

The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History

Master of Arts in Art History



Program Description

The master's program at the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History introduces students to a global history of art by way of close engagement with artworks held in collections throughout Dallas and Fort Worth. In their coursework and independent research projects, students draw on privileged access to public and private collections, outstanding research resources, and the innovative and interdisciplinary research initiatives of O'Donnell Institute scholars to explore a broad range of material across geography, chronology and medium, and to build a strong foundation in historiography, theory and professional practices.



The two-year program is designed as a rigorous, immersive experience for the most motivated students, preparing graduates for top doctoral programs or arts careers. The curriculum comprises two Foundations courses (Practices of Art History and History of Materials and Techniques), five master's seminars that explore a body of material and research questions that draw on faculty members' areas of expertise, and a practicum in which students design and carry out an original project in the form of a scholarly essay, a small exhibition, a collaboration with a practicing artist, a conservation project or archival research. Practicum projects may be carried out in collaboration with partner institutions including the Dallas Museum of Art, the Crow Collection of Asian Art, the Nasher Sculpture Center and The Warehouse.

Benefits

The Art History master's program ensures that students gain a broad understanding of their chosen field or discipline, apply their knowledge in new, creative ways and communicate and work effectively in collaborative environments.

Other benefits include:

- *World-Class Faculty*: The program is led by faculty of the School of Arts and Humanities who are widely cited experts in their respective fields.
- *Comprehensive Curriculum*: Courses in the Art History master's program will introduce students to new ideas, methodologies, and competencies while preparing them to succeed in both public and private sectors.
- *Research Assistantships*: Research assistantships with O'Donnell Institute Faculty, and graduate curatorial assistantships at museums such as the Crow Museum of Asian Art, the Dallas Museum of Art and the Nasher Sculpture Center are paid part-time work meant to complement students' coursework and provide partial financial support as well as invaluable work experience.
- *Research related travel*: Students have the opportunity to apply for travel funding for thesis-related research.
- *Location*: Situated in the greater Dallas region—recently rated by Forbes magazine as the #1 “Best City for Jobs”—UT Dallas provides students with easy access to employers and internship opportunities, not to mention a large and supportive alumni population.

Contact Information

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Director of the Master's Program
in Art History

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The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History

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utdallas.edu/arhistory

Career Opportunities

In addition to highly selective doctoral programs, graduates of the Art History master's program are well-equipped for various research positions or advanced levels of professional practice, such as:

- Researcher
- Art Historian
- Educator
- Museum Professional
- Collections Manager
- Arts Non-Profit Professional

Career settings may include higher education, non-profits, cultural and historical organizations, government agencies, international development organizations, museums and archives, business or corporate entities and independent consulting.

Application Deadlines and Requirements

Please take note of all application deadlines and visit the Apply Now webpage to begin the application process.

Applicants to the Literature master's degree program should have:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in the United State or its equivalent at an international institution, along with a strong undergraduate foundation in art history or related field or comparable professional experience. The strongest applicants will demonstrate reading proficiency in at least one foreign language related to the desired research focus.
- A grade point average (GPA) of 3.6 out of a 4.0-point scale, especially in upper-division undergraduate coursework.
- Transcript: Applicants are required to submit a copy of an official transcript from each institution from which they have obtained a degree. Applicants who are admitted to the program will be required to submit official transcripts to the Office of Admission and Enrollment before being allowed to enroll.
- Curriculum Vitae: Applicants should summarize their educational background, including institutions attended and degrees earned, as well as their academic and professional positions (e.g. teaching assistantships or internships), awards and fellowships, and publications.
- Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must submit 3 letters of recommendation from individual able to judge the candidate's work in terms of its merit and potential.
- Statement of Purpose: A 1000-1500 words long statement that describes the applicant's preparation and motivation for graduate study in the field of art history as well as research interests, projected contributions to the field, and future professional goals. Applicants should explain what questions drive their study and research and how the plan to draw upon the research initiatives, academic curriculum, and resources of the Edith O'Donnell Institute.
- Academic Writing Sample: Applicants must submit an academic writing sample, which should be in PDF format only and should not exceed 12 MB.
- International applicants must submit a TOEFL score of at least 80 on the internet-based test. Scores must be less than two years old. See the Graduate Catalog for additional information regarding English proficiency requirements for international applicants.

