

ART HISTORY, BA

Banner Code: LA-BA-AH

B359 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: historyarthistory.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-ah

Art History emphasizes the analysis of visual data in a historical context. Faculty expertise extends to many world regions—the United States, Latin America, Europe, the Mediterranean, South and Southeast Asia, China, and the Islamic world—and over all historical periods. Students apply what they learn through internship opportunities available in the Washington DC area, including the world-famous collections of the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institutions. Students go on to work in areas including museums, arts institutions, galleries, government and managerial positions. They also pursue further studies in fields including art history, library science, design technology, historic preservation, and fashion.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete 33 to 34 credits within the major, with a minimum GPA of 2.00. Up to 6 credits in art history internships may be applied toward ARTH requirements for the major, with permission of the art history undergraduate director. A maximum of 6 credits of ARTH 398 Study Abroad in the History of Art may be applied to the major with permission of department.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

All art history majors are encouraged to pursue internships in art history (ARTH 393 Art History Internships) in their junior or senior year. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in a study abroad program. Students contemplating graduate study in art history should acquire a reading knowledge of French, German, or other appropriate research languages in consultation with an advisor.

Core Courses in the Major

Code	Title	Credits
Select one survey course from the following:		3
ARTH 200	History of Western Art I (Mason Core)	
ARTH 201	History of Western Art II (Mason Core)	
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	
ARTH 394	The Museum (Mason Core)	3

Select five courses from ARTH courses at the 300 level ¹	15
Total Credits	21

¹ In addition to ARTH courses, art history majors may use one 300-level HIST course to fulfill this requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
400-Level ARTH Courses		
Select two from the following:		6
ARTH 400	Historiography and Methods of Research in Art History (Topic Varies)	
ARTH 420	Advanced Studies in Ancient Art	
ARTH 430	Advanced Studies in Medieval or Islamic Art	
ARTH 440	RS: Advanced Studies in Renaissance and Baroque Art	
ARTH 460	RS: Advanced Studies in 20th-Century European Art	
ARTH 471	Advanced Studies in Art of the United States	
ARTH 472	RS: Advanced Studies in 20th-Century Latin American Art	
ARTH 474	Advanced Studies in Contemporary Art	
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	
ARTH 495	RS: Objects and Archives in Art History	
ARTH 499	Advanced Studies in Art History	
Art and Visual Technology Course		
Select one from the following:		3-4
AVT 103	Introduction to the Artist's Studio (Mason Core)	
AVT 104	Two-Dimensional Design and Color (Mason Core)	
AVT 222	Drawing I (Mason Core)	
AVT 232	Painting I (Mason Core)	
AVT 243	Printmaking I (Mason Core)	
AVT 252	Darkroom Photography I (Mason Core)	
AVT 253	Digital Photography I (Mason Core)	
AVT 262	Sculpture I (Mason Core)	
Total Credits		9-10

Elective in the Major

Code	Title	Credits
Select one elective from any art history course		3
Total Credits		3

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated as "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in art history fulfill the university's writing-intensive requirement by successfully completing any 400-level ARTH course.

Additional Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120.

Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor’s degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		
PHIL ¹		3
RELI		

- ¹ Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:
- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
 - PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
 - PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
 - PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
 - PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement) ¹		
ANTH		
CRIM		
ECON		
GOVT		
HIST ²		
LING		
PSYC		
SOCI		

Or choose from the following GGS courses:		
GGS 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	
GGS 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)	
GGS 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies	
GGS 301	Political Geography	
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	
GGS 305	Economic Geography	

GGS 306	Urban Geography
GGS 315	Geography of the United States
GGS 316	Geography of Latin America
GGS 320	Geography of Europe
GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States
GGS 357	Urban Planning
GGS 380	Geography of Virginia

- ¹ The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.
- ² HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Foreign Language

Code	Title	Credits
Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by: ¹		
Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202 (or higher level courses taught in the language)		
Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test		
Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:		
EDSE 115	American Sign Language (ASL) I	
EDSE 116	American Sign Language (ASL) II	
EDSE 219	American Sign Language (ASL) III	

- ¹ Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits (additional to Mason Core Global Understanding requirement) ¹		
ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
ANTH 301	Native North Americans	3
ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of the Andes	3
ANTH 306	Peoples and Cultures of Island Asia (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)	3

ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core)	3	GOVT 333	Government and Politics of Asia	3
ANTH 314	Zombies	3	GOVT 338	Government and Politics of Russia	3
ANTH 316	Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (Mason Core)	3	GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3
ANTH 323	Digging and Dealing in the Dead: Ethics in Archaeology	3	GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3
ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3	GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3
ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core)	3	GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3
ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3	HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 383	Cities of the Global South	3	HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core)	3	HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3	HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3	HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)	3	HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 326	Stalinism	3
ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3	HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3
ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)	3	HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)	3	HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core)	3	HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3
ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)	3	HIST 354	Modern China	3
ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core)	3	HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core)	3	HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 386	The Silk Road (Mason Core)	3	HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	3	HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)	3	HIST 364	Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3	HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)	3	HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3
DANC 118	World Dance (Mason Core)	3	HIST 367	History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America	3
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)	3	HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)	3-6
ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core)	3	HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	3
FREN 451	Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 460	Modern Iran (Mason Core)	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	3	HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)	3
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	3	HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3	JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core)	3
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	3	JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core)	3
GGG 399	Select Topics in GGS	3	KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3
GOVT 328	Global Political Theory	3	MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 332	Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3	RELI 211	Religions of the West (Mason Core)	3
			RELI 212	Religions of Asia (Mason Core)	3
			RELI 240	Death and the Afterlife in World Religions	3
			RELI 272	Islam	3

RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core)	3
RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3
RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core)	3
RELI 337	Mysticism: East and West	3
RELI 365	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3
RELI 374	Islamic Thought (Mason Core)	3
RELI 375	Qur'an and Hadith	3
RELI 379	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3
RELI 387	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights	3
RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)	3
RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	3
RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	3

¹ A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

Mason Core

Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication (ENGH 101)	3
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology and Computing	3
Exploration Requirements		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
Integration Requirements		
	Written Communications (ENGH 302)	3
	Writing-Intensive ¹	3
	Synthesis/Capstone ²	3
Total Credits		40

¹ Most programs include the writing-intensive course designated for the major as part of the major requirements; this course is therefore not counted towards the total required for Mason Core.

² Minimum 3 credits required.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Eligibility

Majors who have completed 75 credits (a minimum of 15 credits in art history, with 6 credits taken at Mason) with an overall GPA of 3.50 and a GPA of 3.80 in art history are eligible to apply to graduate with honors in art history. Eligible students should apply to the undergraduate director by November 15 or April 15 with a statement of application including the names of two references from Mason art history faculty members. Transfer students should also submit transcripts. Not all applicants who meet the minimum requirements are guaranteed acceptance into honors in the major.

Honors Requirements

Students pursuing honors in the major complete ARTH 492 Honors Directed Readings and ARTH 493 Honors Directed Research, linked individualized courses that culminate in a research paper. Students must have completed at least one course in the field (or with the professor) chosen for these honors courses. ARTH 492 Honors Directed Readings should be taken before ARTH 493 Honors Directed Research, but they may be taken concurrently. To graduate with honors in the major, students must earn a minimum GPA of 3.50 in honors courses and a minimum GPA of 3.50 in art history courses applied to the degree. The two honors courses (6 credits) may be applied toward the requirement of 33- to 34-credits in art history, but they cannot replace the 6 required credits in the following:

Code	Title	Credits
ARTH 400	Historiography and Methods of Research in Art History (Topic Varies)	3
ARTH 420	Advanced Studies in Ancient Art	3
ARTH 430	Advanced Studies in Medieval or Islamic Art	3
ARTH 440	RS: Advanced Studies in Renaissance and Baroque Art	3
ARTH 460	RS: Advanced Studies in 20th-Century European Art	3
ARTH 471	Advanced Studies in Art of the United States	3
ARTH 472	RS: Advanced Studies in 20th-Century Latin American Art	3
ARTH 474	Advanced Studies in Contemporary Art	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	3
ARTH 495	RS: Objects and Archives in Art History	3
ARTH 499	Advanced Studies in Art History	3

Accelerated Master's

The accelerated master's program listed below specifies the BA in art history as a feeder degree for its program. It is important to note, however, that many accelerated master's programs are available for any bachelor's degree at Mason, including this one. See the full list of degrees with accelerated programs at George Mason. In addition, as a student with a BA in art history you may be particularly interested in the accelerated MA in art history.

Bachelor's Degree (selected)/ Interdisciplinary Studies, Accelerated MAIS (Religious Studies Concentration)

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates in selected majors (see below) may apply to the accelerated master's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in religious studies. If accepted, and depending on their undergraduate major, students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in their chosen major and a master's in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in religious studies after satisfactory completion of 150 credits, sometimes within five years. See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Selected Majors

- Art history
- Philosophy
- Conflict analysis and resolution
- Global affairs
- History
- Religious studies
- Russian and Eurasian studies
- Sociology
- Anthropology

If the student has not majored in religious studies, it is preferred, though not required, that the student have a minor in religious studies.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MAIS, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://mais.gmu.edu/programs/la-mais-isin/application>).

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate courses as indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application with a minimum grade of B in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all coursework. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from the following:		6
RELI 600	Interdisciplinary Pathways in the Study of Religion	
RELI 630	Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion	
RELI 632	Interreligious Dialogue	
RELI 633	Issues in Religious Ethics	
RELI 636	Religion and the Natural Environment	

RELI 637	Religion and Secularity in State and Society	
Total Credits		6

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

Code	Title	Credits
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
RELI 600	Interdisciplinary Pathways in the Study of Religion	
RELI 630	Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion	
RELI 632	Interreligious Dialogue	
RELI 633	Issues in Religious Ethics	
RELI 636	Religion and the Natural Environment	
RELI 637	Religion and Secularity in State and Society	
Total Credits		6

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.