

## **OPEN CALL: V&A WEDGWOOD COLLECTION FELLOWSHIP**

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

13 MARCH 2025, 2 PM

### **WHO MAY APPLY?**

The V&A Wedgwood Collection (UK) and the Danish Arts Foundation are inviting applications from researchers and/or practitioners working in ceramics. We are interested in design and craft professionals who work in one of the following positions and would like to develop their research using the V&A Wedgwood Collection:

- **Museum professional or independent curator:** a museum employee or independent curator who sees this opportunity as part of their continual professional development
- **Academic:** a PhD student or a researcher
- **Maker:** an independent artist who sees research as an integral element of their practice but is not tied to or supported by a formal institution

### **You cannot receive funding for:**

- Activities completed before the application deadline
- Projects that the committee have previously supported

### **PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMME**

The three-month fellowship is taking place between August-November 2025 in Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, which is the home of the V&A Wedgwood Collection. Over the course of this fellowship, we invite you to carry out research into the V&A Wedgwood Collection of ceramics, artworks and archives.

The fellow must propose a topic of research connected to Wedgwood's social and industrial history. We are open to your ideas based upon the extensive Wedgwood collections and archives. Some suggested areas for response include:

- Trials and experiments – exploring Wedgwood's design and manufacturing processes by utilising the thousands of experiments and the accompanying experiment books to investigate historic recipes and Josiah Wedgwood's meticulous process. Various approaches can be taken in relation to the theme including the possible exploration of the use of cobalt.
- Wedgwood and modernism – exploring those who brought modernism to Wedgwood in the 20th century and how this compares with other contemporary brands.
- Global Wedgwood – investigating international connections through collaboration, trade and competition.

In addition to the fellow's research undertaken in Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, it is possible to carry out up to two research trips to V&A South Kensington and the collection of ceramics, artworks and archives. These trips can be arranged in relation to the area of research if relevant for the subject of research.

Alongside developing your own work, we ask you to propose ways in which you might disseminate your research insights in the form of public or audience engagement during the fellowship. This might be in the form of a talk, symposium, a learning resource or display.

The fellow must be committed to working on the research project and project dissemination a minimum of three days per week. The fellow will have access to a desk space in the museum every day.

The collaboration between the V&A and the Danish Arts Foundation seeks to strengthen the ties between the Danish and UK craft and scene.

### **The V&A Wedgwood Collection and site**

Stoke-on-Trent, traditionally known as The Potteries, is home to the V&A Wedgwood Collection. This is one of the most important industrial collections in the world and it holds a unique record of over 260 years of British ceramic production. The collection comprises over 175,000 ceramics, artworks and archival records that showcase the design and social histories of the iconic brand Wedgwood. Following a successful fundraising campaign spearheaded by Art Fund, the collection is now owned by the V&A and is on display at Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent. Here, an imaginative public programme celebrates the diversity, creativity and depth of the collection within its local context of North Staffordshire. More information about the collection can be found on the [V&A website](#).

The V&A Wedgwood Collection resides on the same site as the Wedgwood Factory. Founded in 1759, Wedgwood is one of the few ceramic manufacturers with a factory site still in operation in the area. Access to the Wedgwood Factory may be arranged according to the fellow's proposal as well as the schedules and priorities of the factory at this time.

The brand and site are now owned and managed by Fiskars, a Finnish Lifestyle Company. They own the Wedgwood brand amongst other brands including Waterford, Royal Copenhagen and Danish luxury lifestyle brand Georg Jensen. The V&A work in partnership with Fiskars to deliver the visitor experience onsite, for more information on site activity, see the World of Wedgwood website.

