



Together we make it V&A

South Kensington  
Costume Display Conservator

V&A

<b>Reports to</b>	Lead Conservator (Costume Display)
<b>Department</b>	Conservation
<b>Line Management</b>	No direct reports
<b>Principal Location</b>	South Kensington
<b>Hours</b>	36 hours per week
<b>Salary</b>	£33,764
<b>Contract</b>	Permanent





## Who we are

The V&A is a family of museums dedicated to the **power of creativity**. Our mission is to **champion design and creativity** in all its forms, advance cultural knowledge, and inspire makers, creators and innovators everywhere. We share a 5,000-year-old story of creativity through **exhibitions, events, educational programmes, digital experiences, conservation, research**, and an ever-evolving national collection of over 2.8m objects spanning **every creative discipline**.

The mission of the Collections Care and Access division is to manage, preserve, and provide access to the V&A's collection in both physical and digital format, working across multiple V&A sites, at South Kensington, Bethnal Green and in Stratford. The division is made up of the following departments: Conservation, Technical Services, Collections Management, Photography and Digitisation and Collections Access. The Conservation department brings excellence and innovation to the long-term care of the V&A's collections, supporting access to the collections, the V&A's public programme, and care of collections research initiatives.



# About the role

The Conservator (Costume Mounting Display) contributes to excellence in conservation in delivering the museum's Public Programme and strategic objectives, particularly towards collections care.

The post holder, through the practical design and preparation of mounts and bespoke solutions for display and packing will support the Conservation Department in delivering the conservation and care of collections workplan. The preparation of objects for display in the V&A's galleries, for exhibitions and loans, ensuring their stability and suitability for safe display is integral to this role. The Conservator will work closely with the Conservation Operations team, the Preventive Conservation team, and other stakeholders such as Technical Services, Curators and external borrowers.

1. Contribute to the design and preparation of mounting and packing systems for loans, temporary exhibitions, and permanent display (focus on costume mounting).

2. Advise on the care and safe display (focus on costume mounting).

3. Contribute to projects for the care of the collections.

4. Underpin care of the collection through documentation, surveys, data collection and analysis, and research (as directed by the Lead Conservator and in collaboration with the Senior Conservation Scientist).



# About the role

5. Contribute to the preparation of mounts and packing of materials/object types outside own area of expertise, as necessary.

6. Maintain high-level knowledge of conservation displays and mount-making practices to ensure knowledge sharing and advice is up-to-date with current theory and practice.

7. Collaborate with the Preventive Conservation team developing new preventive measures, as appropriate.

8. Support the Conservation Operations team in planning, scheduling, monitoring, delivering conservation services for exhibitions, projects and loans, ensuring high-quality standards at all times.

9. Support the Lead Conservator in maintaining studio upkeep and efficient use of space, equipment, materials and resources.

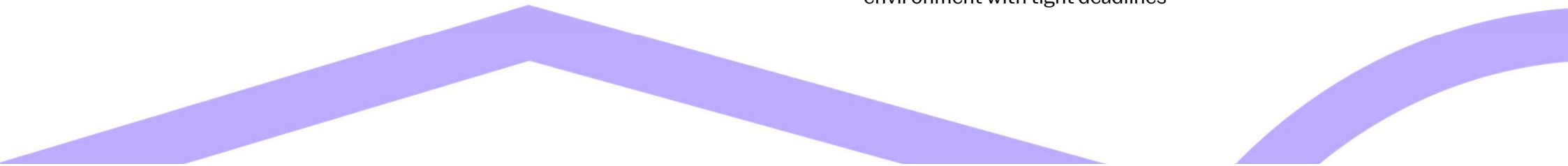
10. Mentor work placement students in the team, by guiding practical and technical issues and through knowledge sharing to enhance the overall skillset of the team.

11. Responsible for Health and Safety, regularly review COSHH, risk assessments, method statements and working practices. Ensure Health and Safety compliance is integral to the culture of all Conservation activities.



