

THE  
NATIONAL  
GALLERY

Art Fund\_

# CALL FOR MUSEUM PARTNERS

---

THE NATIONAL GALLERY  
CURATORIAL TRAINEESHIP  
PROGRAMME 2019–21

Supported by Art Fund with the assistance of  
the Vivmar Foundation



# Art Fund\_

## Context

The National Gallery is looking for regional partners to help train the next generation of curators, with a particular commitment to increasing diversity of the museum workforce.

Since 2013, the National Gallery has offered [a training programme for future curators](#) in partnership with regional museums and galleries. Previous Trainees are well established in the sector in roles ranging from Assistant Curator to Assistant Keeper.

With support from [Art Fund](#) and the Vivmar Foundation, the National Gallery is able to offer two further fully-funded Curatorial Traineeships. These will run for 22 months from autumn 2019 to summer 2021. Supported by the National Gallery, two partner museums will each provide one Curatorial Trainee with the opportunity to be based at their site for 16 months. During this time each Trainee will work on a project that sheds new light on the paintings within the partner museum's collection.

## Objectives

The Curatorial Traineeship Programme aims to develop a range of skills expected from the curatorial workforce today. Skills highlighted in [Art Fund's The 21st Century Curator \(2017\)](#) include subject expertise, collections care and exhibition making, but also the ability to create opportunities for audience collaboration and participation, improve accessibility and produce new narratives. Underpinned by its [Strategic Plan 2018–2023](#) (IV: 'A National Gallery for All'), the Curatorial Traineeship Programme forms part of the National Gallery's commitment to nationwide engagement. These aims are:

- To collaborate nationally,
- To share expertise as widely as possible,
- To enhance the curatorial capacity for the future and
- To contribute to the diversity of the UK museum workforce.

## The Partner Museums

Applications are invited from regional museums and galleries in the UK to partner with the National Gallery in delivering the Curatorial Traineeship Programme. The Programme intends to create new pathways into a curatorial career for those currently underrepresented in the museum workforce. We are therefore seeking partners who will actively support our efforts to promote the Programme to the widest possible range of applicants.

Museum applicants will propose a project based around European paintings (before 1900) in their collections. Projects must have one or more clearly defined public outcomes. This may include new interpretation, a (re-)display or exhibition, a publication, digital content, a public programme, a new event, a workshop with a particular community group, or a combination of some or all of these activities. Proposals linking historic and contemporary art are also welcome. The National Gallery is open to working more closely with partners to develop outcomes together, should this be desired.

Selected partners will be expected to

- Work closely with Art Fund and the National Gallery to ensure that the two Trainee vacancies are promoted and advertised to as wide and diverse an audience as possible;
- Enter into a contractual agreement with the National Gallery regarding the delivery of the Programme and its outcomes;
- Confirm the capacity to host and support the Trainees for 16 months (Spring 2020 – Summer 2021);
- Be accessible to and supportive of the Curatorial Trainees both during the training phase at the National Gallery and throughout their whole placement at the partner venue.

## Art Fund\_

### The National Gallery

The National Gallery will employ two Curatorial Trainees on 22-month fixed-term contracts and provide:

- Initial 6-month training, covering curatorial skills, research methodology, provenance research, language training and involvement in a wide range of relevant Gallery activities;
- Travel expenses for museum partners joining the interview panel, candidates attending interviews (as required) and appointed trainees (throughout the duration of the contract);
- Mentoring and support through National Gallery curators and other specialist staff;
- Co-ordination of all reports to Art Fund.

### Candidate Profile

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate a keen interest in the museum sector and historic European paintings. While the ability to produce an independent piece of written research will be a requirement, equal consideration will be given to candidates who can demonstrate knowledge and thinking ability equivalent to an MA qualification. These skills may have been gained through practical experience, such as contributions to the research and organisation of an exhibition. The Programme Partners will collaborate closely on all aspects of the selection process.

# Art Fund\_

## Proposed Delivery Timescale

Public announcement & call for museum partners	Monday 25 March 2019
Deadline for museum applicants	Tuesday 7 May 2019
Selection of museum partners (Art Fund/NG panel)	Friday 17 May 2019
Notification of museum applicants	Monday 20 May 2019
<hr/>	
Trainee advert & communications strategy agreed	By Friday 31 May 2019
Joint recruitment drive for 2x Curatorial Trainees	Mon. 3 June 2019, deadline Sun. 7 July 2019
Short list produced by National Gallery	w/c 8 July 2019
Interviews	w/c 15 July 2019
Candidates notified	by 22nd July 2019
<hr/>	
Curatorial Trainees at National Gallery	Sept. 2019 – Feb. 2020 (6 months) <i>with progress report as detailed below</i>
<hr/>	
Progress report to Art Fund	by end of Dec. 2019
<hr/>	
Curatorial Trainees at partner museums	March 2020 to June 2021 (16 months) <i>with progress reports as detailed below</i>
<hr/>	
Progress reports to Art Fund	by end of April 2020, Sep. 2020 & Jan. 2021
Final report to Art Fund	by end of July 2021

## Art Fund\_

### Museum Partner Applications

The Museum Partner Application Form should be submitted  
by 5 pm on Tuesday 7 May 2019 to:

Dr Flavia Dietrich-England, National Programmes Manager  
The National Gallery  
Trafalgar Square  
London WC2N 5DN  
flavia.dietrich-england@ng-london.org.uk  
020 7747 2514 / 07770 646 524

Please feel free to get in touch for an informal  
conversation before submitting your application.