

The National Library of Ireland is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Candidates' Information Booklet

Open competition for the appointment to the position of

Book Conservator at Assistant Keeper, Grade 2 Level

in the

National Library of Ireland

Closing Date: Monday 23 October 2023 3.00 p.m.

The National Library of Ireland are committed to a policy of equal opportunity

Contact: HR Unit

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

4 KILDARE STREET,

DUBLIN 2.

Telephone: (353) 1 6030200 - URL: <https://www.nli.ie/about-us/working-national-library-ireland>

Background Information

The National Library of Ireland (NLI) is the library of record for Ireland. Established in 1877, the NLI became an autonomous cultural institution on 3rd May 2005 under the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, with a Board and a Director who operates under the Board's overall governance. The Board, made up of a chairperson and 11 ordinary members, reports to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The Library employs some 110 staff who work to deliver five priorities under our 2022-2026 strategy. These priorities - Collect, Protect, Reveal, Engage and Innovate – are described in greater detail in the strategy document which may be seen [here](#).

The NLI shares the story of Ireland with the world through our unique collections. We care for more than ten million items, including books, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, prints, maps, drawings, ephemera, music and digital media. The Library's sites in Dublin, including the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar, are open, free of charge, to all those who wish to consult and explore the collections - through reading rooms which are visitor attractions in their own right, rich and varied exhibitions, and an active public programme.

Further information on the National Library of Ireland may be found on our [website](#).

Overview of the role

Reporting to the Conservation Services Manager, this role will provide expert conservation and preservation guidance and support in treatment of the NLI's collections, including providing hands-on treatment, the stabilisation of material for digitisation, display, loans, photography and research.

Duties and responsibilities

Duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Liaising with NLI staff on conservation treatment priorities and options, and on appropriate preservation approaches for collections;
- Providing the conservation and preservation for bound manuscripts, early printed books and published collections;
- Carrying out conservation treatments, while maintaining the highest technical and ethical standards;
- Carrying out in-situ repair on books so that they may be ~~are~~ available for exhibitions, loans, digitization and research;
- Liaising with staff on storage options and solutions, coordinating custom-made boxing of bound material;
- Carrying out condition audits on books, when required, in order to help prioritize resources and maximize preservation gains;
- Carrying out research related to books to increase the body of knowledge about the collection, when appropriate and with visible outputs;
- Promoting the NLI and the role of conservation and preservation by participating in outreach activities;
- Working with contract conservators, supervising interns and students in the lab to achieve the goals set by the NLI Strategic Plan;

- Supervising preparation of books, (including loan condition assessments), travelling on loan and acting as courier where necessary;
- Liaising with and offering specialist advice to colleagues regarding collection handling, suitability for imaging, storage and access to books;
- Participating in the delivery of advice and training on preservation matters
- Contributing to the success of the Conservation Department through continuous professional development, assisting in administrative work, keeping conservation supplies up-to-date as required.

The above is a general guide to the role and is not an exhaustive description of duties which are associated with the role or tasks which may be assigned to the role of Book Conservator in the NLI.

Entry Requirements

Essential Requirements:

- A recognised postgraduate qualification in book conservation;
- A minimum of 3 years' post-graduate experience in conserving rare books and library materials;
- Excellent knowledge of library book collection uses in a national cultural institution;
- Proven project management skills in the coordination and delivery of conservation projects;
- Competence in the use of information technology to achieve work objectives, including use of PCs and Office software, and other electronic and presentation tools, familiarity with the use of relational databases for conservation condition audits and to prioritize workflows;
- Maintaining up-to-date knowledge of relevant professional standards and codes of ethics and practice, and relevant Health and Safety standards;
- Comprehensive knowledge of conservation treatment techniques and materials, preservation principles and methodologies, thorough knowledge of the history of the book and historical bookbinding.

Desirable Requirements:

- Professional accreditation or working towards accreditation;
- Research and analytical skills;
- Experience of preparing books for exhibition and external loans;
- Willingness to keep up to date with current conservation research and practice (CPD);
- An interest and enthusiasm to work in the National Library of Ireland and to raise awareness and advocate for preservation and conservation of documentary heritage in Ireland.

Person Specification

The successful candidate will possess:

- Demonstrated ability to work to deadlines;
- Demonstrated ability to work collegially within a small team environment;
- Good organisational and prioritising skills with ability to manage complex workloads;
- Excellent attention to detail;

- Interest in creativity and innovation;
- Tolerant, flexible and positive attitude;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to clearly communicate conservation and preservation concepts to non-specialist peers;
- Self-motivation and initiative;
- Sound decision making and judgement when assessing risks;
- Initiative and drive to achieve objectives.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE AND CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON ELIGIBILITY

European Economic Area Nationals

Candidates should note that eligibility to compete is open to citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union along with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Citizens of Switzerland are also eligible to compete.

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 that 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 moneys. 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. It is a condition of the Collective Agreement that persons availing of the agreement will not be eligible 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.

Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (Circular Letter LG (P) 06/2013)

The department of Environment, Community & Local Government Circular Letter LG (P) 06/2013 introduced a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme for Local Authorities. In accordance with the terms of the Collective Agreement, Redundancy Payments to Public Servants dated 28 June 2012 as detailed above, it is a specific condition of that VER scheme that persons will not be eligible for re-employment

in any Public Service body (as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interests Acts 2009-2011 and the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions Act 2012) for a period of 2 years from their date of departure under this Scheme. Thereafter, the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will be required prior to re-employment. These conditions also apply in the case of engagement/employment on a contract for service basis (either as a contractor or an employee of a contractor).

Career Breaks

Subject to satisfying the eligibility requirements, the competition is open to staff who are on a Career Break, provided their Career Break conforms to the provisions of the Department of Finance Circular 04/2013, or on secondment arrangements.

Declaration

Applicants will be required to declare whether they have previously availed of a public service scheme of incentivised early retirement and/or the collective agreement outlined above. 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.

PRINCIPAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

PAY: The payscales applicable to the position are as follows (rates effective 01 March 2023):

Personal Pension Contribution (PPC)

The PPC pay scale will apply where the appointee is an existing civil or public servant appointed on or after 6th April 1995 and is required to make a personal pension contribution. It will also apply to new permanent employees and fixed term un-established employees.

€35,336 €37,808 €38,470 €41,769 €45,079 €48,389 €51,703 €53,768 €55,845 €57,938
€60,018 €62,104 €64,191 €66,270 €68,367 €70,685 **LSI1** €72,999 **LSI 2**

**LSI 1 is Long service Increment after 3 years on Max of scale.*

**LSI 2 is Long service increment after 6 years on Max of scale.*

Non-Personal Pension Contribution (Non-PPC)

The Non-PPC (Personal Pension Contribution) salary for the position is as follows and applies where the appointee is a civil or public servant recruited before 6th April 1995 and who is not required to make a Personal Pension Contribution.

€37,039 €39,828 €42,974 €46,113 €49,264 €51,211 €53,169 €55,141 €57,116 €59,100
€61,079 €63,059 €65,042 €67,254 **LSI 1** €69,452 **LSI 2**

**LSI 1 is Long service Increment after 3 years on Max of scale.*

***LSI 2 is Long service increment after 6 years on Max of scale.*

Important Note

Entry will be at the minimum of the scale and the rate of remuneration will not be subject to negotiation and may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy.

Subject to satisfactory performance increments may be payable in line with current Government Policy. (See the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018-2020 paragraph 5.1)

Different terms and conditions may apply if immediately prior to appointment you are a currently serving civil or public servant.

The rate of pay offered will be payable fortnightly in arrears by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) into a bank account of your choice. Payment cannot be made until you supply an IBAN and IBIC number to the HR Unit.

Statutory deductions from salary will be made as appropriate.

You will agree that any overpayment of salary or of travel and subsistence may be deducted from future salary payments due to you in accordance with the Payment of Wages Act 1991. You will be advised in writing of the amount and details of any such overpayment and you will be given at least one week's notice of the deduction to take place, which will be deducted at an amount fair and reasonable having regards to all the circumstances.

Tenure

A panel may be formed from this competition from which Book Conservator vacancies at Assistant Keeper Grade 2 level, both permanent and temporary, should they arise may be filled.

An appointment is made to a position in the National Library of Ireland on successful completion of a probationary contract. This does not preclude an extension to the probationary period in appropriate circumstances. During the period of probation, the appointee's performance will be subject to review by the relevant manager(s) to determine whether the appointee:

- (i) has performed in a satisfactory manner
- (ii) has been satisfactory in general conduct
- (iii) is suitable from the point of view of health with particular regard to sick leave.

Outside Employment

The position will be whole time and the appointee may not engage in private practice or be connected with any outside business, which conflicts in any way with his/her official duties, impairs performance or compromises his/her integrity.

Organisation of Working Time Act 1997

The terms of the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 will, where appropriate, apply to this position.

Location

The successful candidate will be based at The National Library of Ireland premises in Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Hours of Attendance

Hours of attendance will be as fixed from time to time but will amount, on average, to not less than 41.25 gross hours per week (35 net hours per week). No additional payment will be made for extra attendance (over and above 41.25 hours per week) as the rate of remuneration payable covers any exceptional extra attendance liability that may arise from time to time.

Annual Leave

The annual leave allowance will be 25 working days a year, rising to 29 after 5 years and 30 after 10 years. This allowance is subject to the usual conditions regarding the granting of annual leave, and is on the basis of a five-day week and is exclusive of the usual public holidays.

Health

A candidate for and any person holding the office must be fully competent and capable of undertaking the duties attached to the office and be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

Sick Leave

Pay during properly certified sick absence, provided there is no evidence of permanent disability for service, will apply on a pro-rata basis, in accordance with the provisions of the sick leave circulars. Officers who will be paying Class A rate of PRSI will be required to sign a mandate authorising the Department of Social Protection to pay any benefits due under the Social Welfare Acts directly to the National Library of Ireland. 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.

