

## Information, Culture and Heritage

Do you love to learn about how people lived in the past and what it would have been like to live then? Or you might be curious about the reasons why the world is the way it is today, or have a wish to bring the past to life. Alternatively, you might love the idea of looking after precious old objects or manuscripts, or being surrounded by valuable works of art. If so, then working in information, culture and heritage is the ideal career area for you!

Scotland is rich in heritage and culture and it's an essential asset for our tourism industry. With over 400 museums and galleries in Scotland, this sector supports over 60,000 jobs. There are also hundreds of historic places and heritage centres, managed by organisations like the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Scotland.

### What areas can I work in?

The main areas for this career area are in: libraries and information science, covering work in archives, libraries and genealogy, and in culture and heritage, covering archaeology, heritage work and museums and galleries.

The biggest employers are local authorities and national conservation trusts, but there are many areas within these services that you can work in; these can be education, leisure, marketing, planning, exhibition organisation and tourism.

To see the routes to getting into each of these sectors, take a look at our [Career Pathway](#).

### What kind of companies can I work for?

There are a wide range of organisations you can work for including:

- local authorities
- museums and art galleries
- conservation and heritage trusts
- private historic houses
- libraries and special collections
- voluntary and charity trusts
- schools, colleges and universities.

### What's the job market like?

Due to the popularity of working within culture and heritage, there is stiff competition for jobs that sometimes are not particularly well paid yet require high qualifications. So, you will need to be determined, persistent and highly motivated to find the job you want.

This is not an easy sector to make a career in. Traditionally, most museums are dependent on public sector funding.

Getting voluntary work experience for both archaeology and museum work before applying for a job is very

useful. It's also a good way to make contacts.

Equally there is a lot of competition for jobs in libraries. Many local authorities are reducing the number of libraries in their area, and the majority of libraries are run by the local authorities. The cuts councils are facing in funding are also having an impact on recruitment.

There are skills shortages in this sector, the main ones including:

- ICT skills, such as digitisation and web management and content development
- specific technical skills including cataloguing, indexing, conservation and preservation
- management and leadership skills in all areas.

## Facts and figures

- There were more people working as professional archaeologists in 2017-18 than at any time before.
- There are over 540 libraries and other service points, such as mobile libraries, in Scotland.

## Want to find out more?

[Creative Scotland](#) is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland. Their website has an excellent [opportunities section](#) where you will find learning, training and job opportunities for all disciplines in culture across Scotland.

[Creative and Cultural Skills](#) is the Sector Skills Council for advertising, crafts, cultural heritage, design, music, performing, literary and visual arts.

## Sources

- [Museums Galleries Scotland](#) (June 2020)
- [Scottish Budget: Culture, Tourism and External Affairs 2020-21](#) (6 February 2020)
- [Scottish Library and Information Council](#) (SLIC) (June 2020)
- State of the Archaeological Market 2018, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Landward Research (January 2019)