



Together, we make it V&A

South Kensington
Assistant Curator: South Asia

V&A

Assistant Curator: South Asia

Reports to	Senior Curator
Department	Asia
Line Management	None
Principal Location	South Kensington
Hours	36 hours
Salary	Band 6 £28,520
Work pattern	Monday to Friday with occasional weekends
Contract	Fixed Term Contract

(September 2025 -March 2026) with potential to extend depending on successful NLHF phase 2 funding application (April 2026 – July 2028).





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 Asia Department curates the V&A's outstanding collections from South and South-East Asia, East Asia, and the Middle East. The South Asian collection is internationally renowned, it has over 50,000 objects including paintings, sculpture, textiles, metalwork, arms and armour, jewellery, and furniture, and ranges in date from 3000 BCE to the present day.

About the role

The South Asia Gallery of the V&A will undergo a major refurbishment over the next few years. The Assistant Curator role is integral to this exciting project and involves assisting with the core duties that relate to the care and display of the collection, maintaining documentation, managing project schedules and other related activities. The role is part of a project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and provides an opportunity to develop a broad range of curatorial skills and to be part of a team across the organisation working to realise the transformation of a permanent gallery.

Key responsibilities are listed below:

1. Assisting with all aspects of the care and display of objects in support of the new gallery. This involves handling objects, writing requisitions, location updating on the museum system, liaising and working with colleagues across the museum.
 2. Working on the preparation of objects at [V&A East Storehouse](#). This requires organising the movement of objects to conservation and mount-making to prepare them for display.
 3. Assisting with the photography programme for the gallery and associated publication.
 4. Assisting with the deinstallation of the current South Asia Gallery and installation of the new one. This requires the up-keep of storage spaces at multiple sites .
 5. Assisting with public consultation sessions, workshops and conferences.
 6. Supporting activities including note taking and report writing as needed for Heritage Fund supported project.
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About the role

7. Assisting with the research, cataloguing and digitisation of the collection

8. Assisting with researching new acquisitions and artist commissions.

9. Assisting with the preparation of publications both in print media and online

10. Checking galleries and stores, including environmental monitoring, organising relevant maintenance, and taking part in regular audits.

11. Responding to public enquires; providing access to material in reference collections and study rooms; supervising visitors as required.

12. Undertaking responsibilities as delegated by senior colleagues which will change over time.



What we're looking for

Job Specific Skills

- Education to degree-level, preferably relevant to the job, or equivalent experience.
- A demonstrable knowledge and interest in the art and design of South Asia
- Practical and organisational skills: a keen attention to detail in all aspects of work, particularly record keeping.
- High level of manual dexterity and ability to acquire and apply essential core technical skills such as lifting, carrying and installing objects.
- Highly motivated and able to demonstrate initiative.

Core Skills

- Excellent interpersonal skills; ability to collaborate as part of a team, to work flexibly and calmly under pressure.
- Excellent standard of written English and numeric ability to perform a range of calculations
- 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.
- Good time management skills, ability to set priorities and manage a number of tasks concurrently

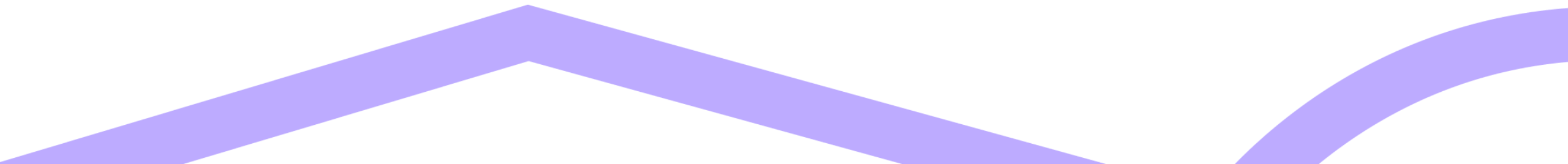
What we're looking for

Behaviours:

- Respects others' expertise, times, perspectives and contribution.
- Takes responsibility for delivering 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 department in a collaborative, understanding, and engaging way.
- Shares our Values of Sustainability, Equity, Creativity, Collaboration & Generosity

Desirable:

A knowledge of a South Asian language is desirable but not essential.





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.

We work closely with our **staff networks** to develop our employee experience.

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

We are committed to a strict **zero tolerance policy on any discrimination, harassment or bullying.**

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

- **29** days of holiday + public holidays each year
- **5.5%** employee pension contribution, **10%** employer pension contribution (*post-probation*)
- Life assurance scheme (*to value of 4 x annual salary*)
- Family-friendly policies e.g. enhanced maternity + paid carers leave
- An interest-free loan for a travelcard, bike, or for a deposit if you're renting (*post-probation*)
- Free sanitary products for all employees across our sites
- Free entrance to many major museums and exhibitions
- Benefits platform offering discounts at major retailers
- Socials events, such as staff summer and Christmas parties
- An Employee Assistance Programme – free and confidential services to provide support
- Tickets to V&A exhibitions for you, your friends or family + 25% discount on V&A shops and cafes



What next

Apply here [Vacancies at the V&A · V&A](#)

Application Deadline 31 August 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 18th September 2025

Potential Start Date September or early October 2025

Any Questions?

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



Thank you

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