

GRADUATE SCHOOL IN ART HISTORY

This general guide is designed to get you started when you're considering applying to graduate school in art history. Read it through, and then be sure to talk to an art history professor! Your professors can give good advice regarding what programs you might want to apply to and how to apply.

Types of degrees

There are many graduate degrees you can earn that are related to art history, depending upon the institution you do to and the program you choose:

- MA (Master of Arts)
- MS (Master of Science)
- MBA (Master of Business Administration)
- MLS (Master of Library Science)
- MPHIL (Master of Philosophy)
- MLITT (Master of Letters)
- PhD (Doctor of Philosophy)
- Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma

Types of programs

You might search for programs in the following fields:

- Art History
- History of Architecture
- Visual Studies
- Curatorial Studies
- Museum Studies
- Museum Education
- Arts Administration
- Library Science

Choosing a program

When looking for a program:

- Talk to your art history professors
- Research curriculum, special programs, faculty, and resources (such as libraries, archives, and university museums)
- Consider tuition/financial aid (fellowships, teaching assistantships, working assistantships)
- Consider residency requirements
- Consider foreign language competency requirements
- Visit campus, if possible, and while you are there, do an interview, talk to current graduate students, and look into available resources
- Write to faculty and current graduate students if you are unable to visit campus

Application process/requirements

Be prepared to provide the following:

- Letter of intent or statement of purpose
- Curriculum vita (CV) or resume
- Writing sample (often that is an undergraduate research paper)
- Letters of reference
- GRE scores
- Proof of foreign language competency (might be a high school or college transcript or a American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages—ACTFL—test score)
- Proof of minimum GPA (some schools require a minimum 3.5 GPA; usually part of the transcripts)
- Transcripts
- List of undergraduate coursework in art history
- Related internship experience (recommended)
- Related professional experience (recommended)

Ways to enhance your application

Graduate programs can be competitive. To ensure that you are a strong candidate, here are some actions you might take:

- Apply for an [Undergraduate Research Fellowship](#)
- Publish in the [Texas State Undergraduate Research Journal](#)
- Present at the [Undergraduate Research Conference](#)
- Complete an internship
- Raise your GPA
- Consider a minor related to the specialization you plan to pursue
- Earn scholarships/awards
- Take foreign language classes
- Study and/or travel abroad
- Take part in extra-curricular activities (for example, join the Art History Association)
- Gain on-campus work experience
- Do volunteer work

Resources

CAA Directory, Graduate Programs in Art History:

Alkek Library, N385 .G73 2011 Reserve, 3rd Floor or <http://www.collegeart.org/directories/>

Texas State University Writing Center Consultations:

<https://www.writingcenter.txstate.edu/>

Texas State University Career Services:

<https://www.careerservices.txstate.edu/students-alumni/career-exploration.html>