

V&A GETS ACCREDITED FOR TRAINING SCHEME

The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) has become the first UK museum to have its in-house training programme nationally accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).

The museum's development programme for assistant curators has been running for 10 years and is equivalent to an NVQ level 4.

Designed by the V&A, the scheme combines on-the-job training with academic study and covers skills

such as working with collections and looking after visitors.

Veronika Harris, head of training at the V&A, told *PM* that the London-based museum, which has 750 employees, was "leading the country in making sure people who are training in cultural heritage are at a national standard".

All those recruited to assistant curator posts are required to take the two-year course as part of a five-year contract. It is also open to

staff from other museums. "We are seeing people being promoted and successfully getting jobs in other organisations," Harris said, adding that the scheme was important for retention and engagement.

Gareth Phillips, director of business strategy for EDI, the awarding body that worked with the V&A to achieve accreditation, said: "Knowing that an in-house programme has been accredited brings benefits to all parties."

