TRAINEE DESCRIPTION

TITLE OF POST:	**Stained Glass Traineeship**
SALARY RANGE:	£20,475 per annum
HOURS OF WORK:	Full Time – 37.5 hours per week
LENGTH OF TRAINING:	2 Years – starting September 2021
RESPONSIBLE TO:	York Glaziers Trust Team

INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

The restoration of Rochdale Town Hall provides a once in a generation opportunity for the project to recruit and train an individual in the specialist area of stained glass restoration work under the control of qualified and ICON accredited conservators. Trainees will not only learn from the most experienced conservation professionals but they will have the chance to be part of one of the most significant heritage conservation projects in the North West.

Given the importance of these works in preserving the fragile and beautiful heritage of the building the team have appointed York Glaziers Trust to provide their specialist knowledge, advice and training expertise. York Glaziers Trust is one of the oldest and largest specialist stained glass conservation studios in Britain, and one of the largest in Europe with 3 ICON accredited Conservators.

Whilst the successful candidate will be employed by the RDA, over the duration of the Phase 2 works at Rochdale Town Hall, you will work alongside the professionals of the York Glaziers Trust. A YGT team member will act as your line manager in terms of the conduct of all stained glass conservation work, especially in relation to working safely on site and 'learning on the job' will be central to the training plan.

Some training may have to be delivered initially off-site, at the premises of the York Glaziers Trust, but will be honed on-site to ensure that these basic competencies can be practised. The trainee will practice their skills in the on-site Heritage Skills workshop following preliminary training.

THE TRAINING PLAN

As the delivery and emphasis of the training plan will be tailored to suit the individual, and will reflect their personal competencies on appointment, the plan outlined below is not at this stage divided up chronologically, but aspects of it are assigned a degree of priority in the delivery of the overall programme (with 1 being the highest and 3 the lowest)

Induction: Health and Safety and Stained Glass (Priority 1)

An early and essential induction to working safely with glass, lead, tools and chemicals commonly used in stained glass conservation, with a particular emphasis on those solvents that will be central to the in situ cleaning work will be conducted. The trainee will be required to familiarise themselves with relevant COSH documentation. Additionally, working safely at height, ladder use, scaffolding issues etc., will be a key part of the training. An ability to work at height must be established as part of the recruitment procedure. 2

- Identification of various types of glass
- Glass handling
- Making and using templates

- Glass Cutting (historic and modern techniques)
- Grinding, sanding, etc.

1. Introduction to Craft Basics (Priority 1)
1.1 Working with stained glass safely and the basics of handling glass

- Identification of various types of glass
- Glass handling
- Making and using templates
- Glass Cutting (historic and modern techniques)
- Grinding, sanding, etc.

1.2 Basics of glass painting and surface treatment

- Contour painting (trace line) o Modelling
- Silver stain
- Enamelling
- Firing
- Recognising and understanding etching and other surface treatments

1.3 Basics of lead work

- Lead casting (historic techniques), lead milling, and how to recognise them
- Leading (construction of simple leaded windows)
- Soldering techniques
- Cementing of simple leaded windows
- Manufacture and soldering of metal frames for EPG systems
- Other uses of lead in the glazing environment (lead cills, drip trays etc)

II Introduction to Preliminary Investigation and Conservation Documentation (Priority 1)

- Basic information (accurate measurements, CVMA numbering system etc.)
- First investigation of historic panels
- Interpretation of phenomena (materials / surfaces etc)
- Use of examination tools (especially use of digital microscope)
- Mapping of phenomena
- Description of materials and phenomena, terminology
- Types and structure of a preliminary report
- Photographic recording techniques and use of a professional SLR camera

III Introduction to cleaning methods (Priority 1) 3

- Different types of cleaning methods, their uses and materials
- Critical decision-making processes for cleaning methods

IV Glazing support and mounting systems in historic buildings (Priority 2)

- Historic framing and mounting systems

- Current framing and support systems
- Maintenance and repair of support systems o Different types of edge bonding method (string lead, copper foil, resins)

V Introduction to edge bonding and fixation of paint layers (Priority 3)

- Different types of edge bonding method (string lead, copper foil, resins)
- Pros and cons of different methods
- Decision-making processes
- Use of different methods
- The making of infills (glass or resin?)
- Technical and ethical issues of infills
- Fixation of paint layers (consolidation options and their pros and cons)
- Technical and ethical issues of paint fixation
- Critique and decision-making processes for consolidation methods

VI Environmental Protective Glazing (Priority 3)

- The history of protective glazing
- The current state of understanding in use of protective glazing

VII Introduction to International Frameworks for Conservation (Priority 3)

- E.g. CVMA International Guidelines, Historic England's Conservation Principles, ICOMOS Charters