

## PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION



<b>Job Title</b>	Bert Hardy Photographs Placement	<b>Duration</b>	Three months full time or six months part time.
<b>Division</b>	Art, Architecture, Photography and Design	<b>Hours/FTE</b>	To be agreed with successful applicant
<b>Dept</b>	Photography	<b>Salary</b>	<b>This is an unpaid doctoral placement that is financially supported by the successful applicant's PhD stipend in line with UKRI guidance.</b>
<b>Reports to</b>	Martin Barnes (Senior Curator, 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

### **Bert Hardy Photographs: cataloguing and researching 20<sup>th</sup> century British photojournalism.**

The V&A has recently acquired a collection of over 2,000 photographs by Bert Hardy (1913-95). Hardy was chief photographer for *Picture Post* magazine from 1941 to 1957. His work represents a highpoint of 20<sup>th</sup> century British photography and international photojournalism. The photographs in the acquisition span his entire career and consists mostly of vintage prints and some Kodachrome slides. The V&A seeks a student to work with Photography Curators on cataloguing the collection on a database and to organise, number, sleeve and box the photographs. The student will also be expected research a specific aspect of the collection that links with their interests.

## Possible outputs of the placement

- Creation of new 'accessibility standard' catalogue records the Bert Hardy collection.
- Talks to V&A colleagues.
- Carrying out primary research and potentially developing enhanced catalogue records for an aspect of the collection.
- A blog post and potential Digital Media content
- Potential public talks.
- Forging connections with academics and others currently working in the field of 20th century photojournalism.

### **1. Cataloguing**

The student's primary task would be to work with the prints directly to enter 'accessibility standard' cataloguing data on an existing Excel spreadsheet template. This template already contains individual basic inventory records created by a previous intern and the collection is well organized. The spreadsheet would then be used to generate new catalogue records on CMS / Explore the Collections. The student would also mark museum numbers on the prints and sleeve and box them to upgrade their storage conditions. . If there is time and resource from DCM, they would also receive CMS training which would enable them to enhance the catalogue records directly, including bibliographical references, and label texts / public access descriptions.

## **2. Copy Photography**

Depending on Photo Studio resource and negotiation of copyright clearance, it may also be possible to have some of the collection photographed, and the student would be involved in liaising with Photo Studio to manage this task.

## **3. Research, Dissemination, Collaboration**

In addition to these collections management tasks listed above, the student would have the opportunity to research an aspect of the collection that relates to their interests and present this as oral presentations at a Photography Section team meeting, AAPD Departmental meeting, or lunchtime VARINALA research forum, and possibly as a public talk.

Research on Hardy's work is also ongoing at the School of Journalism, Media and Culture at Cardiff University (with Dr Tom Allbeson, Lecturer in Cultural History) where Hardy's archive – and papers relating to editorship of Picture Post magazine – are held. There are tentative thoughts for future collaborative research towards publication or exhibition with Cardiff and the V&A on Hardy's work which the student might also be involved with in some way. We are also exploring how the recent acquisition (a generous gift with a provenance from Hardy's grandchildren) might be publicized and celebrated. While yet to be proposed and tested for feasibility, V&A Digital Media & Publishing might be interested to produce some video content on the Hardy collection which could also involve the assistance of the student.

*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**

- Interest in and knowledge of the history of photography.
- Experience of working with or researching archives.
- Experience of using Excel spreadsheets.

### **Desirable**

- Experience of using a cataloguing database
- Handling photographs and archives
- Knowledge of a history of photography
- Knowledge of an aspect of 20th century photojournalism or illustrated magazines

## **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.