

The Johns Hopkins University
Department of the History of Art

Graduate Program Handbook

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Department Overview

Supporting a proud tradition of excellence in humanities scholarship and teaching, Johns Hopkins University offers students a diverse range of resources and opportunities for the study of art history. Courses are taught by an international faculty of respected research scholars, covering a broad temporal scope of the art and architecture of Europe, the Islamic world, Asia, the Americas, and the trans-Atlantic world. Participating in small classes with opportunities for close study of art in local and regional collections, students integrate their direct experience of works of art with the knowledge and critical perspective gained through historical research, discussion, and debate.

Programs leading to the BA, BA/MA, and PhD degrees emphasize the value of investigating works of art in their historical, intellectual, and social contexts, and enable students to deepen their understanding of cultural history in conjunction with courses in other departments and programs.

Baltimore–Washington Collections and Resources

Located in a metropolitan region of unsurpassed museum collections and research institutions, Johns Hopkins is well situated for the study of art history. The Baltimore Museum of Art, with its rich holdings in modern and contemporary art, African Art, and the history of prints (just to name a few of its strengths), is directly adjacent to the Homewood campus. Downtown, and only a short shuttle ride away, is the renowned Walters Art Museum, which houses art from Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Islamic world from the pre-historic era to the nineteenth century.

Easily accessible from Baltimore are the museums and galleries of Washington D.C., a short train ride to the south. The National Gallery of Art houses a world-class collection of European and American painting, sculpture, photography, and graphic arts from the Renaissance to the present day. Modern and contemporary art is presented in the permanent collections and exhibitions of the Hirshhorn Museum, Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM), and the Phillips Collection. The collections at the National Museum for Women in the Arts, the Library of Congress, and the Textile Museum (at George Washington University) add to the richness of materials available for study. Important collections of Byzantine art and the art of the ancient Americas are maintained at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library, and collections of Islamic, Asian, Ancient Near Eastern, and African art are housed in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art and National Museum of African Art.

Meanwhile, the Sheridan Libraries of Johns Hopkins maintains its own extensive art library on the Homewood Campus, alongside a Special Collections department which includes a strong collection of illustrated books, facsimiles, and artists' publications, and illustrated manuscripts, photography, and object collections housed at the Homewood Museums. The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum, which neighbors our department in Gilman Hall, houses objects from the ancient Mediterranean, Near East, and Americas, as well as some medieval Islamic works.

Fields of Study

The department's expansive geographical range, which includes the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Islamic world and the Near East, is organized into four temporal fields as follows.

Ancient

The department affords students of ancient art the opportunity to work with a faculty that includes experts in Greek, Roman, Mediterranean, and Ancient Near Eastern art and architecture. Students also benefit from close and long-standing relationships with the Departments of Classics and Near Eastern Studies, which provide training in the languages, literatures, and histories of the ancient world. Facilities of special relevance to students of ancient art include the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum, located on campus inside Gilman Hall, and the extraordinary holdings of the Walters Art Museum.

Medieval

Since its founding in 1947, the department has given special emphasis to the study of medieval art, and that tradition continues with expertise in illuminated manuscripts, Early Medieval, Islamic, Italian, German, and Mediterranean art and architecture to the program. Students also avail themselves of local expertise through the departments of History, English, and Modern Languages and Literatures, and frequently consult with curators at the Walters Art Museum, several of whom participate as adjunct faculty. The extraordinary collections at the Walters Art Museum and at Dumbarton Oaks are especially valuable for students interested in manuscript illumination and the portable object.

Early Modern and Renaissance

Another signature strength of the Department of the History of Art is its program in Renaissance and Early Modern Europe, where a broad faculty expertise encompasses the art and culture of Italy, the Spanish Empire, the Islamic world, and Northern Europe from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Graduate students in these areas participate in the programs of the Charles Singleton Center for the Study of Pre-Modern Europe, which sponsors collaborative research abroad and brings a steady stream of world-class lecturers to Baltimore. Students also benefit from the excellent collections of Islamic art, Italian and Northern Renaissance art, and the art of the Spanish Empire at the Walters Art Museum, the National Museum of Asian Art, the National Gallery, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Modern

A diverse and challenging curriculum in modern art and criticism is offered by a research faculty of international prominence, supplemented by occasional visiting scholars and museum curators. Asian, European, Middle Eastern, and North American art from the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries constitute the department's distinctive strengths. Students avail themselves of courses on aesthetics, criticism, modernism, gender, and area studies offered in other departments and with faculty affiliated with programs such as Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Africana Studies, Latin American Studies, and Islamic Studies. Distinctive collections at the Baltimore Museum of Art and at multiple institutions in Washington, D.C. provide unparalleled resources for students of modern art at all levels.

Admission to the PhD Program

Online Application

Applications to the PhD program are taken once a year for matriculation in the fall semester of the following academic year (the annual application deadline is December 15). Students may apply with

either a BA or MA degree already in hand, or when they are in the final year of progress toward one of those degrees. Acceptance into the program requires the approval of the instructors in the areas chosen by the student as major and minor fields; in the case of transfer students, acceptance may be provisional.

All application materials and supporting documents should be uploaded electronically through the online system; these include:

- Online application
- Application fee
 - Note that the graduate school provides application fee waivers for students who have participated in certain programs or who demonstrate financial need; please follow the instructions on the [graduate application website](#) to request a waiver. Should you have financial need but are unsuccessful, please contact the department: arthist@jhu.edu.
- Statement of purpose
 - Note that this is distinct from the personal statement, which is an optional part of the graduate application
- Sample of work
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts (applications will be ready for review with unofficial transcripts, but official transcripts will be required if an offer of admission is made)
 - Note that official translations of transcripts are not required at the application stage.
- Official TOEFL or IELTS score (for applicants whose primary language is not English)

Note that we do not require GRE scores for admission into the PhD program. Any scores which are inadvertently submitted will not be passed on to the admissions committee.

