

Senior Conservation Scientist (Organic Materials) at Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE

Company Description

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a new cultural beacon, bringing different cultures together to shine fresh light on the shared stories of humanity.

In March 2007, the government of United Arab Emirates and France formed an unprecedented partnership for cultural exchange, and the highlight of this was the establishment of Louvre Abu Dhabi on Saadiyat Island. The partnership combines the UAE's bold vision of cultural progression and openness, with France's expertise in the world of art and museums.

Louvre Abu Dhabi champions cultural achievements from prehistory to the present day. The galleries are not separated by geography but set in chronological order, the aim is to encourage respect, curiosity, learning and self-reflection.

Opportunity

Louvre Abu Dhabi is looking to appoint a Senior Conservation Scientist (Organic Materials) to join the Research Laboratory to perform scientific analysis and research aimed at understanding, preserving, and interpreting objects from the museum diverse collection in collaboration with curators, conservators, and other museum staff. The laboratory has been operational for a year and a half and had already acquired some capabilities (including OM, SEM-EDS, MA-XRF, FTIR, Raman), but the new scientist will be developing the organic materials analysis section from the ground up, starting by purchasing the chromatography and mass spectroscopy instruments.

Key duties include:

- Conduct scientific examination, identification, and analysis of museum objects' materials and techniques to contribute to the broader study of works of art, study aging and deterioration processes of materials, and perform research to support preventive conservation.
- Perform analysis of organic materials using chromatography and mass spectrometry techniques, as well as other analytical methods such as FTIR, UV-Vis and Raman spectroscopies, and interpret the analytical data collected.
- Participate in the management of laboratory functions including acquisition of new instruments and their maintenance, ordering chemicals and consumables, and keeping their storage organized, keeping artwork samples and reference collection archive organized.
- Maintain excellent records of research and analysis and contribute to the management of scientific data.
- Communicate research results through written reports, museum publications, journal publications and conference presentations aimed at the scientific community and art conservation practitioners.
- Foster understanding and assimilation of scientific information among curators, conservators, collection managers, museum engineers, educators, other staff and the general public.
- Instruct and supervise interns, Master and PhD students in the understanding and performance of materials analysis.

Required Qualifications & Experience

- PhD in chemistry, materials science, or any other science relevant to study of organic materials in materials in museum collection.

- 7+ years' experience in experimental scientific research applied to cultural heritage in a museum environment.
- Strong instrumental analytical skills in chromatography and mass spectrometry techniques, in particular, GC-MS experience, and the ability to operate and interpret data of other techniques, such as SEM-EDS, FTIR, UV/Vis and Raman spectroscopy.
- Knowledge of a broad array of organic materials used in artworks, their degradation mechanisms and treatments is desirable.
- Demonstrated ability to show initiative and resourcefulness in handling difficult and unusual analytical and technical problems.
- A working cross-cultural knowledge of art, art history, artists' materials and techniques, and routine art conservation practices is desirable.
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills in English, knowledge of one or more foreign languages, in particular Arabic or French, is an added value.
- Record of peer-reviewed research and publications in cultural heritage science or in conservation-related themes and topics.
- Ability to effectively disseminate and communicate the work of conservation science to non-technical audiences, including the general public.
- Strong interest in collaborative and multi-disciplinary research and ability to work collaboratively with conservators, curators, collections management staff, museum educators, academic scientists, scientists from other museums is essential.
- Demonstrated organizational skills with a high attention to detail.

Salary Range

30,000-33,000 AED/month full-time (Emirati Dirhams)

If you are interested in this position, please send a cover letter detailing your vision for the position, a CV including references, and three relevant publications to :

careers@louvrebudhabi.ae