Art History

Why study Art History here?

* The School enjoys an international reputation for its teaching and research.
* The modular structure offers the possibility of combining art-historical courses with those in a range of other subjects.
* The School has a friendly face and is responsive to the needs of individual students.
* Excellent town centre location, a short distance from the sea and coastal walks, combines classrooms, administrative and staff offices, and an extensive Visual Resources Collection.
* The School performed well in the UK Research Excellence Framework 2014, in which it was ranked top in Scotland and fourth in the UK for Art and Design (second in the UK for Art History).
* The School is generally recognised as one of the leading departments in the UK with an excellent record for both teaching and research.
* Art-historical study is visual and you will learn to look extensively and analytically at works of art and architecture, both in reproduction and in the original.
* Many modules are complemented by visits to galleries, monuments and other sites.

Areas of special interest include: late mediaeval art and architecture; Italian Renaissance architecture, painting and sculpture; the history of Scottish art, architecture and design; the history of photography; nineteenth-century art; twentieth century modernism.

What will I study?

Our main purpose is to provide a context in which you will gain intellectual breadth and learn to become verbally and visually articulate, rather than necessarily to become professional art historians. You will learn to assess images of all kinds critically and perceptively. We do not teach technical or practical art skills – although previous experience in these, perhaps in the context of a Higher or an A-Level, would certainly provide a useful background.

We focus on the histories of the so-called ‘major arts’ (painting, sculpture and architecture) but also encompass the applied arts, graphic arts and photography. A wide range of factors are considered: the analysis of style, content and meaning; patronage and social significance; the implicit and explicit ideas behind works; broad questions of theory and aesthetics.
Art History element of your Honours degree

First year (1 x 20-credit module required)
The two 1000-level modules available are *The Art of Renaissance Italy and Northern Europe*, which provides a chronological survey covering painting, sculpture and architecture in Italy and Northern Europe 1280 - 1580; and *European Art and Architecture in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, which begins with a study of Baroque art and architecture in Italy and then moves to the Low Countries, Spain, France and Britain.

Second year (2 x 20-credit modules required)
Current modules (2016-2017) are *The History and Theory of European Art, Architecture and Design from the French Revolution to Vienna 1900*, which focuses on the most significant art historical developments of the nineteenth century; and *Art, Culture and Politics from 1900 to Now*, which explores some of the most compelling episodes and issues of twentieth- and twenty-first-century art.

Honours – third and fourth years
(1 x 30-credit core module and at least 3 x other 30-credit modules required over 2 years)
At Honours level students choose modules from a wide range of options, most of which correspond to the research interests of individual members of staff. In the third year all Single Honours students take a core module in the first semester (optional for Joint Honours students). This is designed to further their understanding of major art historical issues. In the fourth year students also prepare a dissertation. The following subjects (among others) are currently taught, although applicants are advised that this list is subject to change in line with the availability and teaching cycles of staff:

- Art of the mediaeval period
- Gothic architecture
- Renaissance painting, sculpture and architecture
- Nineteenth-century art
- The history of photography
- Orientalism and art
- Art Nouveau
- Russian art
- Aspects of Scottish art
- Twentieth-century modernism
- Contemporary art

For more detail on the Honours modules currently available see the Course Catalogue: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coursecatalogue](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coursecatalogue)

Typical class sizes and teaching information

First year: lectures 170 - 200, tutorials 8 - 10
Second year: lectures 140 - 160, tutorials 8 - 10
Honours: lectures 15 - 25, seminars 7 - 12

Teaching consists both of formal lectures, illustrated by visual presentations, and of less formal, small-group seminars or tutorials.

The relatively large number of academic staff ensures that the large lecture classes in the first and second years are offset by small-group tutorials and also provides a wide range of options at Honours. Visits are organised to galleries and monuments in Scotland.

Typical methods of assessment

1000- and 2000-level modules are assessed by an equal mixture of coursework and written examinations. At Honours level some modules are assessed entirely by coursework, while others include written examinations weighted at 30%.

Study abroad

You may apply to the University’s St Andrews Abroad programme. See page 22.

In the academic year 2017-2018 Honours students in the School of Art History may participate in Study Abroad for either one or two semesters at the University of Leiden, the University of Padua and the University of Vienna as part of our Erasmus+ exchanges.

For options available during your intended period of study, as well as information about eligibility, the application and selection process, and costs involved, please see: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad)

Careers

A degree in Art History from St Andrews will provide an excellent foundation for a career in museums and galleries, arts administration, the art trade, or teaching, as well as in a wide range of other fields such as publishing and media, PR and marketing, law, business and finance, retail, catering and hospitality. A number of graduates also go on to take postgraduate courses.

In recent years our graduates have secured employment in a wide range of positions, including the BBC, Sotheby’s, Christie’s, Legal and General, National Museums Scotland, the British Library, Phaidon Press, *Country Life* magazine, Vertigo Films, *The Week* magazine, Tiffany and Co., as well as numerous regional museums and galleries.

See also page 46 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.