

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION



Job Title	Modern Art Placement	Duration	3 months full-time or 6 months part-time although this is negotiable based on the research area (and its scope) selected by the student recruited.
Division	Collections	Hours/FTE	
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 Rosalind McKever		

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 V&A's paintings and drawings collection has substantial holdings of modern art, much of which was acquired during artists' lifetimes. Although known for its Pre-Raphaelite and Aesthetic Movement collections, the breadth of the modern paintings, drawings and watercolours, from Gustave Courbet to Duncan Grant to Helen Frankenthaler, their early acquisition dates and provenance, has not previously received sustained research.

The placement student will choose an area of 1900-1960 drawings and watercolours collection stored at South Kensington relevant to their doctoral research. This could be the work of a specific artist, movement, or period, or a focus on a medium/technique, or aspect of ownership history.

The student will catalogue and photograph relevant objects, undertake wider provenance research, scope out areas of modern art collecting research such as the Purchase Grant Fund, and present their findings to the V&A research community, as well as to the wider public via online content. Working with the Paintings and Drawings section curators, they will contribute to wider activity giving greater prominence to modern art through cataloguing, online and print publications, acquisitions, displays and permanent collection galleries.

Possible outputs of the placement

- Cataloguing an agreed list of objects to accessibility standard
- Researching object provenance and modern art collecting histories
- Writing web features/ blog posts / online tours about modern artists in the collection
- Presenting their findings to the museum-wide research community
- Contributing to discussions around increasing modern art's presence in paintings galleries refreshes and future temporary displays.

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 of modern art 1900-1960 relevant to the Paintings and Drawings collection
- Library and archival research skills
- Language skills relevant to area of research

Desirable

- Object-based research experience
- Writing for a general audience
- Database experience

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.