

# The Courtauld

Appointment of

## Members of the Audit & Risk Committee

October 2024 | Ref EBQQA



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# Introduction

**The Courtauld is an internationally renowned centre for the teaching and research of art history and a major public gallery that works to advance how we see and understand the visual arts. Founded by collectors and philanthropists in the 1930s, the organisation has been at the forefront of the study of art ever since, through advanced research and conservation practice, innovative teaching, a renowned collection, inspiring exhibitions, and engaging and accessible activities, education, and events.**

Academically, The Courtauld faculty is the largest community of art historians and conservators in the UK, teaching and carrying out research on subjects from creativity in late Antiquity to contemporary digital art forms - with an increasingly global focus. An independent college of the University of London, The Courtauld offers a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in the History of Art, curating, and the conservation of easel and wall paintings. Its alumni are leaders and innovators in the arts, culture and business worlds, helping to shape the global agenda for the arts and creative industries.

The Courtauld cares for one of the greatest art collections in the UK, sharing these works with the public at The Courtauld Gallery in central London, as well as through loans and partnerships. The Gallery is most famous for its iconic Impressionist and Post- Impressionist masterpieces - such as Van Gogh's Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear and Manet's A Bar at the Folies-Bergère. It showcases these paintings alongside an internationally renowned collection of works from the Renaissance through to the present day.

Founded on the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to engage with art, The Courtauld works to increase understanding of the role played by art throughout history, in all societies, and across all geographies - as well as being a champion for the importance of art in the present day. This could be through exhibitions offering a chance to look closely at world-famous works, accessible and expert short courses, events bringing art-historical research to new audiences, digital engagement, innovative school, family, and community programmes, or taking a formal qualification. The Courtauld's ambition is to transform access to art history education by extending the horizons of what this is and ensuring as many people as possible can benefit from the tools to better understand the visual world around us.





# Our Vision

**Our vision is to become the world's most ambitious, dynamic and innovative centre for the visual arts.**

**More specifically, we aim to become:**

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A unique place of learning, where students have the opportunity to benefit from an unrivalled range and depth of teaching in the history, conservation, curation and business of art.

Britain's leading public advocate for the study of the visual arts, and for the importance of such knowledge to a thriving culture, economy and society.

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A thriving hub of individual and collaborative research, generating the world's most original and rigorous new thinking on the visual arts.

A global pioneer in the digital sphere, opening up the study of art to an international audience through innovative and accessible forms of online provision.

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An extraordinary art gallery offering a distinctive curatorial programme and one of the UK's most satisfying visitor experiences.

An institution that offers an exemplary model of inclusion, openness and accessibility, and that lives up to our founder Samuel Courtauld's vision of 'art for all'.

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# Mission and History

**The Courtauld's mission is to advance the understanding of the visual arts of past and present across the world, through pioneering research, innovative teaching and inspiring exhibitions, and through the sensitive stewardship of our internationally renowned collection.**

Founded by collectors and philanthropists in 1932, the Courtauld has been at the forefront of developing the field of art history ever since. A research-led higher education institution, we are home to the largest community of art historians and conservators in the UK. More than 40 faculty teach and carry out research on subjects ranging from early medieval art to contemporary digital art, with an increasingly global focus.

An independent college of the University of London, and awarding University of London degrees, we offer a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in History of Art, Conservation and Curating, drawing on the resources of our world-famous Courtauld Gallery and art collection. We currently have more than 600 students, and our alumni are leaders and innovators in the arts, culture and business worlds, helping to shape the global agenda for the arts and creative industries.

The Courtauld Gallery is also home to one of the finest art collections in the UK. Comprising paintings, works on paper and decorative arts, the collection is especially renowned for its Impressionist masterpieces. It is owned by the Samuel Courtauld Trust. The Courtauld works closely with the Trust to advance the stewardship, development and wide public enjoyment of the collection.

Based since 1989 at London's Somerset House, we are in the midst of a major renovation and redevelopment project. The first stage of this project was completed in 2021, with the opening of the new Courtauld Gallery, café, shop and Learning Centre, and the construction of the West Wing Conservation Studios. The second phase of the project, which involves the transformation of the Courtauld's teaching premises and the creation of new premises for the institution's academic and professional staff, is due to be completed in 2027-28. In the meantime, most of The Courtauld's History of Art and Curating teaching takes place at our temporary campus at Vernon Square, with the Conservation teaching programme largely based at Somerset House.





