at least 3 years relevant work experience in the conservation treatment of excavated archaeological objects, preferably in a museum environment.

And have

- Excellent demonstrable practical skills in conservation and a comprehensive knowledge of conservation theory and ethical decision-making for remedial and preventive conservation.
- Proven organisational skills and an ability to plan effectively and prioritise.
- Effective communication skills including writing, editing and presentation.
- Demonstrated ability to work to deadlines and to maintain focus under pressure.
- Experience working across different teams.

Desirable Requirements

- Experience administering 'First aid for finds' on site and in the recovery and conservation of materials from archaeological environments similar to those found in Ireland is highly desirable.
- Thorough understanding of the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 and the National Museum of Ireland's statutory role.
- Excellent knowledge of museum collections and of contemporary principles and practice in archaeological conservation with particular reference to the collections of the Irish Antiquities Division.
- A knowledge of museum functioning.
- Knowledge and experience of implementing Preventive Conservation measures for archaeological collections is highly desirable.
- Extensive knowledge of current conservation principles and practices, and of materials science.
- Excellent research and analytical skills
- Experience of managing all aspects of conservation projects and an ability to work effectively within a team, to self-motivate and to learn quickly.
- A positive approach to working with the full range of mixed archaeological collections held by the National Museum of Ireland.

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Selection Process

In the event that the number of applications received significantly exceeds that required to fill existing and anticipated future vacancies over the lifetime of the panel, the National Museum of Ireland may implement a shortlisting process to select a number of candidates to be invited to interview on the basis of the information contained in their application. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable, or incapable of undertaking the job, rather that, on this occasion, there are some candidates who are, on the basis of the information provided, better qualified, and /or have more relevant experience.

The National Museum of Ireland does not reimburse the cost of travel to interview.

Citizenship Requirements

Eligible Candidates must be:

- (a) A citizen of the European Economic Area. The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; or
- (b) A citizen of Switzerland pursuant to the agreement between the EU and Switzerland on the free movement of persons; or
- (c) A non-EEA citizen who is a spouse or child of an EEA or Swiss citizen and has a stamp 4 visa; or
- (d) A person awarded international protection under the International Protection Act 2015 or any family member entitled to remain in the State as a result of family reunification and has a stamp 4 visa; or
- (e) A non-EEA citizen who is a parent of a dependent child who is a citizen of, and resident in, an EEA member state or Switzerland and has a stamp 4 visa.

To qualify candidates must meet one of the citizenship criteria above by the date of any job offer.

Note in respect of UK citizens: The recently concluded EU/UK Brexit negotiations have confirmed that the longstanding Common Travel Area Agreement between the UK and Ireland remains unchanged post-Brexit. Accordingly, UK citizens remain eligible to work and reside in Ireland without restriction and, as such, to make an application to compete for this competition where they meet all other qualifying eligibility criteria. Further information regarding the Common Travel Area is available [here](#).

Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER):

It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees, under the Scheme, are debarred from applying for another position in the same employment or the same sector. Therefore, such retirees may not apply for this position.

Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010):

The Department of Health Circular 7/2010 dated 1 November 2010 introduced a Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Scheme and Voluntary Redundancy Schemes (VRS). It is a condition of the VER scheme that persons availing of the scheme will not be eligible for re-employment in the public health sector or in the wider Public Service or in a body wholly or mainly funded from public funds. The same prohibition on re-employment applies under the VRS, except that the prohibition is for a period of 7 years, after which time any re-employment will require the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. People who availed of either of these schemes are not eligible to compete in this competition.

Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants:

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform letter dated 28th June 2012 to Personnel Officers introduced, with effect from 1st June 2012, a Collective Agreement which had been reached between the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Public Services Committee of the ICTU in relation to ex-gratia Redundancy Payments to Public Servants. is a condition of the Collective Agreement that persons availing of the agreement will not be eligible

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for re-employment in the public service by any public service body (as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011) for a period of 2 years from termination of the employment. Thereafter the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will be required prior to re-employment. People who availed of this scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility) and the Minister's consent will have to be secured prior to employment by any public service body.

Declaration: Applicants will be required to declare whether they have previously availed of a public service scheme of incentivised early retirement. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a public service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other public service employment and/or where they have received a payment-in-lieu in respect of service in any public service employment.

