



Job Description

Associate Professor in Conservation and Director of Masters Programme in Conservation of Contemporary Art & Media (1.0 FTE)

Department: History of Art

Grade: 9

Location: UCL East campus, Stratford

Reports to

Head of Department, UCL History of Art

Context

UCL History of Art

UCL History of Art is a successful medium-sized department, based within the Faculty of Social & Historical Sciences, with a very high international reputation. Academic staff have a wide range of approaches to the history of art, working across an expanded global geography and including interests in image cultures, the materials and materiality of art, and visual technologies of all kinds.

The Department has a large and productive research-student community, with an average of 30–40 research students registered in any one year, and a thriving MA History of Art programme. Undergraduate programmes include a [single honours History of Art degree](#), a range of combined honours degrees and a unique [degree in History of Art, Materials and Technology](#), which includes a strong component of lab-oriented work for students wishing to explore issues of materiality, technique, technical analysis and object-based enquiry, as well as associated theoretical, historical and ethical questions.

The first of its kind in the UK, the two-year Masters in Conservation of Contemporary Art & Media is an exciting development for the Department at [UCL East](#), a new campus in east London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park that will open to students in 2022 and 2023. The programme extends the Department's current teaching and research strengths while providing for the rapidly-developing training needs of the next generation of conservators, and conservation professionals looking to develop a specialism in the field of contemporary art.

The new programme will be based in purpose-built laboratory space and a media suite at the new [Marshgate site](#) at UCL East, with the first cohort of students beginning in September 2023. The Masters in Conservation of Contemporary Art & Media forms part of the cross-departmental School of Creative and Cultural Industries ('[Culture Lab](#)' group of programmes) designed to enable collaborative approaches and experimental practice across Faculties, as well as with neighbouring institutions at the Olympic Park, including the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The post will initially be based at UCL's Bloomsbury campus but will move to the [UCL East campus](#) when the programme opens in 2023.

Job Specification

The History of Art Department is seeking to appoint a full-time Associate Professor (Grade 9) in the Conservation of Contemporary Art, to start in September 2021. A teaching and research-active member of the Department, the postholder will take up all aspects of the development of the Masters in Conservation of Contemporary Art & Media and lead the new programme as its Director. This will involve building and leading a small team with relevant expertise for core teaching, and some Continuing Professional Development teaching, based within the programme's laboratory and media suite at UCL East, as well as forging new partnerships within and outside UCL for the purpose of teaching, research and student placements.

You will be a dynamic, well-networked conservation researcher and/or established practitioner with a strong track record of research projects in either the conservation of time-based and media art or works using mixed and modern materials. Committed to critically

assessing and developing new approaches to the conservation of contemporary art, you will be able to equip students with the necessary practical, decision-making and communication skills for conservation practice in a wide-range of settings; enable students' investigation of the theoretical and ethical dimensions of the conservation of complex contemporary artworks, in ways that are attentive to global practices of making and mending; and encourage experimental, collaborative and inclusive approaches to learning.

Joining a thriving Department with strong teaching and research interests in modern and contemporary art, close links to London's museums and gallery networks and a university with its own important collections, you will offer a strong vision for the programme and for future research, including potential directions for the laboratory and media suite. This vision will also draw on the facilities and collaborative opportunities of UCL as a whole and wider collaboration with external organisations, positioning the Department to become a leading player in the field of contemporary art conservation with a global outlook. You will be knowledgeable about the professional framework, practices and policies of conservation, in the UK and internationally. You will generate research income by actively pursuing and applying for grants for research and related laboratory infrastructure and be able to foster relationships with partners in the cultural and technological industries.

UCL is committed to advancing equality, diversity, and inclusion across the organisation. This role includes work to increase diversity within the conservation profession, for example forging opportunities to engage with local students and heritage needs.

Main purpose of the job

- To develop, direct and co-deliver the Masters in Conservation of Contemporary Art & Media, establishing its credibility as a leading international programme.
- To help recruit and lead a team of two in core and research-based teaching on the programme, and to manage the associated laboratory spaces.
- To develop a distinctive research profile for the conservation of contemporary art, and to generate income by applying for research grants.
- To teach and examine other History of Art students alongside colleagues in the History of Art Department as appropriate.

Duties and responsibilities

- To direct the Masters in Conservation of Contemporary Art & Media and take overall responsibility for its teaching and lab team.
- To develop, plan and implement a high-quality curriculum, informed by discussions on conservation accreditation at both a UK and international level.
- To teach and assess at undergraduate and, mainly, postgraduate levels in modules developed under the guidance of the Departmental Teaching Committee.
- To act as tutor to Masters students, and supervise or assist with supervision of postgraduate taught (Masters) or research (MPhil/PhD) students.
- To carry out research and develop a research direction for History of Art in the conservation of contemporary art, applying for and participating in grant-funded collaborative projects.
- To produce publications and other research outputs.
- To advance interdisciplinary collaboration and to pursue collaborations with partners in cultural institutions and industry.
- To manage a budget and, with a lab technician, take responsibility for overseeing equipment, service contracts, consumables and Health and Safety in the laboratory and media suite.
- To help to maintain records to monitor student progress, achievement and attendance.
- To contribute to departmental, faculty, or UCL-wide working groups or committees as requested.
- To maintain own professional development.
- To maintain an awareness of, and actively follow, all UCL policies and Fire and Health & Safety Regulations.
- To support and advance UCL's equality, diversity and inclusion ambitions, and to contribute to sector-wide initiatives to diversify the conservation profession.
- To carry out any other duties commensurate with the grade and purpose of the post.

Benefits

For information on UCL's values, culture, community and staff benefits, visit [Work at UCL](#).

The History of Art Department shares UCL's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and has an active EDI Board to oversee initiatives in this area. We are currently developing an application for an Athena SWAN bronze award and have recently implemented an ambitious 10-year EDI action plan.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential or Desirable	Assessment method (Application/Interview)
Qualifications, experience and knowledge		
PhD degree in a relevant discipline	E	A
Strong international research and publication profile in areas relevant to conservation of contemporary art and/or media	E	A/I
Specialist knowledge and experience in conservation, heritage science or materials science and associated fields, with experience of running a laboratory and knowledge of professional conservation sectors	E	A/I
Proven leadership skills and the experience needed to ensure the academic reputation of the conservation programme and develop relevant institutional partnerships	E	A/I
Significant track record of applying for and winning, as well as collaborating on, grant-funded research projects	D	A/I
Direct engagement and/or practical experience in conservation-related projects	D	A/I
Skills and abilities		
Ability to show academic and creative vision and leadership in running a programme, including developing partnerships within and across institutions/sectors to deliver academic vision and support research	E	A/I
Excellent planning and management skills, including ability to work within a budget, run a laboratory and build a team	E	A/I
Ability to teach and supervise academic work at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to disseminate learning and research to a variety of publics	E	A/I
Command of relevant historical, theoretical and ethical questions within the specialist field	E	A/I
Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills	E	A/I
Personal attributes		
Capacity to lead by example and work collaboratively	E	A/I
Collegial approach and willingness to contribute to shared departmental administrative duties	E	A/I
Strong advocate for equality of opportunity, and for expanding diversity and inclusivity in the conservation field	E	A/I