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The MA in Art History is a two-year thesis program, designed to instruct students in methods of research and presentation of scholarly materials. All of our programs are designed to provide a grounding in a broadly based and methodologically diverse art history. The program offers advanced study of art history in areas of European and North American art, Asian art, and the indigenous arts of the Americas leading to the *Master of Arts (MA) in Fine Arts (Art History)*.

## Admissions

Applicants for the MA program in Art History normally have preparation in the discipline equivalent to the undergraduate major in art history at UBC. This translates into a minimum of ten courses (30 credits) in art history at the third and fourth-year levels. It is recommended that these courses represent a significant range of historical periods and/or geographic areas. An "A" mark must have been earned in at least 12 credits, with a high "B" standing in the remainder, for an overall average of not less than "B+".

In addition, applicants must also satisfy the Faculty of Graduate Studies minimum admission requirements. As per the Faculty of Graduate Studies eligibility, the master's degree at UBC requires a bachelor's degree (or honours bachelor's degree) requiring four years of study with a B+ average in third and fourth year-level course work. From Quebec, a three-year bachelor's degree is acceptable provided the Diplome d'Etudes Collegiales (D.E.C.) has been previously awarded. Please refer to the Faculty of Graduate Studies website at [www.grad.ubc.ca](http://www.grad.ubc.ca) to confirm the minimum admission requirements if you are an international student.

It should be noted that these standards constitute a minimum and admission remains at the discretion of the department. If you do not meet these requirements, please contact the department's Graduate Program Coordinator for advice on how to fulfill them. Further information is available online at: [www.ahva.ubc.ca](http://www.ahva.ubc.ca)

Entrance is possible only in the fall. Although it is possible to enrol on a part-time basis, the programs must still be completed within five years of initial registration.

Admission to the graduate program in Art History requires submission of all materials as noted below:

### Submit directly to the Faculty of Graduate Studies:

- Application for Admission to Graduate Studies. Apply online at [www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/online/](http://www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/online/).

### Application Deadline

The **deadline for receipt of complete applications is January 10<sup>th</sup>**. All supporting material must be received by the deadline. Notification of acceptance normally occurs by late March.

### Fees

Please refer to the UBC Calendar for tuition and fee information. An on-line version is accessible at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/>

### Language Requirement

Reading proficiency in a language other than English is desirable for many seminars at the fourth and fifth-year levels and is regarded as an essential skill. Therefore, MA candidates are required to have a reading knowledge of one language, other than English, appropriate to work in their field. In most cases the language requirement will be fulfilled by the end of the first calendar year of studies.

- Students may demonstrate their proficiency in a language other than English by passing a reading knowledge exam (translation with dictionary). Exams are scheduled in the Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory in September and February during the first week of classes. For some languages, exams may be administered by another UBC department.
- Students who have not obtained proficiency in a language other than English should register in a UBC language course. Completing a language course at a level of 200 or above (not including conversation courses) with a grade of not less than 72% fulfills the language requirement. Students should note that courses designed specifically for reading most European languages are available at the 300 level and usually do not assume prior knowledge of the language. If they prefer, and instructors permit, students may register in a language course as an auditor and write our departmental reading knowledge exam.

Students who need proficiency in any language using a non-Roman script may receive special consideration. Courses taken to fulfill the language requirement are not counted towards the required credits for the MA degree.

### Course Work

The MA in Art History requires 30 credits of which 24 must be in courses numbered 500 or above. Up to 3-credits of course work at the 400 level may be counted towards the degree, pending approval of the Graduate Advisor

The 30 credits include the Methodology Seminar (ARTH 571 6-credits), required in the first year, and the Master's Thesis (ARTH 599 6-credits), normally begun in the second year. The remaining 18 credits may be chosen from Art History or from other departments as per the following guidelines.

