ART HISTORY (ARTH)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract

The Department of Art History and Archaeology offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Art History. The Program is committed to the advanced study and scholarly interpretation of works of art from the prehistoric era to the present and is grounded in the concept of art as a humanistic experience. The faculty offers expertise in all phases of the history of Western art as well as the arts of Africa, the Americas, South and East Asia.

Financial Assistance

Fellowships are awarded on the basis of merit by the College of Arts and Humanities and by the Graduate School. Several graduate assistantships are awarded by the Department. Also, up to two Museum Fellowships are awarded each year by the Department of Art History and Archaeology for research at major museums. In honor of its late founding chairman, the Department has established the George Levitine Art History Endowment, in support of research activities of graduate students as well as faculty. The Jenny Rhee Fellowship supports research, travel, and other educational expenses. Additional fellowships are available, including travel and dissertation research awards.

Contact

For more information on Departmental requirements and any other information, please view the Department's website, or contact the Department's Director of Graduate Studies or Coordinator of Graduate Studies.

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Website: http://www.arthistory.umd.edu

Courses: ARTH (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/arth/)

ADMISSIONS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/))

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Writing Sample (could be a research paper)

For admission to the Master's program, students should have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university, or its equivalent. Although the applicant must demonstrate a general knowledge of art history, an undergraduate major in art history is not required.

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying/).

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 8, 2026
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	December 8, 2026

RESOURCES AND LINKS:
Other Deadlines: arthistory.umd.edu (http://www.arthistory.umd.edu)
Program Website: arthistory.umd.edu/academics/graduate (https://arthistory.umd.edu/academics/graduate/)
Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying/)

REQUIREMENTS

- Art History, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/art-history-arth/art-history-phd/)
- Art History, Master of Arts (M.A.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/art-history-arth/art-history-ma/)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

The Michelle Smith Collaboratory for Visual Culture, part of the Department of Art History and Archaeology, is designed to foster innovation in teaching and research by combining cutting-edge visual technology with an environment that encourages collaboration among faculty, students, and external scholars. The Collaboratory combines space for work and for meetings with advanced technology and helpful staff to provide a venue in which teachers and students can gather to work, share ideas, and find the resources necessary to explore new technologies and pursue intellectual interests, as well as to promote the department's teaching curriculum. The Department maintains its own Lloyd and Jeanne Raport study collection of some 130 objects from ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, and the Ancient Americas.

The University Art Gallery, also located in the Parren J. Mitchell Art-Sociology Building, maintains a lively and varied exhibition schedule and has a permanent collection of twentieth-century American prints,

drawings and paintings, collections of Japanese prints, and African objects.

The Art Library houses approximately 100,000 volumes as well as a vast body of auxiliary material, including about 70,000 sheets of microfiche. In addition to the University's library resources, graduate students have access to the Library of Congress, the Archives of American Art, the libraries of Dumbarton Oaks, and other research facilities in Washington.

The University of Maryland is located in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., and is 30 minutes from the National Gallery of Art and the National Gallery's Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, the Corcoran Gallery, the Phillips Collection, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Museum of African Art, the Freer and Arthur M. Sackler Galleries, which are devoted to the art of East Asia, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and many other major art museums. The campus is a 40-minute drive from such Baltimore institutions as the Walters Art Gallery and the Baltimore Museum of Art.

In order to enhance the student's curricular choices, the Department is a member of the Washington Area Art History Consortium, which unites the graduate art history departments of the greater Washington area.

The Department organizes a variety of liaison activities with leading cultural institutions in the Washington-Baltimore area. The Middle Atlantic Symposium in the History of Art is sponsored jointly by the Department and the National Gallery of Art; this annual event provides the opportunity for advanced graduate students from universities in the Middle Atlantic region to present their research at a professional forum. Special seminars are frequently given by curators of such local collections as the National Gallery of Art, the Freer Gallery, or the Department of Prints and Photographs at the Library of Congress.