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications are submitted on the vacancies section of the **National Museum of Ireland website**: <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/About/Careers/Vacancies>

Applicants must submit the completed application form, an up-to-date CV, and a cover letter. **We request that all three documents be combined and submitted in one single PDF.**

The application form must be completed in full and submitted in typescript. Handwritten applications and applications in the incorrect format type will not be accepted. Failure to do so will render the application incomplete, and the application will not be considered.

To commence the application process, visit our Vacancies page.

Steps to apply:

- Go to the Vacancies page and select the position you wish to apply for.
- Read the Information Booklet for full details of the position.
- The documents required for your application appear on this page as links.
- Click each document, which will open in a new window. Download/Save each document to your computer/device.
- Complete the documents required and combine them into **one single PDF** along with your CV and cover letter.
- When this is complete, return to the NMI website to finish the application process.
- Again, from the [Vacancies](#) page, find the position you wish to apply for.
- Click the **Apply Now** button.
- Complete the Form.
- Upload your single combined PDF.
- Complete the Captcha check and then click **Submit Your Application**.

Please provide a **valid, monitored email address**. The email address will be used to acknowledge receipt of the application and as the main form of contact to liaise with applicants.

Closing Date for Applications

**Applications must be received no later than 17:00
On Friday 8th November 2024**

Please note that late applications will not be accepted. The date and time will be strictly adhered to, and therefore, the onus is on the applicant to ensure that the application is received before the deadline. **Canvassing will disqualify.**

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Assistant Keeper Grade II Principal conditions of service

Pay:

The salary scale for this position is as follows the Assistant Keeper Grade II National Museum PPC Scale (Public Service Agreement 2024-2026 – 1% Increase):

€37,583	€40,080	€40,748	€44,080	€47,424	€50,767	€54,197	€56,361	€58,538
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
€60,731	€62,912	€65,099	€67,286	€69,465	€71,664	€74,093	€76,519	
10	11	12	13	14	15 NMAX	16 LSI1*	17 LS12**	

Subject to satisfactory performance, increments may be payable in line with current Government Policy.

* After 3 years satisfactory service at the maximum

**After 6 years satisfactory service at the maximum

Starting Salary

Entry will be at the minimum of the scale - €37,583 per annum, the 1st point on the Assistant Keeper Grade II National Museum PPC Scale (Public Service Agreement 2024-2026 – 1% Increase). The rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with the Government pay policy.

Tenure

The appointment will be in a probationary capacity for a period of one year. Subject to successful completion of the probation period, a contract of indefinite duration will be offered. The appointment may be terminated at any time by either side in accordance with the Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Acts, 1973 and 1991.

Annual leave

Annual leave will be **25** working days a year, year rising to 27 working days a year after 5 years' Service and to 29 working days a year after 10 years' service. This leave is on the basis of a Five-day week and is exclusive of the usual public holidays.

Hours of Attendance

Hours of attendance will be fixed from time to time in line with central agreements but will amount to not less than 43.25 gross hours per week (35 net hours per week). Flexible working hours are available in line with the National Museum of Ireland's policy on flexible working hours.

You will agree to co-operate in assisting NMI to maintain accurate records of your working hours for the purpose of *Section 25 of the Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997*.

Duties

You will be required to perform any duties which may be assigned to you from time to time as appropriate to the position. The position will be whole-time and you will not be connected with any outside business which would interfere with the performance of official duties. You agree to undertake the duties attached to the post and accept the conditions under which the duties are, or may be required to be, performed.

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General

The appointment is subject to the Civil Service Regulation Acts, 1956 to 1996, the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 and any other Act for the time being in force relating to the civil service. The appointee will be subject to the National Museum's policies in respect of Code of Standards and Behaviour.

