

## Tiffany Debuts Jeweler Training Program



LVMH has expanded its apprenticeship initiative to the US following its acquisition of Tiffany & Co., enabling the New York-based brand to train the next generation of jewelry designers and makers.

The program focuses on recruiting applicants from diverse, historically underrepresented communities, LVMH said last week. Part of the group's Métiers d'Excellence Institute, the course will take place over a two-year period, with participants rotating through Tiffany's workshops.

"The Métiers d'Excellence initiative will enable us to reinforce the diversity and inclusivity of Tiffany & Co.'s workforce through one of our core pillars of [social impact platform] Tiffany Atrium — education," said Mary Bellai, global chief of human resources officer at Tiffany. "Our efforts will support the long-term growth and development of students, early-career professionals and educational institutions in the US."

The program is the result of a partnership with the US Department of Labor and is the government division's first such cooperation in the luxury industry, LVMH explained.

The conglomerate first launched the Métiers d'Excellence initiative in France in 2014. So far, over 1,400 students have participated across seven countries. While Tiffany will be the first to offer the program in the US, several other jewelry maisons are planning to join next year, LVMH noted.

"By providing an exceptional cohort of apprentices with the opportunity to learn from experienced craftspeople, Métiers d'Excellence ensures that these skills are passed on to early-career professionals and teaches apprentices to uphold LVMH's longstanding standards of excellence," added Gena Smith, chief human resources officer for LVMH North America.

*Image: A Tiffany jewelry display. (Shutterstock)*