

Job of The Week

Conservator

Key Skills

- concentration skills
- analytical thinking skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- an interest and knowledge of history
- knowledge of the fine arts
- the ability to use your initiative
- ambition and a desire to succeed
- the ability to come up with new ways of doing things
- Competent using a PC and the main software packages

Salary

£26,000 - £32,000

Working hours

39 - 41

Various hours depending if self-employed/ contractor

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Conservator

University

Conservators come from a range of subject disciplines so the subject you study will depend on the area of conservation you want to work in

Examples of conservation specialisms include:

- fine art
- buildings and heritage
- archaeology
- books and paper
- textiles
- human customs and cultures

There are also specialist degree, diploma and postgraduate qualifications in conservation

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree; for postgraduate study you will require a degree in a relevant subject

Top Tips

You'll find that internships are a useful way to get practical experience after studying

You'll also have an advantage when looking for courses and jobs if you have some relevant work experience. For example with a museum collection or historic site

Work

You may be able to move into certain kinds of conservation work if you've got relevant qualifications and experience. For example, building conservation may be suitable if you're a qualified stonemason, plasterer or roofer

If you want to specialise in conservation of crafts, like stained glass, decorative stonework or metalwork, you're more likely to build up your skills and experience through a work-based route

Apprenticeship

You can start out by doing a Cultural Heritage Conservation Technician Higher Apprenticeship, then take further training to qualify

You could also apply for a Cultural Heritage Conservator Degree Apprenticeship if you have the right experience and qualifications

Entry requirements

Most people following this route have some GCSEs, usually including English and Maths, or equivalent, for an Intermediate Apprenticeship and 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and Maths, for an Advanced Apprenticeship



Career path and progression

You could move into project management, although this may mean stepping away from 'hands on' practical conservation work

You could go into teaching or academic research or work as a freelance consultant

Day to Day tasks

Your duties could include:

- Restore items
- check the condition of objects
- make sure that conditions are right for display and storage
- give presentations to visitors, including school groups
- preserve objects to stop deterioration
- keep written and photographic records
- work in a team with other conservators
- set up exhibitions and arrange safe transportation
- give advice on collections or buildings

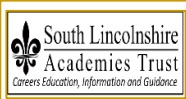
Working conditions

You could work in a museum, in a workshop, in a creative studio, in a laboratory or visit sites.

You may need to wear safety clothing and use safety equipment.



Labour Market Information



In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Conservation professionals

Weekly Pay	Annual Pay
£650	£33,800
Hours/Week	Hourly Pay
39h	£17

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth	Replacement
4.2%	39.6%

The workforce is projected to grow by 4.2% over the period to 2027, creating 600 jobs. In the same period, 39.6% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 6,100 job openings.

You might find this job in
Sport & recreation
Construction
Head offices, etc
Membership organisations
Social work

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Powered by LMI For All.

Archivists and curators

Weekly Pay	Annual Pay
£580	£30,160
Hours/Week	Hourly Pay
29h	£20

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth	Replacement
4.3%	55.3%

The workforce is projected to grow by 4.3% over the period to 2027, creating 700 jobs. In the same period, 55.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 9,100 job openings.

You might find this job in
Libraries, etc
Food & beverage services
Sport & recreation

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Plasterers

Weekly Pay	Annual Pay
£600	£31,200
Hours/Week	Hourly Pay
44h	£14

Workforce Change (projected)

Contraction	Replacement
-1.8%	50.5%

The workforce is projected to contract by -1.8% over the period to 2027, losing 800 jobs. In the same period, 50.5% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 23,400 job openings.

You might find this job in
Specialised construction
Construction
Civil engineering

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Labour Market Information

Habitat
Restoration
in Progress

Conservation professionals

Conservation professionals are responsible for ensuring that landscapes, habitats and species are protected and enhanced via appropriate management and conservation. They promote public understanding and awareness of the natural environment and help to develop and implement appropriate policies to achieve these objectives.

Common tasks in this job:

- promotes and implements local and national biodiversity action plans, particularly with regard to threatened species and habitats;
- carries out environmental impact assessments and field surveys;
- implements, evaluates and monitors schemes for the management and protection of natural habitats;
- provides advice and information to government at national and local levels, clients, landowners, planners and developers to facilitate the protection of the natural environment;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

Powered by LMI For All.

Archivists and curators

Archivists and curators collect, appraise and preserve collections of recorded and other material of historical interest.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines, appraises and advises on the acquisition of exhibits, historic records, government papers and other material;
- classifies material and arranges for its safe keeping and preservation;
- maintains indexes, bibliographies and descriptive details of archive material and arranges for reproductions of items where necessary;
- examines objects to identify any damage and carries out necessary restoration whilst preserving original characteristics;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

Plasterers

Plasterers apply plaster and cement mixtures to walls and ceilings, fix fibrous sheets and cast and fix ornamental plasterwork to the interior or exterior of buildings.

Common tasks in this job:

- mixes, or directs the mixing of, plaster to desired consistency;
- applies and smooths one or more coats of plaster and produces a finished surface, using hand tools or mechanical spray;
- pours liquid plaster into mould to cast ornamental plaster work;
- measures, cuts, installs and secures plaster board and/or ornamental plasterwork to walls and ceilings;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Conservation of 'The Death of Nelson' painting



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8f--ehf7wJw>

Art & Design History at Liverpool Hope University



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oh-Eg-QM1kQ>

Brickwork restoration at Kensington Palace Orangery



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlqFKqd1-08>

UNNESCO – Natural World Heritage Sites



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyrFNS1a7sw>

Useful Websites

[Conservator](#) | [Explore careers](#) | [National Careers Service](#)

[Conservator job profile](#) | [Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[Student Resources \(icon.org.uk\)](#)

[Art & Design History and Conservation Biology at Liverpool Hope University – UCAS](#)

[Museum Studies and Archaeology at University of Reading – UCAS](#)

[How to become a Stonemason - Careers - WorldSkills UK](#)