

Doctor of Philosophy

The Institute of Fine Arts is dedicated to graduate teaching and advanced research in the history of art and archeology and in the conservation and technology of works of art. The Institute strives to give its students not only a sound knowledge in the history of art, but also a foundation in research, connoisseurship, and theory as a basis for independent critical judgment and research. The student following the PhD course of study gains a deeper understanding of a subject area, beyond what is normally acquired at the master's level and develops a capacity for independent scholarship.

The PhD Program at the Institute of Fine Arts is a course of study designed for the person who wants to investigate the role of the visual arts in culture through detailed, object-based examination as well as historical and theoretical interpretation. The degree program provides a focused and rigorous experience supported by interaction with the leading scholars of the Institute, and access to New York area museums, curators, conservators, archaeological sites and NYU's global network.

The program is designed for six years of full time funded study. A total of 18 courses (72 points) are required for the PhD degree. Each student registers for three courses per semester for the first five semesters. One course in the fifth semester is dedicated to developing the dissertation proposal. In the sixth semester students register for 12 points devoted preparing for the oral exam and beginning work on the dissertation. Exceptions to full-time study are made only for urgent financial or medical reasons and must have the approval from the Director of Graduate Studies.

Distribution Requirements

Students must take at least one seminar in four fields outside of their area of specialization. The Proseminar may count as one of these seminars. Students are required to take one course in technical studies of works of art. Students may take courses in other relevant disciplines in consultation with their advisor, and subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Distribution requirements are met by choosing courses in the following fields:

- Pre-modern Asia
- Pre-modern Africa and the Middle East
- The Ancient Mediterranean and Middle East, including Egypt
- Pre-modern Europe and the Americas
- Post-1750 Global
- Museum and Curatorial Studies
- Technical Studies of Works of Art
- Architectural History

Course Definitions and Requirements

Proseminar: The purpose of the Proseminar is to introduce students in the doctoral program to advanced research methods in the history of art. Because it is a dedicated course for the entering PhD student, it will serve to consolidate the cohort. It is taken during the first semester and is taught by a rotation of the Institute faculty, with a different faculty member chosen each year. Emphasis is placed on the specific practices of art-historical analysis in relation to visual and textual interpretation. The contents of the seminar vary each year according to the research interests of the chosen instructor. The class is structured around specific problems in the history of art rather than broad conceptual paradigms, with an emphasis on historical interpretation.

Colloquium: A colloquium provides an analysis or overview of the state of the literature on a given art historical topic or problem, with extensive reading, discussion, and presentations. There may be a final paper.

Seminar: A seminar is a focused advanced course that explores a topic in depth. Seminars are often based on an exhibition in the New York area. Students are expected to produce a substantive paper that demonstrates original research.

Lecture: Lecture courses explore topics or historical periods, giving overviews of major issues as well as detailed analysis of specific problems and works of art. Students are responsible for assigned and recommended reading, and may produce short papers and/or take an exam.

Certificate in Curatorial Studies

This doctoral-level program is offered jointly by the Institute of Fine Arts and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, under the supervision of the Joint Committee on Curatorial Studies composed of faculty, curators, and the Directors of both institutions. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for curatorial careers in specialized fields. Students are required to take two courses in Curatorial Studies, which are taught at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, before being offered an internship at the Museum.

Language Requirement

Students are required to pass examinations in two modern languages relevant to their area of specialization, and are expected to learn other languages that will equip them for advanced research in their chosen fields.

Qualifying Paper

The Qualifying Paper may be developed from seminar work or might be on a topic devised in consultation with the student's advisor. Normally, the student will be advised to produce a detailed study on a subject that leads towards the dissertation. It should be no longer than 10,000 words (excluding bibliography and footnotes).

Orals

Students are examined on a major field consisting of two contiguous areas and a third component that can be in a related field providing skills for their dissertation.

Teaching

Students are encouraged to teach after passing the second year review. Opportunities for teaching at NYU and at other New York area colleges and universities will be coordinated by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Funding

PhD students are funded for up to six years, depending on the transfer of previous graduate work. The program is normally divided into three years of course work, exams, and submission of a dissertation proposal and three years for dissertation research and writing. Variations to this pattern might occur according to opportunities for students to develop skills or experience in their specialist fields, as approved by the student's advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies. Students are encouraged to compete for outside fellowships. The award of such fellowships might extend the number of years taken to complete the program. IFA funding will be suspended during the period of outside fellowship support.

Students Entering with a Master's Degree

To receive the PhD degree, all Institute requirements must have been fulfilled, including a Master's thesis (of copy of which is submitted with the application), and a distribution of courses within areas of study that correspond to those outlined in Distribution Requirements. No credits will be automatically transferred; credit will be awarded based upon evaluation by the Institute Faculty at the First Year Course Review. In addition, at least one written comprehension exam in a foreign language must have been passed. The student entering with a MA degree must pass an exam in a second language, if not yet attained, by the end of his/her first year of study.

Entering students who have been awarded an MA at the IFA will begin as third year PhD students. They are expected to have a distribution of courses that meet the Course Distribution for the PhD and are required to pass a written comprehension exam in a second language.

