

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION



Job Title	Temporary Exhibition Design Placement	Duration	6 months on a part-time basis due to the nature of the research and testing, but we can be flexible.
Division	Design, estate and Public Programmes	Hours/FTE	
Dept	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	Evonne Mackenzie, Head of Design + Alicia Gonzalez-Lafita, Lead 3D Designer		

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 climate crisis is one of the biggest issues of our age. Within the museum, we have set a target to achieve net zero by 2035, this means we are radically rethinking our approach to temporary exhibition design and making and a major part of this is the materials selected for build and construction of exhibitions sets.

The field of material design and material science is a rapidly burgeoning area with new material opportunities emerging regularly. Sometimes these are available on an industrial scale, whilst other times these are more experimental. Investigating these emerging materials and assessing these against museum requirements is critical to making progress to improving our carbon impact.

This opportunity will allow you to gain experience within this area with a specific focus on identifying new materials in three categories:

- Plant based or bio-based materials
- Grown materials
- Locally sourced natural materials

During the placement you would research a set of c.50 potential materials, all of which could be processed to be 'museum-ready' for a range of uses in temporary exhibition making.

The project will enable the museum to make significant progress in our ability to diversify our material sourcing and specification to achieve a more sustainable exhibition design.

Possible outputs of the placement

We anticipate the main outputs as:

- Catalogue of c.50 samples with accompanying material information, conservation test results and use principles
- Production of a V&A Design Studio Research Folio recording the process and findings of the research (we can share some examples of previous if helpful).
- Presentation of project and results to colleagues
- Report/sharing with London Museum network of design
- Blog post on website

These are current aspirations for the project but might evolve in discussion with the candidate.

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

- The student must come from an architecture, design or a material science/ material design/ material studies background subject specialism
- They would require background knowledge in materials and their use for construction from one of the above perspectives to be able to undertake the project.

Desirable

- If the student has existing knowledge or experience of the specification of materials for gallery or exhibition design this would be a bonus, but will definitely form part of the experience gained.

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.