

The Courtauld

Appointment of

Member of the Finance and Operations Committee

August 2025 | Ref EBQQC





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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:

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.

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.

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'.

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 2028/29. 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 Co-opted Member of The Finance and Operations Committee, you will play a key role in overseeing the financial and operational health and sustainability of The Courtauld. The Finance and Operations Committee provides assurance to the Governing Board on the financial performance and outlook of the Courtauld, scrutinising financial reports and proposed budgets, the financial policy framework and financial strategy. Your expertise will be invaluable in providing independent insight and constructive challenge on matters such as the ongoing capital project, tuition fees, forecasting and The Courtauld's agility in responding to changes in the financial landscape.

In the context of finance and operations, you will contribute to shaping and reviewing the strategic direction of The Courtauld, supporting the development and achievement of its long-term goals. Whilst much of the Committee's work focuses on financial matters, it plays into a significantly broader remit across a range of issues that underpin the Courtauld's sustainability, growth and public value, including the ongoing major capital project programme, the expansion of The Courtauld's international reach, and the enhancement of its digital presence. These ambitions, at a time where there is significant emphasis on the financial sustainability of the higher education sector alongside the delivery of an ambitious strategic plan for 2029 for The Courtauld, makes the work of the Finance and Operations Committee both complex and intellectually stimulating.

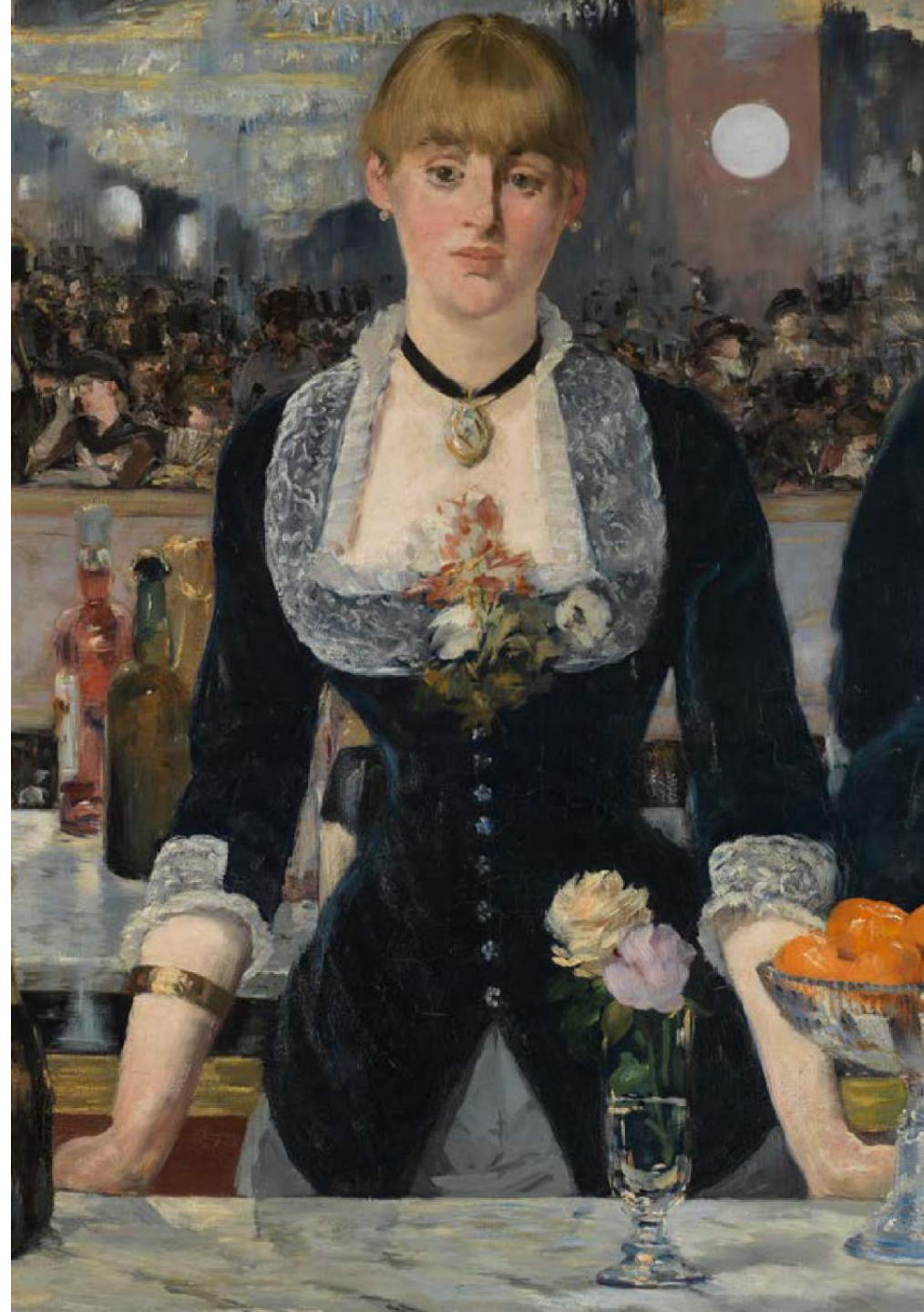
The Finance and Operations Committee plays a central role in ensuring the financial sustainability and operational effectiveness of The Courtauld. It monitors the integrity of financial planning and reporting, reviews the annual budget, and recommends the five-year financial plan to the Governing Board. The Committee also has oversight of key areas such

