

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF ART HISTORY

Situated in the heart of the culturally rich city of Washington, DC, the master of arts (MA) program in art history at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design provides students with unique opportunities to study the arts. Students learn to apply visual and historical analyses to artworks, as well as incorporate relevant and current theoretical and methodological approaches to research. The program's proximity to DC's many museums and galleries means that the permanent collections and exhibitions of some of the most important art institutions in the world often serve as the backbone of student coursework and study. The curriculum covers a wide swath of the history of art, but has specific areas of focus in Renaissance, Islamic, South Asian, American, and modern and contemporary art. The rigorous and supportive scholarly program places special emphasis on developing individual students' critical analysis and research and writing skills.

For some students, the MA is a terminal degree in preparation for curatorial or education careers in galleries and museums; for others, it is preparation to enter a PhD program elsewhere.

Visit the program website (<https://corcoran.gwu.edu/art-history-graduate/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

Admission Deadline: Fall - April 1 (February 1 for fellowship consideration)

Standardized test scores: GRE general test is not required.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0; or
- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based; or
- PTE Academic: 53

Applicants who do not meet minimum English language requirements may be eligible for our full-time Applied English Language program.

Recommendations: Two (2) recommendations required:

Prior academic records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

Statement of Purpose: In an essay of 250 - 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for an assistantship or fellowship, you should also describe any teaching experience you have had.

Writing Sample: A recent writing sample is required.

International applicants only: Please follow this link - <https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

**For more information on the admission process**, please visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<http://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate/admissions/faqs/>) page.

### Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences - Graduate Admissions Office  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 215  
Washington DC 20052

### Contact for questions:

[askccas@gwu.edu](mailto:askccas@gwu.edu) ~ 202-994-6210 (phone) ~ 202-994-6213 (fax)  
8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

36 credits in required and elective courses.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
CAH 6258	Art Historiography	
<b>Elective</b>		
At least one course from five of the following seven categories:		
Ancient		
CAH 6201	Proseminar in Ancient Art of the Bronze Age and Greece	
CAH 6202	Proseminar in Ancient Art of the Roman Empire	
CAH 6205	Topics in Ancient Art	
CAH 6270	Special Topics in Art History	
Medieval/Islamic World		
CAH 6211	Proseminar in Early Christian and Byzantine Art and Architecture	
CAH 6212	Proseminar in Romanesque and Gothic Art and Architecture	
CAH 6213	Islamic Art and Architecture	
CAH 6214	Art of the Book in the Medieval Muslim World	
CAH 6215	Seminar in Medieval Art and Architecture	
CAH 6265	Seminar in Islamic Art and Architecture	
CAH 6270	Special Topics in Art History	
Renaissance/Baroque		
CAH 6220	Proseminar in Italian Art and Architecture of the Thirteenth Through Fifteenth Centuries	
CAH 6221	Proseminar in Italian Art and Architecture of the Sixteenth Century	
CAH 6222	Proseminar in Early Northern Renaissance Art and Architecture	
CAH 6223	Proseminar in Northern Renaissance Art and Architecture	

CAH 6225	Seminar in Renaissance Art
CAH 6231	Proseminar in Italian Art and Architecture of the Seventeenth Century
CAH 6232	Proseminar in Northern European Art and Architecture of the Seventeenth Century
CAH 6234	Proseminar in Spanish and Portuguese Art through the Sixteenth Century
CAH 6236	Seminar in Baroque Art
CAH 6270	Special Topics in Art History
18th-19th Century	
CAH 6240	Proseminar in European Art of the Eighteenth Century
CAH 6245	Seminar in European Art of the Nineteenth Century
CAH 6251	Proseminar in American Art in the Age of Revolution
CAH 6252	Proseminar in American Art in the Era of National Expansion
CAH 6254	Seminar in American Art before 1900
CAH 6270	Special Topics in Art History
Modern/Contemporary	
CAH 6246	Proseminar in Modern Architecture in Europe and America
CAH 6250	Seminar in Modern Art
CAH 6255	Seminar Studies in American Art and History
CAH 6256	Seminar in American Art of the Twentieth Century
CAH 6257	Seminar in Photography
CAH 6269	Seminar in Contemporary Art
CAH 6270	Special Topics in Art History
CAH 6286	Preventive Conservation Concepts
CAH 6287	Preventive Conservation Techniques
CAH 6400	History of Exhibitions
Asian/African	
CAH 6260	Seminar in African Art

CAH 6261	Seminar in Asian Art
CAH 6262	Seminar in South Asian Art
CAH 6270	Special Topics in Art History
Pre-Columbian/Latin American	
CAH 6270	Special Topics in Art History
Internship/Independent Study	
CAH 6298	Independent Research in Art History
CAH 6299	Museum Internship

Up to 6 credits of graduate coursework may be completed outside the department with approval of the graduate advisor.

One qualifying paper must be submitted in the spring semester of the second year. Part-time students will submit one qualifying paper at date set in consultation with the graduate advisor.

Foreign language proficiency is not required for the master's degree. However, students have the option of taking an examination in one of the following foreign languages: Arabic, Dutch, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Latin, Persian, Portuguese, or Spanish.

### Museum Training Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
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Prerequisites and requirements are the same as those for the MA in the field of art history. After completion of 18 credits in Art History (CAH) courses, students in the concentration take 6 credits of internship through enrollment in CAH 6299.