



Job Description for a postdoctoral contract in conservation-restoration / heritage science – GreenBook Project

Assignment

Duration: Full-time fixed-term contract for 12 months, renewable once for an additional 12-month period.

Planned start date: 1st of September 2026

Location : Laboratoire HiCSA

Address: 2 rue Vivienne, 75002 Paris

Job description

Description of the employer

Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University (UP1PS) structures its mission of education and research around three major academic fields: the humanities and the arts, law and political science, as well as economics and management.

The GreenBOOK project is part of a programme winner (Sorb'rising) of the call for projects "Excellences" of France 2030 aiming at strengthening transdisciplinary research within Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Funded by Sorb'rising, under the support of the French National Research Agency (ANR), the project is led by Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University.

Brief project presentation

The GreenBOOK project aims to develop an eco-friendly synthetic leather for the restoration of antique books, based on the production and optimisation of microbial nanocellulose (MNC).

Working environment

The successful candidate will be based in Paris, at the HiCSA Laboratory, and will join a team of interdisciplinary research partners (CRC-CNRS, Columbia University, FIT New York).

Main locations: Paris (HiCSA, Galerie Vivienne), Paris (CRC-MNHN). International assignments (approx. 3 weeks/year).

The successful candidate will conduct their research within the framework of the GreenBOOK project, under the supervision of Elodie Lévêque (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) and Anne-Laurence Dupont (CRC-MNHN), with the scientific supervision of Theanne Schiros (FIT, Columbia) and Helen Lu (Columbia).



Postdoctoral responsibilities

Main tasks

To participate in the development and optimisation of bio-based materials derived from nanocellulose microbial for the restoration of old books.

Main activities

- Production of microbial nanocellulose (cultivation, stabilisation, dyeing) under controlled laboratory conditions;
- Shaping the material for use in conservation and restoration;
- Conducting mechanical, chemical and accelerated ageing tests on the processed material;
- Analysis of material properties and correlation with manufacturing processes;
- Development of experimental protocols;
- Drafting of scientific documents (reports, technical data sheets, publications);
- Participation in laboratory experiments;
- Contributing to the dissemination of results to professionals in conservation and the heritage science.

Required profile

Scientific and technical skills

- Knowledge of polymeric materials, particularly biopolymers such as cellulose;
- Experience with experimental methods in materials science (mechanical testing, physico-chemical measurements, FTIR, SEM-EDX, viscometry, etc.);
- Knowledge of the scientific and ethical issues specific to conservation-restoration.

Project management and communication skills

- Ability to conduct complex experiments and design experimental plans;
- Ability to work in multidisciplinary teams and within an international network;
- Ability to write scientific texts (protocols, reports, scientific articles);
- Ability to present work orally (project meetings, symposia and international conferences).



Personal skills and qualities

- Scientific rigour and organisational skills;
- Independence and proactivity in project management;
- Curiosity, adaptability, ability to work in a team;
- Ability to manage one's work in different scientific environments (multidisciplinary team).

Required qualifications

- PhD in Conservation-Restoration, materials chemistry, heritage sciences or a related discipline;
- Excellent command of scientific English (written and spoken).

EXPOSURE TO OCCUPATIONAL RISKS, SPECIFIC WORKING CONDITIONS AND REGULATORY TRAINING

- Occupational risk exposure: good laboratory practice
- Specific working conditions: Remote working possible under certain conditions. Assignments in the United States

Application

Applications must be submitted by 22 June 2026 12pm (noon) to the following address:
elodie.leveque@univ-paris1.fr

The application file must include the following documents:

- A detailed CV
- A cover letter
- A list of publications (if applicable)
- At least one letter of recommendation
- A copy of your PhD.

Selection of candidates will take place during the week following the application deadline.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a 30-minute interview, either in person or via Zoom, during the week of 10 July 2026.

Contacts :



Elodie Lévêque (Associate professor, HiCSA, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) : elodie.Leveque@univ-paris1.fr

Salary

Compensation will be determined based on the candidate's experience and qualifications.