Marketable Skills

The Master's program in Art History at UT Dallas introduces students to a global history of art through close engagement with artworks held in Dallas-Fort Worth collections. In their coursework and independent research projects, students explore a broad range of material across geography, chronology, and medium, building a strong foundation in historiography, theory, and professional practices.

- Conduct archival, object-based, and digital research at a professional level
- Apply deep knowledge of the field of art history to contemporary practices
- Formulate, develop, and execute long-term research projects
- Communicate ideas effectively in written and oral form for a wide variety of audiences
- Collaborate in interdisciplinary work across institutions

School of Arts and Humanities

The University of Texas at Dallas
800 W. Campbell Rd., JO 31
Richardson, TX 75080-3021
ah.utdallas.edu

utdallas.edu

School of Arts and Humanities

About the School



The School of Arts and Humanities emphasizes education that seeks and creates connections, combining critical with creative thought, theory with practice and arts and humanities with other fields of knowledge. Our goal is to foster in students intense curiosity informed by rigorous attention and the ability not only to solve challenging problems but also to communicate the process and importance of the solution.

Our graduate programs provide students with a flexible, interdisciplinary context in which to pursue a personalized course of study. Rather than identifying fixed disciplinary areas, we have designed our graduate degrees around broadly defined areas of interest. The interrelationship and mutual influence of these broad areas is emphasized as the essential aspect of our approach to graduate education.

The School of Arts and Humanities offers the advantages of a research university and the nurturing atmosphere of a liberal arts college. Students in the School of Arts and Humanities are encouraged to explore the boundaries and the interrelationships of the major fields of study within the school. Consistent with this focus on the integration of the arts and humanities and a commitment to interdisciplinary education, the school has no conventional departments. Rather, its curriculum is designed to allow study that crosses and transcends traditional disciplinary lines. This flexible design allows faculty members to create learning communities based on mutual interests and in response to the educational needs of students.

Additional Facts

Several faculty members have been awarded prestigious fellowships, including those from the Guggenheim, Fulbright, Alexander S. Onassis and Woodrow Wilson foundations. Others are recipients of the Füst Literary Award, as well as awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The school's centers further enhance students' educational experience by bringing the concept of globalism to campus, by bringing world events into focus through research and by encouraging innovation and creativity.

The National Science Foundation recently awarded a major grant to the school's Center for Values in Medicine, Science and Technology to study the mentoring and education that occurs in science laboratories.

A&H Graduate Programs

Art History	MA	
History	MA	
History of Ideas	MA	PHD
Humanities	MA	PHD
Latin American Studies	MA	
Literature	MA	PHD
Visual and Performing Arts	MA	PHD

Contact Information

Office of Admission and Enrollment

800 West Campbell Road
Richardson, TX 75080-3021
Phone: 972-883-2270 or
1-800-889-2443
Email: interest@utdallas.edu
Website: utdallas.edu/enroll

AH Advising

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800 West Campbell Road, JO31
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Phone: 972-883-2759 or 972-883-2980
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The School of Arts and Humanities has several centers that provide a foundation for growth both internally and throughout the community:

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

further contemporary attempts at understanding, speaking about, interpreting and representing this difficult period in history.

The Center for Asian Studies

is a hub for Asian scholarly study and cultural fluency. The center is devoted to Asian and Asian-American culture and the interaction of Asia with America..

The Center for Translation Studies

has a broad mission: enhancing the visibility and establishing the importance of the translator as the most important mediator between cultures; supporting the scholarly analysis and creation of literary translations; establishing partnerships with writers, scholars and publishers around the world.

The Center for U.S.-Latin America Initiatives (CUSLAI), reflects the importance of Latin America to the United States and, specifically, to the northern portion of Texas, in the context of historical mutual understanding and co-existence. CUSLAI offers exchange opportunities for U.S. and Latin American scholars, researchers and students in science, technology, management, social sciences, arts and humanities.

The Center for Values in Medicine, Science and Technology supports programs and projects that address the human implications of scientific investigation and technological innovation.

The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History is a center for innovative research and graduate education in the history of art. Research and teaching at the O'Donnell Institute focus on artworks held in Dallas-Fort Worth collections, which together open onto a history of art that ranges across geography, chronology and medium. The O'Donnell Institute is dedicated to intellectual creativity, exchange and collaboration in the form of lectures and symposia, exhibitions, publications and collaborations with area institutions.

utdallas.edu/ah/centers



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