Master of Arts - Art History & Visual Studies

The Master of Arts in Art History & Visual Studies prepares students with the course work, language skills, and research experience needed for further graduate study or work in a museum or educational setting. The curriculum is structured to provide both breadth and depth of inquiry through a variety of approaches to art history and, more broadly, visual studies. We recommend that courses be broadly selected to take full advantage of the multiple approaches, expertise, and insights of the faculty. The relatively small size of the MA program, the richness of available resources, and the dedication of its faculty enable students to tailor their program of study to particular needs while simultaneously attaining a strong general grounding in the discipline. Campus resources include the Lucille C. Little Fine Arts Library and Learning Center, the Special Collections of the M. I. King Library, the W.T. Young Library, the University Art Museum, the School of Art & Visual Studies’ Visual Resources Office, and the John Tuska Center for Contemporary Art.

Admission
Experience suggests that applicants from a wide variety of educational backgrounds may earn a MA degree in Art History & Visual Studies. It is recommended that those without an undergraduate art history major consult with the art history & visual studies graduate advisor before applying. Depending on one’s prior preparation, some students may be required to take selected preparatory courses that will not count toward the graduate degree requirements.

Application Procedure & Requirements
The Graduate School, which is the administrative unit for all graduate students, and the Art History & Visual Studies graduate program, which is responsible for the academic curriculum, require different application materials. All application materials are to be submitted through the on-line application, which is located on the Graduate School homepage: http://www.gradschool.uky.edu.

Application materials for admission to the Graduate School include:

- Completed application form.
- Copies of transcripts from all higher education institutions attended, which should be uploaded to the appropriate location on the on-line application. Domestic students are to self-report GPA’s for each institution attended. (A tip: convert transcripts on colored paper to white with black ink so as not to exceed the megabit limitation on the on-line form).
- Application fee.
Application materials for the Art History & Visual Studies graduate program are also to be submitted on-line on the graduate admissions application and include:

- Brief résumé.
- Personal statement that explains your experience, plans, and interest in art history graduate study.
- GRE scores (Self-reported or official GRE scores must be reported at the time of application. If self-reported scores have been entered on the application, the official GRE scores must be reported by the Educational Testing Service (www.ets.org) to the University of Kentucky when admitted to the program. The Institution Code for the GRE for UK Graduate School is R1837).
- Sample of research, such as an undergraduate research paper. (A tip: if the research paper is greater than 2.5 megabits, please send a hardcopy directly to the Graduate Advisor in Art History & Visual Studies, School of Art & Visual Studies, 207 Fine Arts Bldg., University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0022).
- Contact information in the form of e-mail addresses for two recommenders who will be notified to submit their recommendations electronically to the online system.

In addition:

- Those requesting an assistantship must apply for the January 1 deadline and additionally include a brief letter of interest for the assistantship on the online admissions application form.

**Application Deadlines**

Fall semester admission:

- January 1 – for applicants requesting an assistantship.

  Art History & Visual Studies traditionally has had two teaching assistantships and occasional research assistantships to award. Please include a letter of interest for an assistantship online with other application materials.

- April 1 – deadline for all other applicants for fall semester admission who are not requesting an assistantship.

Spring semester admission: November 1.

**Degree Requirements**

**Plan A - Thesis Option:** Candidates who plan to continue study at the doctoral level should select Plan A. This option emphasizes art historical research, problem solving, and communication skills. Specific requirements include:

1) minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate course work.*
2) foreign language reading competency in German and one other language (French often recommended).**
3) satisfactory completion and oral defense of a thesis.
* Six of the minimum 30 required credit hours may be taken in related areas such as anthropology, film studies, historic preservation, history, literature, philosophy, studio art, or women's studies.

** The foreign language competency requirement may be satisfied by any of the means established by the Graduate School.

**Plan B - Non-thesis Option:** Plan B emphasizes course work to deepen the candidate's foundation in art historical knowledge, theory, and methods. Candidates who plan careers in visual arts fields that do not require a Ph.D. – professional placements in galleries, museums, art organizations, arts administration, etc. -- may want to select this option. Specific requirements include:

1) minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate course work.*

2) foreign language reading competency in German and one other language.**

3) satisfactory completion of final comprehensive exam.

* Nine of the minimum 30 required credit hours may be taken in related areas such as anthropology, film studies, historic preservation, history, literature, philosophy, studio art, or women's studies.

** The foreign language competency requirement may be satisfied by any of the means established by the Graduate School.

updated: May 2013