Post Title: Building Conservator

Employer: Department of Culture and Tourism

Location: Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)

Salary: Competitive Salary (Income Tax Free)

About DCT:

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi regulates, develops and promotes the emirate of Abu Dhabi as an extraordinary global destination, rich in cultural authenticity, diverse natural offerings, world-class hospitality and unparalleled leisure and entertainment attractions for every type of traveller.

Our organisation strives to preserve and promote the emirate’s rich cultural and historic heritage. By sharing Abu Dhabi’s unique legacy through a wide-ranging programme of cultural events, exhibitions and museums, we aim to present the emirate as an international cultural destination.

The Culture Sector leverages the cultural heritage of Abu Dhabi to advance the emirate’s development as a world-class, sustainable destination of distinction. Our policies, plans and programmes are driven by our commitment to protecting the many archaeological and historical sites throughout the emirate, including our UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Main Advert

Seeking a mid-career conservator specialized in the conservation and management of archaeological sites, with prior experience or training earthen architecture preferably. Responsibilities will include assessing, planning, undertaking and supervising the implementation of on-site preventive and curative interventions on Abu Dhabi Emirate’s archaeological sites. In addition, the role will entail research and development of innovative conservation approaches and techniques, recording & documentation, materials research, as well as capacity building.

Job Purpose

• To assess, Plan, coordinate and supervise the implementation of conservation interventions on Abu Dhabi’s Historic Environment, with a particular focus on Abu Dhabi’s archaeological sites.
• Train and supervise craftsmen and workers in conservation methods and ensure knowledge transfer for preventive and curative conservation techniques.

Key Accountabilities

Conservation Operations

• Assess the cultural significance and survey the condition of Abu Dhabi’s archaeological sites through field investigation, site inspection and monitoring, documentation, and research.
• Conduct research and/or provide advice on conservation approaches, building techniques and materials, material analysis, treatment specifications, surveying and recording methodologies to enable the future conservation of archaeological sites.
• Provide conservation advice and guidance on development and planning proposals affecting archaeological sites of Abu Dhabi Emirate.
• Undertake conservation appraisals, deliver and oversee conservation implementation strategies for assigned projects.
• Manage and coordinate projects, oversee selection of outsourced appointments, provide advice on the content and delivery of the project deliverables.
• Monitor the implementation of approved alterations to archaeological sites (and archaeological landscapes) and recommend, when required, enforcement action in the case of unauthorized works to designated assets and conservation areas.
• Liaise with external stakeholders and provide advice on developing and integrating conservation-related strategies.
• Ensure all works carried out are accurately documented, archived and made available for research and historical record keeping.
• Monitor the quality of intervention methods and of the preparation of materials for the use in repair and conservation works.
• Support in the management of workshops for the production of conservation materials and ensure that methods for producing building materials is documented and disseminated to current and new generations of workers.
• Direct and coordinate the work of direct craftsmen/workers, consultants, and contractors appointed to assigned projects.
• Prepare presentations, reports and articles that are related to conducted work.

Day-to-Day Operations
• Supervise and coordinate field work to ensure continuity and the delivery of effective and high quality outputs.
• Identify conservation, repair and maintenance works.
• Supervise and coordinate workers, consultants and contractors and conduct hands-on diagnostic, analysis, and technical conservation work on archaeological sites.
• Supervise craftsmen and workers to ensure appropriate and timely implementation of conservation measures.
• Report on a regular basis to the Conservation – Archaeological Sites Unit Head on operational activities, challenges, hurdles and methods of resolution or mitigation etc. as required to keep the Line Manager informed and updated about the unit’s activities.
• Prepare progress and status reports by analyzing and summarizing the information and works of assigned projects.
• Formulate weekly and monthly plans and ensure alignment with the section and the Section objectives.

Qualification
• Bachelor’s degree in Architecture/Archaeology/ Historic Preservation (Heritage Conservation) or other field related to the built environment (geology, material sciences engineering).
  OR
• Master’s degree in Architecture/Archaeology/ Historic Preservation (Heritage Conservation) or other field related to the built environment (geology, material sciences engineering).

Experience
• For Bachelor Degree Holders: 5 to 8 years of work experience in experience in the field of built heritage conservation with a minimum of 5 years of field experience on stone and/or earthen sites, preferably archaeological sites.
  OR
• For Post Graduate Holders: 5 to 8 years of work experience, with a minimum of 3 years of experience in the field of stone and/or earthen sites, preferably archaeological sites.
Working Conditions
- The role is a full time permanent position based in Al Ain (Abu Dhabi Emirate, UAE).
- Working days: Sunday to Thursday Working Hours: 8 hours/per day
- May require to travel within the Emirates based on the project location

Key skills and competencies
- Training in traditional earthen architecture, earthen materials conservation (structures, plasters, grouts, decorative surfaces, etc.), and/or equivalent in work experience preferred
- Experience in documentation and recording, assessment and conservation treatment of historic sites.
- Knowledge of the following: AutoCAD, Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Indesign etc.), Microsoft suite (Word, Powerpoint, Excel, etc.
- Language competency in English as well Arabic and/or Urdu/Hindi

How to Apply
To apply for the role kindly send your updated Resume to the Talent Acquisition Specialist: Mohammed Al Yousefi on MYousefi@dctabudhabi.ae