- The two year MA program should include coursework with a broad range of historical periods and geographical regions.
- Up to 6-credits of course work may be taken outside the department.
- Students can repeat a seminar if the content is substantially different and if it is taught by a different instructor.
- Students should not take more than 6 credits (excluding the Master's Thesis, ARTH 599) with the same instructor.
- ARTH 577 (Directed Readings) is only permitted in the special case that the student's supervisor is not teaching a research seminar for the two consecutive years of MA coursework.
- Courses taken to fulfill the language requirement are not counted towards the required credits for the MA degree. In order to remain in the program, students must maintain an overall average of 78% in all art history courses and not receive a grade lower than 72% in any single course.

### Graduate Courses

All Graduate (500 level) courses - with exception of CCST 503 - are open to all graduate students.

\* Not all courses are offered every year.

- ARTH 531** (3/6) Studies in Early Medieval Art
- ARTH 533** (3/6) Studies in Medieval Art
- ARTH 535** (3/6) Early Modern: Renaissance
- ARTH 537** (3/6) Early Modern: 17<sup>th</sup> Century
- ARTH 539** (3/6) Studies in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Art
- ARTH 540** (3/6) Studies in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art
- ARTH 543** (3/6) Studies in Canadian Art
- ARTH 548** (3/6) Studies in Architecture
- ARTH 550** (3/6) Studies in Art in the Islamic World
- ARTH 551** (3/6) Studies in Chinese Art
- ARTH 553** (3/6) Studies in Japanese Art
- ARTH 555** (3/6) Studies in South and Southeast Asian Art
- ARTH 561** (3/6) Studies in the Indigenous Arts of the Americas
- ARTH 571** (6) The Methodology of Art History (*A rigorous two-term required methodologies seminar led by two professors who are specialists in divergent areas*).
- ARTH 577** (3/6) Directed Readings (*Only permitted in the special case that the student's supervisor is not teaching a research seminar for the two consecutive years of the MA coursework*).
- ARTH 599** (6) Master's Thesis

## **Committees and Supervision**

During the course of the program, students are advised by two departmental committees.

### **Thesis Committee**

The Thesis Committee consists of a research supervisor (Chair or first reader) and a second faculty member (second reader) and is normally constituted by the student before the end of his or her first year's course work to supervise thesis work through to graduation. The Thesis Committee oversees the formulation of a thesis topic, presentation of thesis research at the Round Table and the deposit of the finished thesis.

### **Art History Graduate Advisory Committee**

The Art History Graduate Advisory Committee oversees the entire Art History Program and ensures fulfillment of program requirements to ensure students' timely progress. The Committee offers general assistance in planning course work, fulfilling the language requirement, selecting a Thesis Committee, and initially formulating a thesis topic.

The Art History Graduate Advisory Committee is chaired by the Graduate Advisor. The Graduate Advisor is available for regular consultation throughout the program.

The student will meet with the Graduate Advisor and another member of the Advisory Committee in September of each academic year.

## **Round Table**

At the mid-stage of thesis research, a Round Table will be held in order for the student to receive feedback from other students and faculty. Round tables will normally be scheduled in February of the student's second year in the program.

The candidate will write a one-page abstract of the Round Table presentation which must be approved by both Thesis Committee members. The approved abstract must be submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator at least 10 days before the scheduled presentation to allow time for distribution and proper consideration by faculty and graduate students. At this time, the candidate should also select a graduate student discussion moderator.

The Round Table oral presentation should be 20 minutes long (8-9 typed, double-spaced pages). The illustrated presentation will indicate the issue(s) being addressed in the thesis. The presentation will be followed by questions and a discussion facilitated by the student moderator. The candidate should expect to be asked about the feasibility of the thesis and to be open to alternative points of view. The discussion is open to all graduate students, faculty and others who wish to attend.

Shortly after the Round Table, the candidate will meet with the Thesis Committee and a member of the Graduate Studies Advisory Committee for a follow-up discussion that will assist in the final shaping of the project.

## **MA Thesis**

The Masters Thesis (ARTH 599) is designed to train students in the skills of scholarly research and analysis. It entails the development and convincing presentation of an argument in the form of a thesis that should be no longer than 50-60 pages of text and footnotes. An appropriate thesis topic needs to be conceived as a specific and limited problem that poses an intervention within an existing research field and its debates. It should normally involve work within existing literatures and thus be capable of completion with library research rather than travel.

