History of Art BA / UCL is one of the most exciting places to study history of art in the country. This programme aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of the visual arts and material culture, covering a wide range of visual imagery and making use of London's extensive public collections, libraries, museums and architecture.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

High-quality research undertaken by staff, which is reflected in our research excellence profile, informs the content of our undergraduate degrees, keeping our teaching at the forefront of the discipline.

We have specialists on all periods from the medieval onwards, with particular strengths in the study of modern and contemporary art, as well as experts in the history of materials and technologies.

UCL Art Museum houses an important collection of artworks, which is used regularly to support our teaching. These include works by Turner and Rembrandt, as well as important 20th-century prints.

UCL’s central location in London is within walking distance of the British Museum and British Library and provides easy access to the National Gallery, the Tate Galleries and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 15 or 30 credits, adding up to a total of 120 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 30-credit module is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The programme begins with introductory modules in History of Art and its Objects and foundation modules in history of art, together with a thematic seminar taught mainly in galleries, museums and sites in London. You will continue with modules set mainly within specific periods in the second year, and in the final year you will select special subjects offered within the department.

You will also take modules in a subsidiary subject (anthropology, archaeology, history or philosophy) to help build a solid foundation to comprehend visual culture, both past and present.

In the final year you will write a dissertation, involving independent research.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

- History of Art and its Objects
- History of European Art (1): Classical to Early Renaissance
- History of European Art (2): High Renaissance to the Present Day

Students must also take a module in a modern foreign language, preferably in the first year.

Optional modules

You will select one of the following:

- Thematic Seminar (1): Art and Architecture before 1800
- Thematic Seminar (2): Art and Architecture after 1800

Further options will be selected in a subsidiary subject: either anthropology, archaeology, history or philosophy.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Advanced Lecture Course I: Early Modern Bodies
- Advanced Lecture Course II: Image/Object: Modernism and After

(The content of the Advanced Lecture modules changes regularly. These are the offerings for 2018/19.)

Optional modules

You will select from a wide range of optional modules, including at least two of the following:

- History of the Category ‘Art’
- Methodologies of Art History
- Methodologies of Making

Further options can be selected from within History of Art, and from within the same subsidiary subject as Year 1 (anthropology, archaeology, history or philosophy).

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Undergraduate Report in History of Art

Optional modules

You will select from a wide range of options including at least one Special Subject. Further options can be selected from within History of Art, and from fields such as anthropology, archaeology, history or philosophy. There is also the option to continue with a language (non-beginners only).
Your learning

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars, and may include visits to galleries, museums, monuments, film archives and sessions in the Material Studies Laboratory. Seminars may relate to a lecture series and involve travel within the UK or abroad. On a more frequent basis, first-year thematic seminars take place at London's many art collections and exhibitions.

Assessment

Coursework, essays, oral participation and written examinations will all be used as means of formal assessment of your work.

Your career

The programme is broad and rigorous, making graduates fully competitive for jobs both within and outside the area of visual arts. The department takes seriously the need for students to develop presentational and other skills alongside the specific analytical and interpretive skills associated with history of art.

UCL’s History of Art graduates have a record of success in careers in museums and galleries, academia, the art trade, the heritage industry, art publishing, art conservation and teaching. The unique combination of visual sensitivity and intellectual rigour has also proved valuable in journalism, publishing and advertising.

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

We welcome applicants who have a serious interest in, and enthusiasm for, the study of art history. Entry is highly competitive, but you will not be required to have studied history of art before. However, advanced study in an essay-based subject such as history or English, as well as a language, would be an advantage.

Applicants will be assessed not only on academic achievement, but on evidence of intellectual curiosity, and of critical appreciation of visual culture.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

Standard Offer: AAA. No specific subjects, though essay-based subjects are an advantage.

Contextual Offer: ABB. No specific subjects, though essay-based subjects are an advantage.

GCSE

English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA

Standard Offer: 38 points. A score of 18 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.

Contextual Offer: 34 points. A score of 16 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.

CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME

As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES (International foundation courses)

UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

TUITION FEES

The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2020/21 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2020/21 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2020/21)

// Overseas: £21,260 (2020/21)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

Additional costs

Students are expected to pay the entrance fee to any admission-charging exhibition or museum visited by a class; the tutor will usually negotiate a group discount where this is significantly cheaper than the individual student discount. If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc. on this programme, please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

FUNDING

Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

CONTACT

Dr Cadence Kinsey

Email: undergraduate-admissions@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 3370 1215

Department: History of Art

Brexit

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit

Disclaimer

This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus