

M.A. Program in Art History
University of California, Davis
Effective Fall 2005 (pending approval of Graduate Council)
Revised April 6, 2005
Approved by Graduate Council on April 19, 2005

Introduction

The program in Art History offers studies leading to the Master of Arts degree in Art History under Plan I (Thesis option) as preparation for further graduate study or professional work. In a small program with personal attention from faculty and a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary training, students study the theory of art historical interpretation, the methodology of art historical research and writing, and a broad range of specialized fields. Independent research as well as study outside the art history program are both encouraged and students are given the opportunity to take courses in museum studies. Degree recipients may work in teaching, museums, galleries, publishing or arts administration, or may go on to study for the Ph.D. in other institutions or programs. The UCD Program in Art History particularly encourages applications from students who have undergraduate and/or graduate degrees in fields other than Art History and who wish to redirect their career interest and goals to Art History.

Past graduates have gone on for doctoral study in leading programs across the country including at University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Santa Barbara, Stanford University, Brown University, Princeton University, University of Toronto, University of Rochester, UCD's own Program in Cultural Studies and elsewhere. Other students have pursued museum careers at the Getty Research Center, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford, the Crocker Museum of Art in Sacramento, COPIA, the Nelson Art Gallery (here at UCD), the University Art Museum at UC Santa Barbara, the Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State and elsewhere. Still other students have gone from their M.A. studies here to teach in the state and community college systems in California, Oregon and Washington and to work in arts publishing at the University of California Press, Dwell Magazine and elsewhere.

Sample Areas for Thesis Research

- Ancient Mediterranean Art
- Chinese Art
- Renaissance & 17th-century Art
- Late 18th to early 20th-Century British and European Art
- Late 18th to early 20th-Century American Art, Architecture and Decorative Arts
- Late 20th-Century and Contemporary Art
- History and Theory of Architecture and Urbanism
- History of Photography
- History of Museums
- History of Collecting
- Critical Theory

Program of Study

Admission Requirements: The program requires a minimum background of four upper division (junior or senior level) art history courses. Students who enter the program with fewer than four courses will be required to make up the difference in addition to the course requirements for the M.A. degree.

M.A. (Plan I—Thesis) Degree Requirements: A total of thirty-six course units including thesis work are required according to the distribution below. An appropriate course of study should be developed in consultation with the Graduate Adviser during the first term in residence. Students should use the attached M.A. degree checklist to keep track of their progress. Students must enroll in 12 units during each of the six quarters in order to maintain full-time status. Additional credits beyond what is required by the curriculum below are typically fulfilled through Independent Study (AHI 299), Teaching Assistant Training Practicums, and through optional study in art history and cognate areas. The curriculum is designed to be completed in two years. Most courses carry four units.

Methodology—art historical theory, research and writing (AHI 200A and 200B)	8 units
Topical study—graduate level study in art history and museum studies (AHI 200 and 400 level courses including independent studies. Must include a minimum of three topical 200-level seminars.)	24 units
Thesis research and writing—in the fifth term students choose a seminar or independent study paper prepared during the previous four quarters, vet it with a thesis committee that has agreed to work with the student on the chosen topic, and refine it into a polished article-length thesis and a twenty-minute (eight-page) public lecture. The thesis committee typically consists of the major professor, a second member from the art history faculty and a third member from outside the department. Credit for this work is earned through a three-unit 299 taken with the thesis adviser and a one-credit thesis-writing discussion group (200C) made up of all second year students and supervised by the instructor of 200B. Students present their public lectures at the end-of-year colloquium.	4 units
Distribution requirement—by the time they leave the program students must have taken a minimum of one upper division or graduate level course in each of the program's four research areas: Ancient Mediterranean, Asian/Non-Western, European/American before 1865, and European/American since 1865. This may be satisfied by study done prior to entering the program,	[0 units]

study in the program, or any combination thereof.

Recommended foreign language study—reading proficiency [0 units]
in one or more languages suitable for the research area of the
student is strongly recommended but not required. The program
offers translation exams in most pertinent languages and notes the
successful completion of these exams on the student’s record.

TOTAL 36 units

PELP and Filing Fee Status: The M.A. degree program in Art History is designed to be completed in two years. Under special circumstances (i.e., illness, temporary employment away from the University or research away from the campus, financial problems, or personal problems) students can apply for the Planned Educational Leave Program (PELP). The duration of PELP may vary from one to three quarters. The Graduate Adviser approves such requests and forwards the form to Graduate Studies for final approval. Students who have completed all coursework and research and plan to not use any of the campus facilities (i.e., the students who are finalizing their thesis), may apply for Filing Fee status. The Filing Fee allows students to complete their degree while not being registered within an approved timeframe.

Financial Aid

Fellowships and Nonresident Tuition Fee Fellowships are funded by Graduate Studies on a competitive basis. The Fellowship Application for these awards is included in the general application packet. Applications and supporting materials (including transcripts) are due to the M.A. Program in Art History by December 15th.

Please review our Financial Assistance page for other fellowship opportunities. Graduate Studies maintains a listing of Graduate and Postdoctoral Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants that are currently available to students.

Humanities Research Awards (travel grants), for the support of thesis research, are available on a competitive basis from Graduate Studies. Art History graduate students have been very successful in obtaining these awards. See our Financial Assistance page for further information.

Teaching Assistantships, Readerships and Graduate Student Researcher Positions in the Program in Art History (and other campus departments and programs) are available to qualified graduate students. Positions in this and other programs are announced to graduate students and applications are accepted during an annual open filing period usually in the late Spring. Information about these positions is available from the department staff. In recent years, almost all students interested in such work have received T.A. appointments.

A FAFSA should be completed by the March 1 deadline.

Information about additional financial assistance, such as grants, loans, and work study, may be obtained from the Financial Aid Office, University of California, Davis, CA 95616; telephone number (530) 752-2390.

M.A. Progress Checklist
Art History Program

(revised winter 2005)

Name:	Previous degrees:
Address:	Major/concentration:
Telephone:	College/university:
E-mail:	Prior advisers:

Art History Training at Time of Admission

(Requirement: 4 upper division courses in any AHI area. Students admitted with less than the minimum should complete required remedial work in their first year of study.)

Subject area	Number	Remedial work	Term
Ancient Mediterranean			
Asian			
European/American before 1865			
European/American since 1865			

Foreign Language

(Full first year sequence or a comprehensive reading only course with a B or better, or passing a translation exam. This is recommended only. Students should consult with graduate adviser.)

Language:	Outplacement exam date:
Approved course sequence:	Grade:

M.A. Coursework

(Minimum 36 units including 200A, 200B, 200C, and 299 (12 units), and six additional 200 or 400 level courses including a minimum of three topical seminars (24 units). Students must have completed upper-division or graduate study in each of the four subject areas prior to entering the program or before completion. The 36 units does not include remedial work.)

1st Quarter: Fall _____	2nd Quarter: Winter _____	3rd Quarter: Spring _____
AHI 200A: Theory and Methods (4)	AHI 200B: Research/Writing Techniques (4)	
4th Quarter: Fall _____	5th Quarter: Winter _____	6th Quarter: Spring _____
	AHI 200C: Thesis Writing Colloquium (1)	
	AHI 299: Thesis Research and Writing (3)	

Thesis Calendar

Thesis adviser: (Declared at the beginning of 5th quarter.)	Thesis committee consultation: (Beginning of 5th quarter.)
Thesis approved by Grad Studies and placed in the Visual Resources Facility (End of 6th quarter):	Oral presentation of completed thesis: (End of 6th quarter.)