

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is an Art History major required for acceptance into Berkeley's graduate program?

Most students admitted to the program have majored in Art History. However, we welcome applications from majors in other disciplines, and have admitted students from majors including American Studies, Sociology, Comparative Literature, Medieval Studies, East Asian Studies, Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Studio Art. The most qualified non-Art History majors have taken upper division art history courses in their area of interest and have experience conducting writing and research in Art History.

What graduate degrees are offered by History of Art?

We offer an MA/PhD program. Individuals who are admitted post-MA are still required to complete breadth and language requirements as stated in the Program description. **We do not offer a terminal masters degree.**

Where is the application material?

Necessary information and application materials can be found on our **graduate applications page**.

Where can I find out about the program of study, coursework, faculty research interests, and contact information?

This website contains further information on both the **graduate program** and the **faculty** on other pages.

Can I meet with the faculty, arrange an interview, or visit the campus?

Berkeley's HA faculty maintain their own calendars and have varying policies regarding meeting prospective students. It's advisable to email faculty you wish to meet regarding their availability. While we do not conduct formal interviews, an Admissions Committee member often contacts students being considered for admission for informal interviews.

Students are welcome to visit the Berkeley campus at any time. The History of Art Office is located in 416 Doe Library.

Is a foreign language required prior to entering the program?

No. While a foreign language is not required for admission, it is certainly beneficial, and in fields requiring more than two languages for graduation, applicants are strongly advised to enter the program with significant language preparation. Most successful applicants have a strong reading fluency in at least one of the required languages for their field of interest and a strong start in the second required language.

How much are fees and tuition?

Please see the Registrar's website for the most current fees and tuition: <http://registrar.berkeley.edu/>

Does Berkeley offer financial aid for graduate studies?

The History of Art department offers funding in the form of fellowships and teaching positions. All applicants are considered for University and Department Fellowships at the time of admission. Because funding resources are limited, we encourage applicants to explore extramural funding, such as the Mellon and Javits fellowships. More information is available from the **Graduate Fellowship Office**. International students: Please see the **International Student Information**.

What should my application include?

All applications are due December 10, 2009. Late applications will not be considered. Your application must include the following:

--The Graduate Application for Admission

Available here: <http://grad.berkeley.edu/prospective/index.shtml>

--The History of Art Supplemental Application

Available here: http://arthistory.berkeley.edu/pdf/supp_questionnaire.06-07.pdf

--Three sealed letters of recommendation. We also accept letters of recommendation online.

--Sealed official transcripts from all colleges attended.

--Official scores from the GRE general test.

--Official TOEFL scores, if applicable.

--One twenty page writing sample.

Is the GRE required?

We require the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination. We accept GRE scores up to five years old. Applicants should take the GRE no later than November 2009 or scores will not reach us in time. We require GRE scores from 1) all applicants from the US and abroad whose native language is English; and 2) all applicants who have studied full-time for one year or more in colleges or universities where English is the language of instruction. Please ensure scores are sent to the UC Berkeley History of Art Department. Our address is 416 Doe Library, Mail Code 6020. Our Institution Code is 4833; the GRE Department Code is 2301.

Am I required to take the TOEFL English Proficiency Exam?

Applicants from countries where the official language is not English must submit current TOEFL scores. The only exception is for students who have completed at least one year of full-time academic coursework with grades of B or better at a U.S. University.

The Institution Codes are 4833 and TOEFL Department Code 26.

What are the admissions criteria?

--A clear, well-written statement of purpose demonstrating a sophisticated sense of the field indicative of a strong intellectual direction.

--We look for applicants whose statements indicate a creative intellect.

--Research interests that are compatible with faculty research interests.

--A strong undergraduate academic record. Most admitted students have

GPA of at least 3.5.
--Good language preparation.
--GRE scores: While less important than other factors, successful applicants have high verbal and analytical scores.
--Honest, detailed letters of recommendation from scholars (not employers) familiar with the student, his or her academic work, and interests.
--A writing sample of approximately 20 pages demonstrating original thinking, intelligent critical analysis, good research and strong writing skills. (Post-MA applicants should submit a portion of their Master's thesis for the sample.)

When will I hear if I've been accepted?

Acceptances are decided in mid-March. Both accepted and denied applicants are notified by both email and formal letter.

Is the History of Art graduate degree available part-time, through evening courses, or through distance learning?

No. Our courses and teaching assignments are not offered on nights or weekends. Applicants should be prepared to make a full-time commitment to graduate studies.

How long does it take to complete the program?

Normal time to degree is seven years for students of Western Art. Students of Asian and Ancient art have additional language demands requiring an additional year of study.

I have a question not answered here. Who can I contact?

Please contact Diane Sigman, the Graduate Student Affairs Officer, at (510) 642-5510 or sigmans@berkeley.edu.

[top](#)