

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION



Job Title	Latin American Photography Placement	Duration	Three months full-time, six months part time
Division	Collections & Research	Hours/FTE	To be arranged with successful candidate.
Dept	Art, Architecture, Photography and Design	Salary	This is an unpaid doctoral placement that is financially supported by the successful applicant's PhD stipend in line with UKRI guidance.
Reports to	Dr Catherine Troiano, Curator, Photography Dr Duncan Forbes, Head of Photography		

Context

To provide opportunities for early-career training for PhD students, the V&A has made available a range of doctoral placements based in collections departments, archives, the National Art Library, research, and collections care and access. Each placement is a discrete project designed by members of V&A staff (who will also act as the placement's supervisor), involving collaborative as well as independent research. They contribute to live research projects and existing priorities, and their outputs and value to the Museum are varied; projects may lead to new insights into our collections and archives, influence Museum policy and procedures, contribute to public engagement and/or support funded projects.

In addition to the on-the-job experience of each placement and mentoring from supervisors, doctoral placement students will have access to the Museum's wider range of workshops, talks and postgraduate training events/opportunities, alongside a bespoke training package designed for the placement student cohort.

Where the project allows, there is scope for some remote work; however, all students will be required to come to the Museum at certain points during the placement and must be based in the UK during any remote work. The exact proportion of remote to onsite work will be negotiated between the student and placement supervisors. For remote work, students will be required to have access to their own equipment (i.e. computer and internet access).

V&A doctoral placements are unpaid and only open to students currently studying on a funded PhD programme. Applicants will be asked to evidence that they are in receipt of a stipend for the duration of the placement that is at least equivalent to the UKRI national minimum doctoral rate. International students are welcome to apply but must meet any UK visa/residency requirements in addition to the funding requirements. Please consult the Application Guidelines for full details on eligibility, the application procedure and an explanation of placement length/opportunities for remote work.

V&A Doctoral Placements are *only* open to students currently studying on a **funded PhD**. For further information regarding eligibility please consult the 'Application Guidance'.

Purpose of the Placement

The project will investigate holdings related to Latin America in the V&A Photography Collection. It will focus on objects acquired between 1850 and 1950, to situate findings in the context of early global networks and institutional connections to Latin America that can be mapped through photography. Many relevant holdings feature in bound photographic albums from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which are largely uncatalogued and undigitised. Other relevant holdings include topographical imagery, travel photographs and photographs of Latin American artefacts, as well as work by well-known photographers from the 20th century.

The placement will produce a survey of holdings related to Latin America in the Photography Collection, outlining historical context, scope and content. It will create a findings list for uncatalogued objects; and undertake more detailed provenance and object-level research for a defined group of material, resulting in new or enhanced catalogue records. The student will be encouraged and supported to write a blog post and lead a Print Room event relating to their work.

The project builds on momentum across the V&A to engage with Latin America. It will contribute new ways of thinking through institutional histories, and ripen collections for use in the Photography Section's contemporary commissioning programme.

Possible outputs of the placement

- Survey of holdings related to Latin America in the V&A Photography Collection, and findings list for uncatalogued objects.
- Primary and secondary research into early global networks at the V&A and institutional connections to Latin America.
- New/enhanced catalogue records for a defined group of material, agreed from the initial survey.
- Provenance research using primary sources in V&A Archives and National Art Library.
- Blog post and public Print Room event.

The above sections are intended to be an outline of the duties, responsibilities and outputs of this placement; these are not exhaustive and may change. You may be expected to undertake other duties that are commensurate with the placement.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- Knowledge about photographic histories or photographic cultures.
- Knowledge of methodologies for archival or historical research.
- Understanding of or interest in museum collections.

Desirable

- Experience of research focussed on photographic collections or archives.
- Experience of navigating historical documentation.
- Experience of developing thematic research methodologies.

Equal opportunities at the V&A

At the V&A we strive to ensure that opportunities to work and develop at are open to all. We treat all job applications equally, regardless of age, disability, gender identity or gender expression, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, or any other equality characteristic. We particularly encourage applications from disabled people and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, as these groups are currently under-represented in the cultural sector. At the V&A we have a good gender balance however in certain departments, such as IT, we welcome female applicants and, in our exhibitions, or development teams, we welcome male applicants.