

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF MUSEUM STUDIES

The Museum Studies program in the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design welcomes students interested in developing a critical engagement with the museum field and gaining hands-on training in the broad range of skills required for museum work. The program offers a master of arts (MA) with concentrations in museum management, collections management, public engagement, and exhibitions and visitor experience; an on-campus certificate; and an online certificate in museum collections management and care. A range of specialized courses in topics including ethics and values, social justice, preventive conservation, digitization, project management, and museum governance allow students the flexibility to design programs of study geared to their interests and designed with their professional goals in mind.

Students whose career interests are primarily in museum education should refer to the master of arts in teaching in the field of museum education (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/education-human-development/educational-leadership/ma-teaching-museum-studies/>) program in the Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

Visit the Museum Studies program website (<https://corcoran.gwu.edu/museum-studies/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

**Admission deadlines:** Fall - February 1: Priority consideration for admission and funding; April 1: Guaranteed review for admission and consideration for funding, if available. (Applications for admission will continue to be accepted after April 1, when space remains available in the program.)

Spring – October 1

**Standardized test scores:** The GRE general exam 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 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or

- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or

- PTE Academic: 68;

**Recommendations:** (2) recommendations (one, academic and the other, museum-related)

**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 a short essay, 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, museum, other professional, and community activities.

A professional resume is required.

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

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

**Contact:**

askccas@gwu.edu  
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

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

36 credits in required and elective courses and successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
CMST 6107	Museum Ethics and Values	
CMST 6501	Museum Studies Internship (Taken for 3 credits. Requires 200 hours per semester.)	
<b>Field</b>		
15 credits in courses focused on collections management, museum management, exhibitions and visitor experience, or public engagement.		
<b>Electives</b>		
15 credits in courses which may be drawn from within Museum Studies (CMST), including a second internship, or from outside the program. Up to 12 credits in non-CMST courses are permitted.		
<b>Additional requirements</b>		
Fulfillment of the graduate writing requirement.		
Delivery of an oral presentation.		
Successful completion of a master's comprehensive examination.		

## COMBINED PROGRAMS

### Combined Programs

- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in classical and ancient Near Eastern studies and Master of Arts in the field of museum studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/classical-near-eastern-languages-civilizations/combined-ba-classical-near-eastern-studies-ma-museum-studies/>)
- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in history and Master of Arts in the field of museum studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/history/dual-ba-history-ma-museum-studies/>)
- Dual Master of Arts in the field of museum studies and Graduate Certificate in nonprofit management (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/museum-studies/combined-ma-museum-studies-gc-nonprofit-management/>)