MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF DECORATIVE ARTS AND DESIGN HISTORY

The master of arts in the field of decorative arts and design history program is offered through a partnership between the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design and the Smithsonian Associates—the largest museum-based education program in the world. This unique graduate program covers a range of historical, cultural, and material topics. Through object-based study, students develop expertise in the history of cultural and stylistic influences, techniques and technology, and makers and materials.

Courses are taught at the Smithsonian Institution by curators, scholars, and leading museum professionals in Washington, DC. In addition to courses, students also participate in internships with arts institutions, organizations, and museum professionals. The internship experience complements the formal curriculum, enabling students to hone their research and writing skills in both professional and academic settings.

For some students, the MA in decorative arts and design history is a terminal degree leading to professional careers as curators and scholars in galleries and museums. For others, the degree is completed in preparation for doctoral study.

ADMISSIONS

We are no longer accepting applications for this program.

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs.

42 credits, as follows: Thesis option—21 credits in required courses, a 3-credit internship, 6 credits in thesis research, and 12 credits in elective courses; non-thesis option—21 credits in required courses, a 3-credit internship, 18 credits in elective courses, and successful completion of a comprehensive oral and written examination. All students must demonstrate competency in a language other than English, to be assessed by examination. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in order to graduate from the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Foundation courses (9 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDAD 6570</td>
<td>Proseminar in Decorative Arts and Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDAD 6571</td>
<td>Survey of Decorative Arts and Design I</td>
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CDAD 6572  | Survey of Decorative Arts and Design II   |
CDAD 6573  | Material Culture Theory                   |
CDAD 6574  | Topics in Medium-Based Decorative Arts and Design |
CDAD 6575  | Non-Western Influences in Decorative Arts and Design |
CDAD 6902  | Internship                                 |
CMST 6201  | Introduction to Museum Collections        |
   or CMST 6301 | Museum Exhibition Curatorial Research and Planning |
   or CMST 6304 | Exhibition Development and Scriptwriting   |
   or CMST 6305 | Visitor Perspectives: Museum Evaluation   |

**Thesis (6 credits)**

Students who choose the thesis option take the following:

CDAD 6998  | Thesis Research                           |
CDAD 6999  | Thesis Research                           |

**Electives (12 or 18 credits)**

Thesis option: 12 credits (4 courses) for students pursuing the thesis option.

Non-thesis option: 18 credits (6 courses) for students who choose to take the master’s comprehensive examination instead of writing a thesis.