# The Role

**As a Member of The Audit and Risk Committee, you will play a key role in supporting The Courtauld's governance framework. The Audit and Risk Committee provides assurance to the Governing Board on financial management and the effectiveness of internal control, risk management systems and legal and regulatory compliance, working alongside the internal and external auditors. Your expertise will be invaluable in providing independent insight and constructive challenge on matters such as resource constraints, operational models, risk information flow, and The Courtauld's agility in responding to emerging risks.**

In the context of audit and risk, you will contribute to shaping and reviewing the strategic direction of The Courtauld, supporting the development and achievement of its long-term goals. Whilst a significant amount of the work of the Audit and Risk Committee is on financial matters, its remit extends across the full range of The Courtauld's operations, addressing diverse risks such as cyber-security, data management, regulatory compliance and the student experience.

The Audit and Risk Committee has an important role in monitoring the integrity of the statutory and financial reporting and recommends the annual financial statements to the Governing Board each year. There is also an opportunity to engage with the policy framework, with the Committee having specific responsibility for the review of key policies that support operational integrity such as whistleblowing, anti-bribery and fraud.

As a member of the Audit and Risk Committee, the relationship with both internal and external auditors is crucial, alongside the ability to contribute to the evaluation of their performance.

Additionally, you will help ensure that The Courtauld makes the most effective use of its resources, focusing on operational efficiency, value for money, and continuous improvement in the quality of its services and outputs.

This role requires a strategic thinker with experience in governance, risk management, and audit oversight. You will bring an independent perspective, helping to ensure The Courtauld's operations are sustainable, well-governed, and agile in addressing emerging risks.



# Person Specification

- **The Courtauld anticipate appointing two new members to this committee with complimentary and relevant skill sets.**
- An appreciation of The Courtauld's mission, vision, and strategic priorities, as well as the ability to offer insights on its key risks, challenges and the wider cultural, academic, and financial environment in which it operates. The ability to contribute to The Courtauld's strategic direction is vital.
- Demonstrable skills, knowledge, and experience in areas relevant to the Audit and Risk Committee's work and the ability to provide a strategic and independent perspective. At least one appointee must have recent relevant experience of accounting and audit.
- Desire to support The Courtauld's organisational structure, including governance frameworks and key relationships with government bodies, cultural institutions, and the higher education sector.
- A grasp of relevant legislation and regulatory requirements, particularly relevant will be those related to higher education, the arts, and/or charitable sectors.
- Broad knowledge of the wider governmental environment, especially in areas related to financial governance, accountability, and current major policy initiatives.
- A comprehensive understanding of internal controls, risk management, and corporate governance, with a focus on best practices in these areas.
- Experience of working with Audit and Risk Committees within a large or complex organisation in either the public, private, or non-profit sectors.
- A strong interest in areas relevant to The Courtauld's mission, including higher education, arts and culture.
- Exceptional leadership, communication and team-working skills.
- We welcome applications from candidates of all backgrounds and are committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse workforce. We strongly encourage individuals from all communities, including underrepresented groups to apply, as we believe that a variety of perspectives enriches our organisation and strengthens our ability to achieve our goals.
- We are particularly keen to hear from:
  - Audit partners experience with a personal interest in visual art. An enthusiasm to use strong audit expertise to ensure the organisation is operating within best practice and fulfilling the regulatory expectations and supporting the ambitions of the Governing Board.
  - Senior risk expert with practical experience and skill in resilience planning and risk management, in a complex, public facing environment, who similarly has a personal interest in visual art.









# Terms of Appointment

- The roles are unremunerated, though reasonable expenses may be claimed.
- Appointees will serve an initial term of four years to 31 July 2028 and may be eligible for re-appointment.
- Appointees will be expected to attend all meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee (usually 2-3 per year) and in addition contribute to relevant matters outside of formal meetings. Meetings take place at our Vernon Square campus, London, or online.
- The roles provide an opportunity to engage in the wider life of The Courtauld (for example, through Gallery exhibitions) that in turn will help inform understanding of our operations and priorities.
- Audit and Risk Committee members must carry out their duties in accordance with the accepted standards of public life as set out in the Nolan Principles. Appointees will be asked to complete a Declaration of Interests.



# How to Apply

**Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to The Courtauld on this appointment.**

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at [www.saxbam.com/appointments](http://www.saxbam.com/appointments) using code EBQQA

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring\* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024

\* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.



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