as financial policies, the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) return to the Office for Students, and tuition fee strategy.

There is also an opportunity to engage with The Courtauld's operational framework, including the review of key institutional policies that underpin value for money, regulatory compliance, and operational integrity.

As a member of the Finance and Operations Committee, your insight will strengthen the scrutiny of management information, capital planning, and the alignment of resources with strategic objectives. You will play a role in holding the executive to account for operational delivery and progress on strategic initiatives, including the performance and oversight of The Courtauld's capital investment programme.

This role requires a strategic thinker with experience in financial governance who brings commercial acumen and operational insight. You will bring an independent perspective and will be able to think strategically and help translate institutional goals into financially and operationally sustainable plans.



Person Specification

Knowledge and Experience

- Established senior financial leadership gained through a role such as Chief Financial Officer, Finance Director, Chief Operating Officer role, or equivalent, in either the not-for-profit or commercial sectors.
- Proven expertise in strategic financial management, including oversight of complex budgets, financial planning cycles, and resource allocation aligned with long-term organisational goals.
- Strong commercial acumen, with an understanding of how finance, operations, and strategy interact to support sustainable organisational growth. Experience in capital investment programmes, business transformation, digital tools or commercial innovation would be valuable.
- Non-executive experience, including a grasp of relevant charity governance, legislation and regulatory requirements, either as a Board or Committee Member, is required.
- Knowledge of the higher education and cultural sectors, gained through either executive or non-executive roles, and a working understanding of the sector-specific funding models and operational dynamics is preferred.

Skills, Abilities and Personal Attributes

- A passion for visual arts, art history, and higher education, with a commitment to supporting The Courtauld as a leading institution in these fields.
- A commitment to 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.
- Strategic insight and sound judgment, with the ability to assess complex issues, interrogate information critically, and contribute to high-level discussions on organisational performance.
- Exceptional leadership, communication and team-working skills.
- A desire to support the Courtauld's organisational structure, including governance frameworks and key relationships with relevant stakeholders.
- 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.







Terms of Appointment

- This role is unremunerated, though reasonable expenses may be claimed.
- Appointees will serve an initial term of four years to 2029 and may be eligible for re-appointment.
- Appointees will be expected to attend all meetings of the Finance and Operations Committee (usually 3 per year) and in addition contribute to relevant ad hoc matters outside of formal meetings. Meetings usually take place in person at The Courtauld's Vernon Square campus, close to King's Cross in London. In total, this amounts to a commitment of about one day per quarter.
- In addition to meeting preparation, attendance and follow-up, co-opted members are invited to engage in the wider activities of The Courtauld, in particular through attendance at Gallery events and acting informally as an ambassador for The Courtauld.
- Finance and Operations 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 using code **EBQQC**

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 **Thursday 4th September.**

* 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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