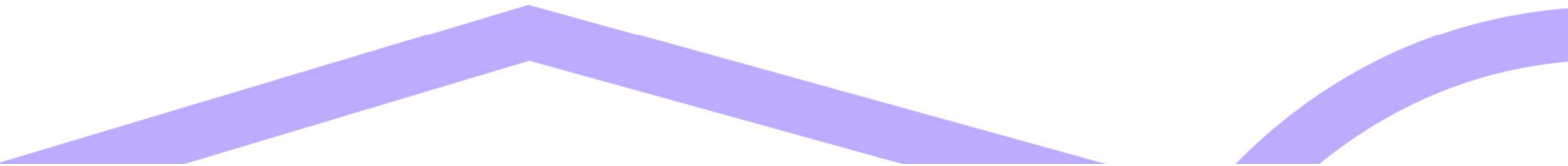
# What we're looking for

- Recognised qualification to degree level in a recognised relevant training programme, or equivalent experience.
- Demonstrable practical mounting experience relevant to the specialism of the role.
- Strong ability to evaluate conservation and display problems, develop solutions that are both appropriate and achievable within the available resources of time and staff, whilst ensuring practical work and documentation is of a high standard
- Sound knowledge of Health and Safety legislation, implementation and compliance.
- A clear understanding of the wider context of museums as institutions in the current political context, and the external and internal influences that may affect the role of Conservation in delivering objectives.
- Excellent standard of written English and highly numerate with the ability to carry out complex numerical analysis.
- Experience of communicating clearly, with the ability to adapt your communication style for different groups
- Experience of using MS Office and other relevant IT systems to an intermediate/advanced level
- Significant experience of managing and prioritizing a high workload and multiple complex issues and tasks in a changing environment with tight deadlines



# What we're looking for

- Respects others' expertise, time, perspectives and contribution.
- Takes responsibility for delivering on actions, achieving high-standards and learning from mistakes.
- Open to change, new ideas and suggestions; looks for opportunities for improvement and self-development.
- Works with others outside their own department in a collaborative, understanding and engaging way.
- Actively leads and manages others, taking ownership of corporate decisions and role models positive behaviors.
- Shares our Values of **Sustainability, Equity, Creativity, Collaboration & Generosity**
- PACR accreditation (or equivalent)
- Knowledge of the V&A and its collections.





# Why work here

We strive to integrate **equality, diversity, and inclusion** consistently and naturally into all our activities.

We are proud to be an **open, tolerant, and diverse** organisation. We want to do more to welcome a broader audience and develop a more diverse workforce.

The V&A values are **Equity, Sustainability, Generosity, Collaboration and Creativity.**

## **Disability Confident**

We are committed to guaranteeing an interview for applicants who declare they have a disability and meet the minimum criteria for the role.





# What we offer you

We want to support you and your well-being throughout your employment journey, so we provide a competitive range of benefits such as:

- **29** days of holiday plus public holidays each year (pro-rata if you work part time)
- Competitive defined contribution pension scheme offering up to 10% contribution from the V&A
- Life Assurance of 4x your annual salary
- Family-friendly policies (for example, enhanced maternity and parental leave, paid carers leave )
- Interest free loans for your travel to work and rental deposits
- Cycle to work scheme
- Exclusive access to My V&A Benefits – an app bringing together all your V&A Benefits, retail discounts and wellbeing benefits on the go!
- Employee Assistance Programme – free and confidential services to support your wellbeing
- Complimentary tickets to V&A exhibitions for you, your friends or family
- 25% discount in all our V&A shops and on-site cafés
- Free entrance to many other major museums and exhibitions



# What next

**Apply here** [www.vam.ac.uk/info/jobs](http://www.vam.ac.uk/info/jobs)

**Application Deadline** 06/03/2025

We operate anonymous shortlisting at the V&A. This means that the manager cannot see your name, contact information, or equality data when shortlisting your application.

We are a Disability Confident Employer offering guaranteed interviews to those who declare their disability and meet the job criteria under the Disability Confident Scheme.

**Interview/Assessment days** TBC (March 2025)

**Potential Start Date** TBC

## **Any Questions?**

Contact our Recruitment team at [careers@vam.ac.uk](mailto:careers@vam.ac.uk)



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