



ANDREW W. MELLON VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS AT VARI: OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

SUMMARY

Length of tenure: 3–12 months (held in one academic year or spread over longer time periods as appropriate to the agreed research programme).

Remuneration: Non-stipendiary, but comes with support funds to cover: travel to/from and within the UK; central London accommodation; research expenses; workshop and event costs; and a modest monthly emolument.

Deadline: Rolling. Nominations and applications are welcome at any time, but please expect a two-month evaluation period.

The V&A Research Institute (VARI) is seeking to appoint Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professorships for periods of tenure from 3-12 months to be held at the Victoria and Albert Museum. There are two routes: prospective Visiting Professors can submit an individual application or they can be nominated by a professional in a relevant field, including current V&A staff. It is expected that nominated applications will be co-written and submitted by the nominated Professor and her/his nominator. Nominations/applications are welcome from applicants locally, nationally and internationally. They are solicited from researchers of any age and nationality working in any areas, creative practices and research disciplines relevant to the V&A's collections and core aims and activities, and who meet the criteria of the Visiting Professorship as defined below. You do not need to be a Professor already to be eligible to apply. Nominees/applicants will be evaluated on the project they propose to undertake at the V&A Research Institute and their previous track record. Areas of practice can include, but are in no way limited to: architecture, engineering, art, craft, design, making, history, social science, education, museology, conservation, information science, digital humanities and exhibition practice.

FURTHER PARTICULARS

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM RESEARCH INSTITUTE (VARI)

The V&A Research Institute (VARI-) has been newly created with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, building on the V&A's strong history of research and taking it into a new era. Over the five years from 2016 to 2021, VARI is supporting a portfolio of specific research projects and funded research positions, including Visiting Professors, Postdoctoral Fellows, Public Engagement Fellows and Artists in Residence, to create a unique research environment. VARI offers an innovative arena for developing interdisciplinary collaborative research that is both collections-based and object-focused. Improving both access to and visibility of V&A collections and research, VARI aims to produce not just new knowledge, but also new methods.

ANDREW W. MELLON VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professorships can be held for a total period of between three and twelve months. This tenure can be held as an intensive block during one academic year or alternatively it can be spread over longer time periods, dependent on the availability of the appointee and the nature of their research. Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professorships are embedded in the V&A Research Institute in South Kensington, which works with other Museum departments to further knowledge of and access to the V&A's collections and maintains the lively and stimulating research culture that underpins exhibitions, scholarly and popular publications, gallery development, postgraduate teaching, conferences, seminars and public engagement. As such, Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professorships are guided by the V&A Research Handbook, including its Research Ethics Policy.

http://www.vam.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/253064/Research-Handbook.pdf

THE ROLE OF ANDREW W. MELLON VISITING PROFESSOR

VARI Professors will be expected to:

- Actively engage with the V&A's collections;
- Actively engage with other VARI and wider V&A research activities and support cross-disciplinary working processes and methodologies;
- Actively involve V&A staff in their research activities, so that staff can benefit from opportunities for learning, exchange and knowledge co-production;
- Actively involve V&A staff in their wider research networks, pedagogical activities and partnerships, thereby bringing long-term benefits to the V&A's research culture;

- Prepare and deliver an agreed number of research seminars, lectures, workshops, training sessions and public engagement events for a range of constituencies, including students, staff, museum professionals, academic researchers and the wider public;
- Publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals and on public-facing V&A platforms (publishing, blogging, V&A Journal) and, where appropriate, contribute new knowledge to V&A catalogue records and documentation;
- Explore opportunities for developing and growing their VARI/V&A project beyond the Visiting Professorship period, through partnerships and joint funding bids;
- Author a document about their research methodologies and processes;
- Where appropriate take on student-placement research assistants from the V&A/RCA Postgraduate Programme in History of Design and the V&A Doctoral student pool via a selection process that will match student interests and skills with Professorial research focus (NB: no formal student assessment will be required).

VARI Professors will be offered:

- Direct involvement in the research culture of the Museum through the activities and mechanisms listed above;
- Formal affiliation with the V&A Research Institute as part of the Museum's Research and Collections Division;
- Bespoke introductions to staff and departments of the Museum having relevance to the Professorial research subject;
- All the following standard research facilities that are also available to the V&A Research Institute's Visiting Scholars:
 - Office / working space as required and appropriate;
 - Access to a personal computer, including V&A intranet login and email address;
 - Temporary V&A Museum Security pass for duration of the Visiting Professorship, subject to Security clearance.

The Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professorships are non-stipendiary and come with support funds that are intended to cover:

- Reasonable costs of travel to and from the Visiting Professor's normal working location and the Victoria and Albert Museum;
- Other research travel as required, and dependent on project needs;
- Central London Accommodation (if required, and to be arranged by the Professor);

- A modest monthly subsistence emolument of £1,000;
- Funds for research events and consumables.

VARI cannot offer secretarial or administrative assistance to Visiting Professors beyond access to the desk space mentioned above and any related stationery required to support the research needs of the Visiting Professor.

COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The copyright and other intellectual property rights in any works created during the Visiting Professorship shall vest with the Visiting Professor. The V&A and any partners shall be granted a non-exclusive, non-commercial, royalty free licence to copy and to reproduce the works for any purpose whatsoever relating to the V&A and the Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professor Programme.

Works created during the Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professorship at the V&A shall remain the joint property of the V&A, any partners and the Professor until the end of the Visiting Professorship, when the V&A will transfer ownership of the Works to the Professor with the agreement of all Parties (the V&A, any partners and the Professor).

ELEGIBILITY, APPLICATION AND SHORTLISTING PROCESS

Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professors can be of any age and nationality if they meet the selection criteria of the Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professorship. Anyone can be a nominator so long as they know the nominated professor and work in a field that is relevant to the proposed research project.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Please format the following documents as PDFs and email to vari@vam.ac.uk:

- Application Cover Sheet (see below);
- Research project description not to exceed 1,500 words, written for non-specialists. This should consist of two parts:
 - Description of the project, the significance of the research and its relevance to the V&A's Collections, research priorities and future projects (max. 1,000 words);
 - Outline plan of work for the Visiting Professorship, including details of any planned public engagement, pedagogic and research activities (max. 500 words);
- Curriculum Vitae (max. three pages);
- A letter of recommendation (max. two pages).

It is expected that nominated applications will be co-written by the nominator and nominee.

Do not include any important information in the body of your email, as only the information in the project description, CV and letter of support will be assessed. In the subject line of your email, please include your name as follows: **Lastname, Firstname**.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications are evaluated on the following criteria:

- The applicant's past achievements in any area of creative practices and/or research disciplines relevant to the V&A's collections;
- The overall quality of the research proposal and its significance;
- A clear sense of how the project would benefit from the resources at the V&A, including its collections, archive, library and expertise;
- Willingness and ability to support the V&A's research activities and contribute to Museum life, including mentoring and training of early and mid-career colleagues;
- Track record in innovative, collaborative, collections-based research and teaching;
- Excellent working knowledge of spoken and written English.

SELECTION PROCESS

All applications will be acknowledged. Evaluation of nominations/applications will take approximately two months from the reception date. Applications will be considered by at least three members of V&A staff, and, where appropriate, external advice.

Unsuccessful candidates will be informed by email and shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview (in person or by Skype). Please note that we are unable to provide any feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Before interview, applicants will be invited to submit a sample of their published work or a portfolio in PDF format (a single PDF file with all images and texts). Interviews will include a series of interview questions and may include a short presentation. The interview panel will most likely consist of one or more members of the VARI team, another member of V&A staff appropriate to the focus of the research project proposed, and an external curator or creative practitioner as appropriate.

NB: Please note that while Victoria and Albert Museum employees are eligible to nominate researchers for an Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professorship, VARI cannot accept applications for the Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professorship from those who are already V&A employees.



ANDREW W. MELLON VISITING PROFESSOR APPLICATION COVER SHEET

1. PROSPECTIVE ANDREW W. MELLON VISITING PROFESSOR

First name	
Last name	
Nationality (as indicated in passport)	
Current Professional Role	
Current Address	
Telephone no	
Email address	
Website	

2. NOMINATOR FOR THE ANDREW W. MELLON VISITING PROFESSORSHIP (where relevant)

First name	
Last name	
Nationality (as indicated in passport)	
Current Professional Role	
Current Address	
Telephone no	
Email address	
Relationship to nominated professor	

3. CONFIRMATION

I confirm this information to be correct. I have completed the application form and submitted all additional required materials in PDF form, and by email only.

Place and date

Applicant

Type or input electronic signature

Place and date

Nominator (where relevant)

Type or input electronic signature