

Open position

Objects/Preventive Conservator

Assistant Keeper Grade II, Full Time, Permanent Position

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Turlough Park, Co Mayo

Closing Date for Application
Friday 23rd October 2026

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Applications must be received no later than 17:00. 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.

The **National Museum of Ireland** is seeking applications from suitable candidates to fill the post of **Objects/Preventive Conservator (Assistant Keeper Grade II)** based in the National Museum of Ireland, Turlough Park. This is a full-time permanent contract. This position will be filled by open competitive interview.

Job Title

Objects/Preventive Conservator (Assistant Keeper Grade II)

Location

The successful candidate will be based in the National Museum of Ireland, Turlough Park or any other site as may be designated from time to time by the Director.

Reporting to

The successful candidate will report to the Head of Conservation Department.

Responsibilities of the Post

Context:

Conservation is a busy Department engaged in the preservation, investigation and remedial conservation of the collections. The Conservation Department of the National Museum of Ireland 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 more than 5,000,000 objects in the Museum's collections across the four curatorial Divisions (Irish Antiquities, Natural History, Irish Folk life and Art and Industrial division).

Purpose:

The post holder will be a staff member of the Conservation Department and will work closely with conservation colleagues, across museum sites, most staff are based in the museum headquarters, Collins Barracks. The post holder will be based primarily in the Museum of Country Life but will work across all Museum sites as required by the job.

The Folklife Division of the National Museum of Ireland holds collections of some 40,000 objects and is located at the National Museum of Ireland, Turlough Park, Co Mayo, with secondary storage facilities in the Collection Resource Centre (CRC), Co. Dublin and at Daingean, Co Offaly. This post is part of the Conservation Department of the National Museum of Ireland and is to provide conservation support for the collections of the Folklife Division in these locations. The post holder is expected to have training and experience in an object conservation discipline relevant to the Irish Folklife collections and significant experience in preventive Conservation and Collection Care. The post holder will be expected to carry out practical remedial conservation on artefacts within their specialist area and preventive conservation across all Folklife collections areas and sites, and to oversee and influence the work of other staff, volunteers, contractors and interns in matters of collection care.

Duties and Responsibilities

The principal duties of the position may include:

- Undertaking a range of condition assessments for potential acquisitions; objects for loans or exhibition; for handling and for the reserve collections.
- Carry out a range of remedial conservation treatments to museum objects, as agreed with the Head of Conservation.
- Examine and investigate 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.
- Monitoring and maintaining the museum environment, including oversight of the Environmental Systems and IPM (Integrated Pest Management), light levels etc. for Folklife collections at the National Museum, Turlough Park, and any other sites where the National Museum Folklife Collections are held as necessary for safeguarding the collections housed at these sites.
- Produce written reports on work carried out.
- Overseeing, devising and implementing safe packing procedures and methods to conservation standards for collection moves and transport of artefacts.
- Upgrading and promoting the collections through Conservation and Collection Care.
- Assessing storage and display conditions and materials used and carrying out such improvements to them as are required for the long-term conservation of the museum's collections, in consultation with the Head of Conservation.
- Liaising with the Head of Conservation in assigning duties to collection assistants, students, interns within the Conservation Department.
- Supervising the work of other staff, private contractors and OPW staff as required in conservation matters.
- Liaising with architects / engineers / designers on case design, set works materials and environmental control for exhibition work.
- Monitoring artefacts on display.
- Undertaking fieldwork and acting as a courier as requested.
- Operating and maintaining the conservation laboratory equipment and supplies.
- Providing advice to local museums and heritage centres on environmental monitoring and control measures and inspecting such locations to assess potential for storage and display of artefacts.
- Assessing Facilities Reports for potential outgoing loans and drafting the conservation sections of Facilities Reports for potential incoming loans.
- Participation in the education and training of others involved in collection-care, giving lectures and explanatory tours of the department and contributing to Conservation Education at university level as requested by the Head of Conservation.
- Keeping up to date with and contributing to current research and developments in conservation related to Folklife collections and in preventive conservation and publishing relevant articles.
- Contributing, with colleagues to the Museum's disaster management, the Conservation Department's Risk Register for Cultural Heritage and other collection care briefs.
- Overseeing, together with preventive conservation colleagues and the Head of Conservation the implementation of Preventive Conservation policy, strategies and procedures for Folklife Collections.

- Any such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Head of Conservation.

Person Specification

Essential Requirements:

- Hold an honours degree or postgraduate degree, in an appropriate Object Conservation subject with a minimum of 3 years remedial conservation experience.

And have

- Excellent demonstrable practical skills in conservation and a comprehensive knowledge of Conservation theory and ethical decision making for remedial and preventive conservation.
- A knowledge of museum collections and experience monitoring all aspects of 'museum environment' and collection care.
- Proven organisational skills and an ability to plan effectively and prioritise work.
- Excellent communication skills including writing, editing and presentation.
- An ability to learn quickly, to self-motivate as well as to work effectively within a variety of teams.
- Demonstrated ability to work to deadlines and to maintain focus under pressure.
- A positive approach to working with the full range of mixed Irish Folklife collections held by the National Museum of Ireland.

Desirable Requirements (but not essential):

- A qualification in Preventive Conservation in addition to object conservation.
- A knowledge of museum functioning, including the management of museum environments and the objects likely to be found in the Folklife collections.
- Knowledge and experience of implementing preventive conservation for composite and mixed-material collections is highly desirable.
- Excellent knowledge of current conservation principles and practices, and of material science.
- Excellent research and analytical skills.
- The ability to demonstrate initiative, good decision-making skills and a sense of personal and professional responsibility.
- Previous experience in the management of teams and budgets.

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 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.

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 National Museum 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.

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On Friday 23rd October 2026**

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Assistant Keeper Grade II Principal conditions of service

Pay:

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

€40,374	€49,921	€43,602	€47,001	€50,412	€53,886	€57,526	€59,823	€62,132
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
€64,461	€66,776	€69,097	€71,418	€73,732	€76,066	€78,644	€81,218	
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 - **€40,374** per annum, the 1st point on the Assistant Keeper Grade II PPC Scale (Public Service Agreement 2024-2026 - 1% Increase - 1st Jun 2026). The rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with 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 the National Museum 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.

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 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).

- **Ill-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

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.