



Together we make it V&A

South Kensington
Curatorial Research Fellow, Furniture

Supported by the Oliver Ford Foundation

V&A

Reports to Senior Curator, Furniture and woodwork

Department Performance, Furniture, Textiles and Fashion

Line Management None

Principal Location South Kensington

Hours 36 hours a week, full time preferred, open to part time

Salary £27,528 – £31,854, or pro rata

Contract Fixed term, 2 years

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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.

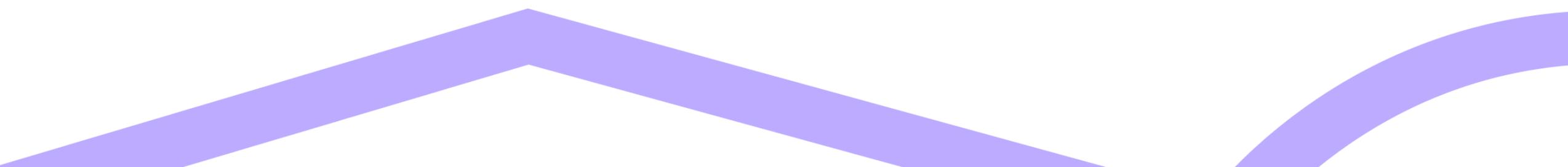
The V&A's Collections Division comprises **four curatorial departments**, the V&A Research Institute, NAL and Archives, and Collections Care and Access. The curatorial departments are arranged as Decorative Art and Sculpture; **Performance, Furniture, Textiles & Fashion**; Art, Architecture, Photography & Design; and Asia. The staff in these teams are at the heart of the founding purpose of the museum: to care for, research and develop the collections, to exhibit them to the public, to make them available for study and research, and to broaden access to the collections.

About the role

This post sits within the Furniture and Woodwork Section (FWK) of the Performance, Furniture, Textiles and Fashion Department. FWK holds over 15,000 objects, spanning six centuries of production, including furniture and interiors, and post 1900 product design. It has been designed as a career development opportunity, to encourage growth of specialist knowledge in furniture studies while supported and mentored by the Furniture and Woodwork curatorial team. The Key responsibilities are:

1. Developing specialist knowledge of furniture, furniture history studies and furniture research resources.
2. Developing knowledge of documentation of the collections.
3. Working with objects to obtain information which must be added to corresponding catalogue records
4. Enhancing electronic catalogue records for designated parts of the Furniture and Woodwork collections, inputting data derived from a variety of sources, following V&A data guidelines and curator identified priorities.
5. Contributing to ensuring the V&A's Collections Management System data and, by extension, the public-facing Explore the Collections catalogue information, is as accurate, nuanced and as up to date as possible, in line with documentation policies.
6. Working systematically through curator identified areas of the Furniture and Woodwork collections.
7. Providing support and advice for day-to-day Furniture and Woodwork Section activities, including carrying out ad-hoc duties as required.
8. Promoting health and safety and data security and ensure familiarity with all the museum's Health and Safety and security policies and procedures.
9. Promote equality and diversity in all aspects of your work by developing and maintaining positive working relationships, ensuring that colleagues are treated fairly and with respect and dignity. Actively contribute to developments that support the Museum's strategy for widening access, inclusion and diversity.

What we're looking for

- Demonstrable interest in and knowledge of historic furniture and interiors.
 - Engagement with current debates surrounding representation and interpretation of colonial histories and related terminology.
 - Cataloguing experience.
 - Excellent grammatical and numerical accuracy in data entry.
 - An ability to read objects and images.
 - A degree in design, art, conservation, architectural or art history, history, or English.
 - An interest in the V&A and its collections.
 - Methodical approach and good attention to detail.
 - Experience of communicating clearly, with the ability to adapt your communication style for different groups.
 - The ability to use MS office and other relevant IT systems as appropriate for the role.
 - Demonstrates flexibility and the ability to manage multiple tasks.
 - Shares our Values of Sustainability, Equity, Creativity, Collaboration & Generosity
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Overview

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The post holder will focus on developing specialist knowledge by working with the furniture collections on display and in the V&A's open-access storage. They will work on improving the digital catalogue records of the FWK collection, as part of the museum's drive to increase accessibility to objects and information. They will work to address specific gaps and inconsistencies across all periods of the FWK digital catalogue, as identified and led by Furniture curators, to improve and update terminology and develop this area of collections documentation, to bring it to 'accessibility' or 'enhanced' level, as defined by the museum's 'Collections Information Framework'.

Induction for the role will include training in the V&A Collections Management Procedures, the Collections Information Framework and the Collections Management System database, along with basic object handling training and orientation for the Furniture and Woodwork section's extensive internal research resources and department library.

The role includes specialist-knowledge development-days, with study trips to see public and private collections and historic interiors, and the post holder will be encouraged to share their developing knowledge in gallery talks.



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.

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.

The V&A values are **Equity,**



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 <https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/jobs>
Application Deadline Thursday 10th April, 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 Wednesday 23rd April, 2025
Potential Start Date June 2025

Any Questions?

Contact our Recruitment team at careers@vam.ac.uk



Thank you

Together we make it V&A

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