Superannuation and Retirement

The successful candidate will be offered the appropriate superannuation terms and conditions as prevailing in the National Museum of Ireland at the time of being offered an appointment. In general, and except for candidates who have worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) public service job in the 26 weeks prior to appointment (see paragraph d below), this means being offered appointment based on membership of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"). Key provisions attaching to membership of the Single Scheme are as follows:

a. Pensionable Age

The minimum age at which pension is payable is 66 (rising to 67 and 68) in line with State Pension age changes.

b. Retirement Age:

Scheme members must retire at the age of 70.

c. Pension Abatement

- If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service and is in receipt of a pension from the Civil Service normal abatement rules will apply. However, if the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service and awarded a pension under voluntary early retirement arrangements (other than the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement (ISER) or the Department of Health Circular 7/2010 VER/VRS which, as indicated above, renders a person ineligible for the competition) the entitlement to that pension will cease with effect from the date of reappointment. Special arrangements will, however be made for the reckoning of previous service given by the appointee for the purpose of any future superannuation award for which the appointee may be eligible.
- If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service or in the Public Service please note that the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 includes a provision which extends abatement of pension for all Civil and Public Servants who are re-employed where a Public Service pension is in payment. This provision to apply abatement across the wider public service came into effect on 1 November 2012. **This may have pension implications for any person appointed to this position who is currently in receipt of a Civil or Public Service pension or has a preserved Civil or Public Service pension which will come into payment during his/her employment in this position.**
- **Department of Education and Skills Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers Circular 102/2007**
The Department of Education and Skills introduced an Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers. It is a condition of the Early Retirement Scheme that with the exception of the situations set out in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the relevant circular documentation, and with those exceptions only, if a teacher accepts early retirement under **Strands 1, 2 or 3** of this scheme and is subsequently employed in any capacity in any area of the public sector, payment of pension to that person under the scheme **will immediately cease**. Pension payments will, however, be resumed on the ceasing of such employment or on the person's 60th birthday, whichever is the later, but on

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resumption, the pension will be based on the person's actual reckonable service as a teacher (i.e. the added years previously granted will not be taken into account in the calculation of the pension payment).

- **III-Health-Retirement.** Please note that where an individual has retired from a Civil/Public Service body on the grounds of ill-health his/her pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement within the pension scheme of that employment.

d. Prior Public Servants

While the default pension terms, as set out in the preceding paragraphs, consist of Single Scheme membership, this may not apply to certain appointees. Full details of the conditions governing whether or not a public servant is a Single Scheme member are given in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012. However the key exception case (in the context of this competition and generally) is that **a successful candidate who has worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) capacity in the public service within 26 weeks of taking up appointment, would in general not become a member of the Single Scheme.** In this case such a candidate would instead be offered membership of the pension scheme for non-established civil servants ("Non-Established State Employee Scheme"). This would mean that the abatement provisions at (c) above would apply, and in addition there are implications in respect of pension accrual as outlined below:

e. Pension Accrual

A 40-year limit on total service that can be counted towards pension where a person has been a member of more than one existing public service pension scheme would apply. This 40-year limit, which is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 came into effect on 28 July 2012. **This may have implications for any appointee who has acquired pension rights in a previous public service employment.**

f. Pension-Related Deduction

This appointment is subject to the pension-related deduction in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measure in the Public Interest Act 2009. For further information in relation to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme for Public Servants please see the following website: <http://www.per.gov.ie/pensions>

Sick leave

Full pay during properly certified sick absence, provided that there is no evidence of permanent disability for service, may be allowed up to a maximum 92 days in one year and at half pay thereafter, subject to a maximum of 183 days sick leave in any period of four years or less.

The appointee will be required to sign a mandate authorising the Department of Social Protection to pay any benefits due under the Social Welfare Acts direct to the National Museum of Ireland and payment during illness will be subject to the officer making the necessary claims for social insurance benefit to the Department of Social Protection within the required time limits.

Official secrecy and integrity

The appointee will be subject to the provisions of the Official Secrets Act 1963, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 1997. The appointee will agree not to disclose to third parties any confidential information especially that with commercial potential either during, or subsequent to, the period of employment.

Prior approval of publications

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The appointee will agree not to publish material related to official duties without prior approval by the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Political activity

During the term of employment, the appointee will be subject to the rules governing civil servants and politics.

Further details

Detailed provisions regarding various other terms and conditions, such as categories of leave (including maternity, adoptive and health & safety leave), some or all of which may be relevant to the appointee, are set out in circulars available on www.personnelcode.gov.ie.

This is intended only as a guide. Full terms and conditions will be issued as part of the contract of employment.