### **What is being offered?**

- Research fellowship for a three-month period between August-November 2025.
- Opportunity to conduct research into one of the most important industrial collections in the world and/or conduct research into the historical site and its surroundings.
- Opportunity to disseminate your research in the form of public or audience engagement.
- Access to the V&A Wedgwood Collection, including objects and archives with support from museum staff, up to three days per week. Access to a desk during normal operating hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.
- A work station at the museum and V&A e-mail address. The fellow is, however, expected to bring their own computer to work from.
- The fellow is encouraged to take consideration of the area. V&A Wedgwood Collection can facilitate introductions to other Stoke-based heritage organisations and ceramic manufacturers.
- The period of this research fellowship correlates with the 2026 British Ceramics Biennial.

- A fellowship bursary: 51.500 DKK to cover materials and equipment for the fellow's work.
- An accommodation and transportation stipend: 51.500 DKK to aid housing costs in the area as well as flight to/from UK, local public transport, and up to two trips by train to V&A South Kensington including up to a total of two nights of accommodation in London.
- A production budget to be used in dialogue with the V&A Wedgwood Collection for appropriate costs relating to the fellows work and dissemination of research.

### **Practical information**

- The Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Craft and Design Project Funding processes the applications and makes a short-list of up to five candidates to V&A Wedgwood Collection. The V&A Wedgwood Collection will then review the short-list and invite potential fellowship candidates to an online interview in week 17. Following the interviews, V&A Wedgwood Collection will make the final decision concerning the fellowship.
- The fellow is responsible for arranging their accommodation and make their travel plans to Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, as well as London.
- This is a research fellowship and does not include access to a studio space. Should the fellow wish to produce work during the fellowship, they will need to seek a space themselves.
- The Danish Arts Foundation will pay the fellowship bursary, accommodation stipend and transportation stipend directly to the chosen fellow.
- The amount for the production budget will be paid out by The Danish Arts Foundation to and managed by V&A.
- Please be aware that Stoke-on-Trent and the surrounding areas relating to Wedgwood's history are easiest to access by car. Public transport is available, but limited. Depending on the where the fellow decides to live during the fellowship, it would also possible to commute by bike.
- The fellow is responsible to purchase insurance.
- It is possible to bring family.

### **HOW YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE EVALUATED?**

When the Danish Arts Foundation reviews applications, the overall criteria of assessment is artistic quality. The Committee evaluates artistic quality in craft and design by considering whether the proposed project demonstrates:

- **Professionalism**  
The project develops and challenges practices, ideas, traditions and materials
- **Coherence**  
The project is well-thought-out from the initial idea to the method applied
- **Significance**  
The project demonstrates a high level of reflection in respect to its aims to create a significant mark in a relevant contexts

In your application, please describe:

- Your profession in relation to ceramics.
- The research into the V&A Wedgwood Collection that you want to undertake in relation to the museum's collection and social and industrial history along with how it will advance positively to your professional development.

- In what way you will benefit from the access to V&A South Kensington and the collection of ceramics, artworks and archives, that is, if you wish to use this opportunity.
- How you might disseminate your research insights in the form of public or audience engagement during the fellowship. This might be in the form of a talk, symposium, development of a Learning Resource, a display, etc.

**Please be aware of the following**

A complete application must meet the mentioned formal criteria and argue concisely for why the project is important and relevant to the applicant, the craft, and society in general.

If you have applied for grants from the Danish Arts Foundation within the past three years, this will be taken to consideration in the evaluation of your application.

**WHAT MUST THE APPLICATION CONTAIN?**

You must submit your application using our Grant Portal. We do not accept paper forms. We recommend that you use the browser Chrome or Firefox.

The Grant Portal requires you to log in using MitID (the secure digital login used in Denmark).

**YOU MUST ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:**

- The application: The application must be written in English. The application must be no more than one page of 2,400 keystrokes (PDF or Word).
- Images: Include no more than two A4 sheets featuring relevant images that visualise the project, e.g. photographs, sketches or other images (PDF or Word). Where relevant, include no more than five A4 sheets of images documenting previous work (PDF or Word).
- CV: The CV must be written in English. CV's must be no longer than a single A4 page (Word or PDF).
- Do not attach images of other people's work, e.g., inspirational images and mood boards. If there are particular reasons for attaching pictures of other people's works, you must clearly state that they are not yours. Similarly, you must state whether the artistic work submitted was collaborative or not.

**PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- The total size of the attached files may not exceed 25 MB.
- We accept the document formats PDF and Word.
- We do not accept Pages or ZIP files.
- You can edit your application until the deadline. Remember to re-attach all the files when you are editing, otherwise they will not be included in your final submission.
- The committee will only process the most recently submitted application.
- Your application must include all the required attachments in order to be processed by the committee.
- You are responsible for ensuring that your application has been filled in correctly and that all the required documents are included. You can always check your receipt in the Grant Portal.
- If you are applying for funding from more than one of the Danish Arts Foundation committees, you must state this in the application.

## **HOW MUCH MAY YOU APPLY FOR?**

The fellowship is awarded with a fixed fellowship bursary of 51.500 DKK and an accommodation and transportation stipend of 51.500 DKK, in total 103.00 DKK which will be paid directly to the fellow by the Danish Arts Foundation.

If you are a Danish citizen, organisation, or business and you receive a grant, you must have a NemKonto available for the payment transfer. We transfer all grants to the NemKonto linked to the Danish CPR/CVR number stated in the application. If you, for example, apply with a new CVR number, you have to make sure that you have linked it to a NemKonto. You have to do this before a potential grant is awarded.

If you have moved out of Denmark i.e., emigrated according to the Danish Customs and Tax Administration's definition, or if you are a foreign applicant, you are able to have a potential grant transferred to a foreign bank account. For applicants with foreign bank accounts, a completed bank information form must be attached to the application. This can either be the form for wire transfers to countries [using IBAN](#) or the form for wire transfers to countries [NOT using IBAN](#).

If you receive a grant of:

- more than DKK 100,000, we pay the grant in two instalments. The first instalment will be disbursed as soon as possible.

The Danish Arts Foundation reports the grant to the Danish Tax Agency. Please note that the tax has not been deducted from the payment.

## **WHEN**

You will receive a response no later than May 15 2025 after the application deadline.

Throughout these weeks, the committee and V&A Wedgwood Collection will read and process all submitted applications. Once all the applicants have received answers from the committees regarding their decisions, we will publish all the grants awarded on our website (in Danish).

You will receive an email notification when the outcome of your application is ready on your profile in the Grant Portal.

The names of all applicants are publicised on our website in the committees' [minutes](#) (in Danish).

## **WHEN YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION**

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an on-screen receipt, which you can download. You will not receive an email receipt confirming your application submission.

Please note that you can see your application and its status in the Grant Portal under "My Applications".

On your case in the Grant Portal, you can also see your application attachments. It is your responsibility that the necessary documents have been attached and sent, so remember to look through your application with care.

You can edit an application even if you have already submitted it, at any time before deadline. If you edit a submitted application, keep in mind that you must verify that all necessary documents are included. The committee deals exclusively with the most recently submitted application.

If you need to contact a case officer in the secretariat, you can send a message via the contact form on your case in the Grant Portal.

### **LAW BASIS**

Decisions are made in accordance with [section 3\(1\), cf. \(2\) and \(3\) of the Danish Act on the Danish Arts Foundation's Activities \(Act no. 458 of 8 May 2013\)](#).

### **COMMITMENT**

When the Danish Arts Foundation awards grants, it is legally required, that the money is used for the purpose you have described in your application. Therefore, you must report on your project to the Agency for Culture and Palaces. How you report depends on the grant amount you have received. [Read more about how to report on your project](#).

### **WHO WILL EVALUATE YOUR APPLICATION?**

The [Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Craft and Design Project Funding](#) processes the applications and makes a short-list of candidates. The V&A will then review the short-list and invite potential fellowship candidates to an online interview. Following the interviews V&A Wedgwood will make the final decision concerning the fellowship. You should therefore be aware of that your application may be shared with the above-mentioned institution.