UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy

Scoil Stair na hEalaíne agus an Pholasaí Chultúrtha UCD

MA ART HISTORY, COLLECTIONS + CURATING

WWW.UCD.IE/ARTHISTORY/STUDY

Overview

This course provides advanced postgraduate academic training in the history of art, with a special focus on collections and curatorial practice. It offers the opportunity to hone skills in the interpretation, critique, and analysis of works of art and architecture, developing the knowledge and capacity to pursue future careers in academia, research, writing, and curatorship.

Why this programme?

This programme will primarily appeal to applicants with an undergraduate experience of art history, or a cognate discipline. Our aim is to equip students with the knowledge and skill to develop their own individual enthusiasms as art historians and to extend, question, and reflect upon the critical approaches which shape the subject, with a particular emphasis on curating, museums and collections. Students have access to UCD's excellent library as well as research libraries across Dublin, with the city's world-class museums, galleries, and arts venues on the doorstep. Many of our graduates enjoy careers as curators, academics, educators, and administrators.

CONTACT

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UCD DUBLIN

TESTIMONIALS

"This MA gave me a comprehensive insight into the role of a curator and the work involved... This programme has been instrumental in shaping my career as a curator and deepening my passion for the arts."

Meabh Delaney, Assistant Exhibitions Curator, Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin (Class of 2020)

"Completing the MA was crucial to setting me up for working in the arts in Ireland and abroad... The lectures, the resources, the professional contacts and the support provided during and after the course were all of the highest quality."

AnneMarie Saliba, Assistant Collections Curator, Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin (Class of 2021)

"... Working as an artist, curator and art educator, my approach to each strand of my practice has been greatly enriched through the broad learning opportunities afforded through the core modules and thesis, expertly supported by the teaching staff. This MA provides a comprehensive programme for any aspiring professional in the Visual Arts sector."

Daniel Nelis, Visual Artist and Curator (Class of 2022)

"This course allowed me to develop excellent research, writing, analytical, and presentation skills... My current role as a Curatorial Fellow at the National Gallery of Ireland has greatly benefited from the knowledge I acquired and the skills I developed while completing the MA."

Katie Buckley, Curatorial Fellow, Prints and Drawings, National Gallery of Ireland 2024-25 (Class of 2023)

What students can expect

TAUGHT MODULES

Students undertake six taught modules that provide a foundation in advanced research skills, a wide-ranging introduction to curatorial practices and theories, and insights into the history of collecting.

- *Approaches to Art History*
- *Curating and Collections*
- *Institutional and Private Collecting in the Netherlands in the Early Modern Period*
- *Collecting on the Grand Tour: the Lure of the Antique*
- *Disruption and Disobedience*
- *Collection Management*

FIELD TRIP

A field trip to a major European city, focusing on national institutions and collections (Spring trimester).

WORK EXPERIENCE

The *Collection Management* module incorporates a work experience component.

DISSERTATION

The minor dissertation provides scope for research into other areas of study, including topics that have a specific relevance to students' individual academic interests.

How will I learn?

- Lectures/seminars
- Independent research
- Site visits/study trips
- Gallery and museum visits
- Oral presentations
- Practice-based tasks
- Visiting artist, curator & professional talks

Duration

The course offers full-time (one year) or part-time (two years) options.
Teaching takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays on campus at UCD and at various sites throughout the city, allowing for immersion in Dublin's vibrant cultural scene.

MA DIRECTOR

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