Art History

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours Degree)
Art History

MA (Joint Honours Degrees)
Art History and one of:

- Ancient History
- Arabic
- Biblical Studies
- Classical Studies
- Comparative Literature
- English
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- German
- Greek
- Hebrew

W Available With Integrated Year Abroad – see Modern Languages.

Entrance Requirements

Obtaining the following grades will not guarantee you a place as we consider all aspects of every application, including the Personal Statement.

**SQA Highers:** AABB
**GCE A-Levels:** AAB
**International Baccalaureate Points:** 35

For full Faculty Entrance Requirements, see page 53.

For degrees combining more than one subject, the subject with the higher Entrance Requirements determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific Entrance Requirements as outlined on their pages.

For further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international

Do I need previous knowledge of this subject? – No.

Features

- 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.
“The Art History programme starts with the Renaissance period and progresses up until the modern day, training in us the ability to look beyond the pictures and understand the political, historical and social context. The first two years serve as a foundation for the specialisation undertaken in Honours, where the focus is on narrower topics. The support from the staff is great; they are always available to offer guidance and advice.”

Valeria (Chisinau, Moldova)

Indicative programme information

**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 are *The History and Theory of European Art, Architecture and Design from the French Revolution to Vienna 1900*, which focuses on the most important stylistic changes of the period and the role that individual artists played in encouraging new approaches; and *Art, Culture and Politics from 1900 to Now*, which concentrates on expressionism and geometrical abstraction through to post-modernism.

**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)

**Study abroad**
You may apply to the University’s *St Andrews Abroad* programme. See page 46.

In the academic year 2016-2017, students in the School of Art History may apply to spend one or two semesters at the University of Leiden as part of our Erasmus+ exchange.

For options available during your intended period of study, see: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents)

For further 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)

**Typical sizes and teaching information**

- **First Year**: lectures 180 - 200, tutorials 8 - 10
- **Second Year**: lectures 130 - 150, 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%.

**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.


See also page 36 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.