Superannuation and Retirement

The successful candidate will be offered the appropriate superannuation terms and conditions as prevailing in the National Library 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 scheme's minimum pension age will be linked to the State Pension.

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.**

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), the Department of Health Circular 7/2010 VER/VRS or the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (Circular letter LG(P) 06/2013) which as indicated above, renders a person ineligible for the competition) the entitlement to that pension will cease with effect from the date of the 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.

- **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 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>

Secrecy, Confidentiality and Standards of Behaviour:

Official Secrecy and Integrity

During the term of the contract an appointee will be subject to the Provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1963, as amended by the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. The appointee will agree not to disclose to third parties any confidential information either during or subsequent to the period of employment.

Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour

The appointee will be subject to the Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour.

Character

A candidate for and any person holding the office must be of good character.

Ethics in Public Office Act 1995

The Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 will apply, where appropriate, to this employment.

Important notice:

The above represents the principal conditions of service and is not intended to be the comprehensive list of all terms and conditions of employment which will be set out in the employment contract to be agreed with the successful candidate

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COMPETITION PROCESS

How to Apply

Applicants should submit a copy of their current Curriculum Vitae with a letter of interest and the names and contact details of two referees. These should be submitted by e-mail to: careers@nli.ie

Please note that all application documentation should be submitted in a single PDF document.

Applicants will be short-listed on the basis of the information contained in their curriculum vitae and letter of interest.

It is the responsibility of applicants to be available for interview on the allotted time and date.

The NLI reserves the right to make such enquiries as it considers necessary in relation to an applicant before making an offer of a post to him/her.

Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of applications is 3:00pm pm on Monday 23 October 2023. **This closing date will be strictly adhered to.**

Format of the Competition

The format of the competition is a semi-structured interview, using the relevant competencies associated with the post and information provided through the application process. Candidates may be required to make a presentation of up to 10 minutes on their understanding of the role of Book Conservator in a national library. Interviews will be held in English.

Shortlisting

Normally the number of applications received for a position exceeds that required to fill existing and future vacancies to the position. While a candidate may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, if the numbers applying for the position are such that it would not be practical to interview everyone, the National Library may decide that a number only will be called to interview. In this respect, the National Library provide for the employment of a shortlisting process to select a group for interview who, based on an examination of the application forms, appear to be most suitable for the position. An expert board will examine the application forms against a pre-determined criteria based on the requirements for the position and decide if you will be shortlisted, relative to the other candidates applying for the position. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable or incapable of undertaking the job, rather than there are some candidates, who based on their application,

appear to be better qualified and/or have more relevant experience. It is therefore in your own interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of your qualifications/experience on the application form.

Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn

Candidates who do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as the National Library of Ireland requires in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature will have no further claim to consideration.

Review Procedures in relation to the Selection Process

Requests for a review are dealt with in accordance with the "*Code of Practice: Appointment to Positions in the Civil Service and Public Service*" published by the Commission for Public Service Appointments - the Code can be accessed at www.cpsa.ie.

The National Library of Ireland will consider requests (addressed to the HR Unit) for review as follows: -

- informal process to be availed of within 5 working days of the notification of initial decision (Section 7.8 of Code) or within 2 working days of the receipt of a decision in relation to an interim stage (Section 7.9 of Code).
- Formal process: request for review must be made within 10 working days of the notification of the initial decision or if an interim stage the request for review must be received within 4 working days (Section 7.13 of Code).
- The candidate may seek to have outcome of initial review reviewed by decision arbitrator and a request to this affect should be made within 7 working days of the receipt of the outcome of the initial review (Section 7.15 of Code).

Section 8 of the Code deals with the Review/Appeals Procedures in relation to allegations of a breach of the Code of Practice.

Appendix 1

Competencies for Book Conservator at Assistant Keeper Grade 2 level Effective Performance Indicators	
Team skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works within a team ethos – develops clear objectives; addresses performance issues Helps to Develop and implements new ways of working effectively Flexible, willing to adapt – positively contributes to implementation of change
Analysis & Decision-Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collects and analyses information from relevant sources Takes account of broader issues and related implications when making decisions Informed by previous experience and knowledge Makes sound, well-reasoned choices Actively develops creative, sustainable and innovative approaches
Management & Delivery of Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes ownership for delivery of agreed objectives Successful in managing a range of different projects simultaneously Organises own work effectively and in a timely manner Strives to deliver best results with available resources Shows enthusiasm for new developments and work practices Committed to checking the quality of outputs through best practice
Interpersonal & Communication Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops and maintains contact with colleagues and other stakeholders Encourages open and constructive discussions around work practice issues Presents information clearly – confident when speaking and writing Is tolerant and mindful of others
Specialist Knowledge, Expertise & Staff Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is an advocate for the conservation profession Clear understanding of roles, objectives and targets Clear understanding of how these fit into the work of the unit and the organisation High levels of expertise and broad relevant Public Sector knowledge Focus on self-development, strives to improve performance
Drive & Commitment to Public Service Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent high-level performance, investing significant energy to achieve objectives Ensures that the library user is at the heart of all services High standards of honesty, ethics and integrity