Students should select a thesis topic and Thesis Committee by the end of their first year's course work in order to begin research during the summer. Whenever possible, the thesis topic should arise from course work, i.e. a seminar paper. Students who will not be able to take a seminar in their area of thesis research until the second year should consult their thesis supervisor or the Graduate Advisor before the end of the first year in order to plan summer research in anticipation of this seminar.

Students should expect that more than a single draft will be necessary for an acceptable thesis. Thesis Committee members are allowed two weeks to read and comment on each draft and students must allow for this time, particularly in regard to meeting a deadline for submission of the thesis to the Department and to the Library. These deadlines are printed in the "Academic Year" section of the UBC Calendar.

When the Thesis Committee has approved the thesis, it will be submitted for marking in order to complete requirements for ARTH 599. The student must also submit an Application for Graduation to Enrolment Services; this is available from Enrolment Services, Graduate Studies or online at [www.students.ubc.ca](http://www.students.ubc.ca)

Upon completion of editorial changes required by the Thesis Committee, the student will prepare the thesis for deposit to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Instructions for "Masters and Doctoral Thesis Preparation and Submission" can be obtained from the Faculty of Graduate Studies website: <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/dissertation-thesis-preparation> .

Students should also consult the Guidelines for the Various Parties involved in Graduate Student Thesis Research available from the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

## **Financial Support**

Opportunities for financial support include the following.

Grant-writing workshops are scheduled in the Department during September. All students are urged to participate.

### **Graduate Support Initiative Awards (GSI)**

Graduate Support Initiative Awards (GSI) are offered to the best and brightest incoming master's students for full-time graduate study. All applicants to the program are automatically considered for this award. In the event that a student receives another funding offer, in excess of the GSI allocation, the department reserves the right to withdraw the offer so that another student can receive funding.

### **University Affiliated Graduate Fellowships**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies offers approximately 50 Affiliated Fellowships each year to meritorious students for full-time study and/or research leading to a graduate degree. Awards are made on the basis of academic excellence, and are open to current and prospective full-time UBC graduate students regardless of citizenship or visa status. Fellowship values range from \$175 to \$30,000, but most are in the range of \$16,000. More information can be found at: <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/affiliated-fellowships>

### **Social Science & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS)**

Award based on academic excellence and valued at \$17,500. Students who are either Canadian citizens or Landed Immigrants are eligible and are required to submit applications for this prestigious award in order to be included in the adjudication for Affiliated Fellowships. Applications are due in the fall. Further information is available at [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp)

Students applying to UBC are encouraged to apply for the CGS during the final year of their BA.

### **Teaching Assistantships**

The Department annually advertises available TA positions. TA positions are normally offered to students entering their second year of the program. Notices of teaching assistantships are posted in the Department before April 1st. Duties include leading discussion sections and marking exams and papers for certain undergraduate courses, for 12 hours per week. Contact the Graduate Program Coordinator for particulars.

### **Art History Travel Research Scholarship**

The department has a fund specifically designated to support travel for the purpose of thesis research. Preference is given to PhD students.

### **Conference Travel**

The Graduate Student Travel Fund provides one-time travel support of up to \$500 for students presenting a paper at a conference or symposium. More information can be found at: <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/graduate-student-travel-fund>.

For additional information on financial support for graduate students, consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies website at <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/>. Financial support counselling is also available in the UBC Office of Awards and Financial Aid at (604) 822-5111 or visit their website at <http://students.ubc.ca/finance/>

### **Departmental and Campus Facilities**

#### Music Art + Architecture Library

The Music Art + Architecture Library is located in the newly constructed Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. The collection includes books and journals on art history, architecture, community and regional planning, dance, costume, artistic photography and design. Special materials include exhibition catalogues, pamphlets, microforms, clippings, picture files, CD-ROMs and online indexes and databases.

