



CHESTER CATHEDRAL

Conservator

Job Description

Chester Cathedral is an ancient abbey of international importance that has played a significant part in shaping the history of the City. It still plays an important part in the spiritual, cultural and civic life of Chester and beyond. The site includes the Cathedral, with the most complete set of monastic buildings in the country, the Georgian square and streets and the largest green spaces within the walls, including the scheduled ancient monument, the Roman barracks, beneath the Dean's field.

As a major place of daily Worship, a tourist attraction and a community venue, the Cathedral welcomes around 300,000 visitors each year and operates as a vibrant and diverse destination with a large team of staff and volunteers. The cathedral is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and expects this to be an integral part of daily cathedral life and work.

Overall Purpose of the Job

To preserve, conserve and record items of special interest and aid in the general maintenance of the Cathedral and surrounding property.

Conservation duties:

- Working closely alongside the stonemasonry team. Helping them keep up to date with latest conservation techniques and theory in their care of the Cathedral Fabric
- Working with external contractors to ensure that any works being performed are following the best conservation principles.
- Occasional training of other staff in the care of the Cathedral's historic fabric.
- Prepare reports for the Cathedral Clerk of Works and Cathedral Architect on the condition of either general areas or specific items and provide recommendations for their care.
 - keep full conservation records by writing up notes on the object's condition and any previous restoration work that has been done
 - produce a visual record of the object for identification purposes and to illustrate its condition
 - propose and estimate the costs of treatments to halt decay and reveal the true nature of objects
 - work out and implement creative solutions to clean, support and repair sensitive objects
- Keep up to date with the latest conservation techniques and practices, through research and training.

Other tasks:

- Engage with potential improvements to education and visitor experience through engagement with the conservation work being undertaken
- Explore and develop, alongside the Clerk of Works, the possibilities for future development

- Liaise with the events team to ensure that work does not conflict with other commitments in the Cathedral diary
- Any other reasonable duties

Health & safety:

- To develop and then comply with all necessary Health and Safety risk Assessments and method statements in relation to conservation work
- Comply with the Cathedral Health and Safety Policy
- Undertake further training, as required
- Ensure that workplaces are operated properly, equipment maintained and properly used and that sites are left clean and tidy both during and on completion of works
- A high level of fitness is required for this role and working at height will be required
- To undertake all necessary safeguarding training and adhere to safeguarding policies and procedures.
- While this role does not currently require DBS clearance, it may be required in the future if more training or educational work is undertaken.

Working Pattern:

This role will be 15 hours per week. Days worked will be agreed with the Clerk of Works.

Accountable to:

The Clerk of Works

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable	How Assessed
Confident and outgoing personality	☐		I
Appropriate conservation qualifications	☐		A/I/D
Experience of conservation work in historic buildings	☐		A / I
The ability to follow architectural plans, drawings and specifications	☐		A / I
Ability to share an appreciation of conservation with children and adults of all ages	☐		A / I
Excellent verbal and written communication skills	☐		A / I
Ability to manage an annual budget and to prepare business plans	☐		A / I
Excellent customer service	☐		A / I
A good understanding of the latest guidance and best practice within the field of conservation	☐		I
Sympathetic towards and support for the mission and values of the Cathedral	☐		A / I
Appropriate qualifications and experience in Health and safety	☐		A/I/D

Key:

A – Application form and covering letter

D – Documentation (certificates)

I – Interview