Typical Full Time Ph.D. Schedule

- Year One: Proseminar
 5 additional courses
 Pass first language exam
 One seminar paper is designated for the first year review. It must receive a grade of A.
 First year review
- Year Two: 6 courses
 Pass second language exam
 Pass qualifying paper—read by 3 faculty members
 Complete course distribution requirements
 Second year review
 Award of MA to students meeting all requirements
 Choose dissertation supervisor
- Year Three: 1 course of directed study
 2 additional courses
 Write dissertation proposal
 Take orals by the end of spring semester
 Begin work on the dissertation
- Year Four: Dissertation
 Fourth year review
- Year Five: Dissertation
 Fifth year review
- Year Six: Dissertation

Guidelines For the Dissertation Proposal

Proposals consist of:

- 1) A narrative exposition of the dissertation subject and project, detailing the state of current scholarship as well as your own research aims. The proposal should demonstrate the viability of the project and should clearly set forth the research questions to be addressed with direct reference to sources and contexts.
- 2) A chapter outline of no more than one page.
- 3) A bibliography of principal references divided as appropriate into separate archival and primary source sections.
- 4) Up to five (5) images.
- 5) The narrative exposition must not exceed 1000 words and the exact word count must be printed on the proposal's first page.
- 6) Arguments must be properly footnoted.
- 7) Footnotes and bibliography should consistently follow an established style guide.
- 8) Note that proposals which do not adhere to these formal requirements will not be read.

Although your academic advisor assumes primary authority for the content of your proposal, the full faculty must approve it. When your advisor has indicated approval of your proposal by signing the first page, please contact the Academic Office for distribution instructions. Distribution should precede a full faculty meeting by two weeks.

Dissertation Length

The final dissertation contains no more than 250 pages of text. Permission to exceed this limit can be granted only through petition to the faculty by way of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Final Oral Defense and Submission of the Dissertation

Each doctoral candidate submits to a final oral defense of the dissertation before a committee of five scholars, at least three of whom are members of the GSAS faculty.

Oral defenses are scheduled through the Academic Office. A copy of the defended dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate School of Arts and Science. GSAS guidelines and submission deadlines are detailed at: <http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.life.dissertation.html>

Curatorial Studies

This doctoral-level program is offered jointly by the Institute of Fine Arts and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, under the supervision of the Joint Committee on Curatorial Studies, which is composed of faculty, curators, and the Directors of both institutions. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for curatorial careers in specialized fields. Problems of museum education and general administration are raised but not emphasized. The course of study normally requires three and one-half to four years, including completion of the requirements for the master's degree in the History of Art and Archaeology. The Certificate in Curatorial Studies is awarded at the completion of all requirements.

a. PhD Candidacy.

Whether or not the student intends to pursue completion of the doctorate as well as the Curatorial Studies Certificate, he or she must be accepted into the PhD program. See the PhD admissions and degree requirements for a description of the necessary qualifications.

b. Curatorial Studies: Collections and Curating (FINH-GA 2037-001)

This colloquium, focusing on the role and responsibilities of curators in art museums and emphasizing connoisseurship and research methods, is required for admission to the program; it is also open to students who do not intend to pursue the full Curatorial Studies Certificate. The course meets in the spring term in the galleries, storerooms, and conservation laboratories of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and may be taken at any time before applying for the curatorial studies interview (see section e. below).

c. Conservation Course. At least one course in the field of conservation and technology of works of art is required. Students may choose from the courses designated for art historians at the Conservation Center.

d. MA Degree in Art History. All requirements for the Institute's master's degree must be completed as the foundation of the Curatorial Studies program.

e. Curatorial Studies Interview. Students interested in pursuing the Curatorial Studies Certificate must be accepted into the program by the Joint Committee on Curatorial Studies. Interviews are scheduled at the beginning of each academic year. Students are asked to discuss their long-term career goals, areas of special interest, and their preparation to date, including academic work and a demonstrated interest in curatorial issues. Normally the interview is held after the requirements listed above have been met and before taking Curatorial Studies: Exhibition Practice.

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f. Curatorial Studies: Exhibition Practice (FINH-GA 2537-001) This colloquium, conducted by a full-time curator from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, with additional lectures by conservators and visiting outside specialists, as appropriate, introduces students to curatorial responsibilities through hands-on involvement with original works of art in the context of an actual exhibition or cataloguing project at the museum. The topic and the supervising curator vary from year to year. The course meets in the fall, and admission is determined by interview.

g. Six Courses beyond the nine required for the master's degree are chosen in relation to each student's area of specialization and may include either course in Curatorial Studies.

h. Curatorial Studies Internship (FINH-GA 3037-001)

This course is normally a nine-month internship, designed to provide maximum practical experience in each student's area of specialization. Completion of Curatorial Studies: Collections and Curating and of Curatorial Studies: Exhibition Practice is a prerequisite, and usually the internship is elected after completion of all course work. Students should apply to the Director of the program to make internship arrangements at least six months in advance of the desired starting date. The internship may be in a department at The Metropolitan Museum of Art or at another museum as appropriate to the student's interests. A substantive written project is required.

Recommendations: Students should seek out courses in art history that consider objects in the original and should take full advantage of the opportunity to study and work with Institute faculty who are active in museum projects. Relevant work experience is encouraged. Students are urged to take appropriate courses in conservation beyond the required minimum.

Financial assistance: For the internship, fellowships are available on a competitive basis. Other aid may be awarded on the same basis as for students in other programs at a similar point in their studies.

Questions about offerings in Curatorial Studies should be directed to the Academic Office.