Circulating books are located in the open stacks of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. Most material circulates for two weeks. All reserve books and course readings are kept in the Reserve Room which is located next to the Circulation Desk on Level 2. The Library provides many areas for students to study. In addition, there are group study rooms available (4 are bookable and 2 are on a first come basis).

A camera stand is located on Level 3 in a designated photography room.

M + A + A staff is available to assist with reference, instruction and tours. Reference hours are Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information visit: [www.library.ubc.ca/finearts](http://www.library.ubc.ca/finearts)

#### **The AHVA Visual Resources Centre**

The Collection has holdings of over 300,000 35mm photographic slides, digital images, videos, DVDs and films covering all areas of art history and visual art as represented by the Department's curriculum. It is a vital teaching and research facility for both faculty and students; its visual contents are updated on a regular basis for Intranet usage in the Arts Multimedia Computer Labs. For the sole purpose of review and study, visual materials from twenty-two art history courses are temporarily stored and disseminated to students via Internet access during examination times

The Artist and Architect Indices have been compiled and are updated regularly to facilitate searching and efficient retrieval of visual images. To provide easy access to the growing AHVA Digital Image Database, a versatile storage and retrieval system with effective searching mechanism is being developed together with Arts ISIT, focusing on the art history courses and Post 1945 category in the initial stage. So far, 30,000+ visual materials from 21 art history courses have been digitized with complementary indices accessible online during examination times.

The slide collection has well over 300,000 slides covering all areas of art history represented by the Department. It is a valuable tool for both research and teaching and may be used by graduate and undergraduate students in seminars. The centre has also undergone renovations to offer an exciting collaborative space through the inclusion of the Film Collection from the Department of Theatre, Film and Creative Writing.

#### **The Joan Carlisle-Irving Lecture Series**

Each year the Department sponsors a thematic lecture series using funds from an endowment provided by Joan Carlisle-Irving. This enables about 5 lecturing visitors, who may be artists, critics, or art historians, to present seminars on campus that appeal to a wide range of audiences.

### **The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery**

The Belkin Art Gallery organizes and hosts exhibitions of contemporary art as well as monthly workshops, tours, speakers and symposia. The gallery has a collection of contemporary art as well as an archive that is strong in the areas of mail art and concrete poetry. The gallery employs students through the work study program and is also involved in the curatorial studies program.

### **The Museum of Anthropology**

UBC Museum of Anthropology, architecturally designed by Arthur Erickson and opened in 1976, is situated on the Point Grey cliffs overlooking Howe Sound and the North Shore Mountains. Both its setting and architecture are inspired by coastal First Nations' settlements of British Columbia. The collections include the famous Northwest Coast First Nations collection, the Walter and Marianne Koerner collection, an international textile collection and archaeological findings of British Columbia and the North Pacific Rim.

### **Other Creative and Performing Arts Departments at UBC**

The Department of Theatre and Film and the Creative Writing program offer programs that lead to the degrees of Ph.D., M.A., M.F.A., B.A. and B.F.A.

The Film Program offers an M.A. in film and Television History and Criticism and a M.F.A. in Film and Television production. A diploma in film and Television Studies is also offered.

The Theatre Program runs the Frederic Wood Theatre, which produces a program of plays from September through April and the Dorothy Somerset Studio, which produces plays of an experimental nature, including those directed by students.

The Creative Writing program offers B.F.A. and M.F.A degrees in areas such as Fiction, Plays, Poetry, Short Stories, Translation and Writing for Radio and Television. PRISM International is a student run literary journal published by the Department, featuring original work in English and translation from a wide variety of languages. Now over 30 years old, PRISM is Canada's oldest literary magazine.

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#### Disclaimer

This brochure in no way contradicts or modifies any rule laid down in the University Calendar, which should be consulted when precise information on any specific point on course program requirements is required. This is obtainable from the Office of the Registrar (Brock Hall, 2106 - 1874 East Mall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1, Phone (604) 822-2844). <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/> .