HISTORY OF ART, MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY BA /
UCAS CODE: V3F2
2021 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
History of Art, Materials and Technology BA /

This degree provides a unique focus on works of art as physical objects. You will gain comprehensive skills in art history, together with a thorough understanding of artists’ techniques and questions of materiality and technology, both at the time a work of art was made, and subsequently as it ages and deteriorates.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2021

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.

// The department includes well-known specialists on all periods from the medieval onwards. We have particular strengths in the study of contemporary art, material science, and conservation theory and practice.

// The department houses the Material Studies Laboratory, consisting of two spaces, one dedicated to teaching and handling materials and artefacts, with the second focusing on the instrumental analysis of heritage materials.

// 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. You will also take modules in art and science and media and technologies. These modules will introduce the major classes of materials, media and technologies found within public and private collections, and address their application as artists’ materials.

Modules in the second year delve deeper into the technical aspects of art. These may include the History and Theory of Conservation; and Textile Technologies.

In the final year, all students write a research project dissertation of approximately 10,000 words. This may have a technical element, combined with art historical research. The Art/Work/Space module enables you to gain practical work experience outside the department while writing an independent research project reflecting critically on this experience.

You may also take modules from outside History of Art in departments such as Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, History or Philosophy, with the agreement of the department concerned and your programme tutors.

Upon successful completion of 360 credits, you will be awarded a BA (Hons) in History of Art, Materials and Technology.

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

YEAR ONE

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
- Introduction to Media and Technologies
- Introduction to Art and Science

Students must also take a modern foreign language module, 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
YEAR TWO

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 six from a wide range of optional modules, including at least two of the following:

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

and at least two options with a specific focus on materials and technologies, from a list which may include:

- Theory and History of Conservation
- Methods and Materials
- Textile Technologies

(Options vary from year to year. These are the offerings for 2018/19.)

Further optional modules can be selected from within History of Art.

FINAL YEAR

Compulsory module(s)

- Dissertation

Optional modules

You will select 90 credits from a wide range of options including Art/Work/Space and at least one Special Subject. Further options can be selected from within History of Art. It is also possible to select options from fields such as anthropology, archaeology, chemistry, earth sciences, history or philosophy, with the agreement of the department concerned and your programme tutors. 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.

Accessibility

Details of the accessibility of UCL buildings can be obtained from AccessAble. Further information can also be obtained from the UCL Student Support & Wellbeing team.

Your career

You will gain the skills necessary to carry out historical and technical projects, communicate effectively, interpret material analysis, and to pursue academic research or take up responsible employment in a variety of contexts.

This BA provides an excellent basis for any career dealing at first hand with works of art, such as museum and gallery professionals, art dealers, valuers and auctioneers. It is also a good foundation for those wishing to take up further training in any specialism within art conservation.

Any profession dealing with art would benefit from the expertise gained from this degree.

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 and material culture.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

Standard Offer: AAA. No specific subjects, though essay-based subjects are an advantage. At least two A level subjects should be taken from UCL’s list of preferred A level subjects.

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.

Contextual Offer: ABB. No specific subjects, though essay-based subjects are an advantage. At least two A level subjects should be taken from UCL’s list of preferred A level subjects.

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 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 2021/22 academic year. The UK 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 2021/22 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK: £9,250 (2021/22)
// Overseas: £23,300 (2021/22)

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.

A guide including rough estimates for these and other living expenses is included on the UCL Fees and funding pages. If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc., 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

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Department: History of Art

UK withdrawal from the EU

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