To foster close student-faculty relationships and provide for the greatest flexibility in developing each graduate student's individual curriculum, the department strictly limits the number of students it admits each year.

Note: The department does not offer a terminal MA program except for those students admitted into the BA/MA program (see below).

Admissions Criteria

Admissions decisions are based on four principal factors:

1. Evidence of preparedness for conducting research: As stated above, either a BA degree (or its equivalent) or an MA degree is required for admission to the PhD program. Because graduate training takes place primarily in seminars, students should enter with an adequate knowledge of the history of art in their area of interest. Students are encouraged to audit upper-level undergraduate art history courses in areas where they require further preparation. Applicants trained in history, philosophy, anthropology, languages, and related subjects, as well as undergraduate art history majors, are encouraged to apply. Materials bearing on a student's level of preparation include transcripts of college courses, letters of recommendation, work experience, and travel.
2. The writing sample: A research paper, preferably on an art-historical subject, provides what is perhaps the most important criterion in the application process. A graded paper in an undergraduate

course, a senior thesis, a post-graduate writing project, or any other sample that demonstrates an ability to conduct research, formulate arguments, and write clearly is acceptable. (Applicants whose writing sample is too large to upload with the online application due to the inclusion of images may send a PDF of the writing sample to arthist@jhu.edu.)

3. Statement of purpose: Hopkins graduate students work closely with individual members of the faculty; therefore, applicants need to describe clearly the department's suitability to their research interests. Applicants are required to indicate at least two History of Art faculty members with whom they are interested in working.
4. Foreign languages: Students will be expected to work in foreign languages from the beginning of the first seminar taken in the program. Therefore, arriving with competency in one or more foreign languages is a factor in admissions. Students must pass reading competency examinations in two languages, as determined by their field of study (see below for details). Although no examinations are required beyond these two, students are expected to master any additional languages needed for specialized research in their particular areas, as their interests develop, and as recommended by their advisers. Students whose primary language is not English must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores with their applications.

Requirements for the MA Degree

Although obtaining a terminal MA is not a recognized objective of the Johns Hopkins PhD program in the History of Art, those entering the program with a B.A. degree will qualify for the degree upon completion of two semesters of coursework (six graduate-level courses, plus individual research for a total of 18 credits [9 per semester]) and completion of the department's language requirements. In addition, MA students should register for the DGS's section of AS.010.801 (Fall) and AS.010.802 (Spring) to reflect the time spent pursuing independent research, ensuring that their total credits each semester come to a minimum of 9, inclusive of both courses and independent research. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the basic art-historical writings in areas related to their region and period of study and to become well acquainted with the major collections in the Baltimore-Washington area. Students who wish to receive the MA degree along the way to the completion of their doctoral requirements must submit a written request to the department administrator so they can be added to the graduation list.

Requirements for the PhD Degree

Overview

The program is designed to give students working toward the PhD degree an encompassing knowledge of the history of art and a deep understanding of the theories and methodologies pertaining to art historical research. The program emphasizes collaborative working relationships among students and faculty in seminars.

The program also fosters a close familiarity with the outstanding art in the Baltimore-Washington area relevant to the student's area of study. In addition to the rich holdings of the Sheridan Libraries of Johns Hopkins University (which include collections of rare books at the Garrett Library, Special Collections at

the Milton S. Eisenhower Library, and the George Peabody Library) graduate students have access to world-renowned collections and research facilities in Washington D.C.

Mentorship

During the first year of coursework, each graduate student is advised by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in History of Art. After the first year, each student benefits from supervision by a primary adviser in their field of study, while continuing to work closely with other department faculty.

Johns Hopkins has a commitment to mentorship of PhD students and as such has developed a school-wide policy, with specific guidelines. Should graduate students in History of Art have questions or concerns about the mentoring they are receiving, they should speak with the Director of Graduate Studies or the Chair of the Department.

Coursework

A minimum credit load of 9 credits per semester is required for graduate students to maintain full-time status, including during the summer and after coursework has been completed (after second year). If the intended coursework does not reach 9 credits or if the student is beyond formal coursework, students should enroll in their adviser's section of AS.010.801 (Fall) and AS.010.802 (Spring) to accurately reflect their time spent pursuing independent research (in the first year, this should be the current DGS's section of those courses). When TAing, students should sign up for 3 credits of AS.010.815, "History of Art Teaching Assistant," with the DGS. During the summer, students should register for their advisor's section of AS.010.807, with first year students registering for the DGS's section.

In discussion with major and minor field advisers, PhD students develop areas of concentration and courses of study to suit their needs and interests. Students are encouraged to explore course offerings in other departments, in consultation with their principal adviser or the DGS. Students may, at their principal adviser's discretion, develop a minor field with an adviser from a different JHU department.

All students entering the PhD program, regardless of the degree they hold, must complete four full semesters of coursework and pass the required language exams before being approved to take their qualifying exams. In the first year, students normally take three courses at the graduate level per semester; in the second year, when students generally assume Teaching Assistant assignments (see below for more information on TA-ships), the student will normally take two courses at the graduate level per semester. A balance of seminars within a student's major and minor fields (and taken with the student's major and minor advisers) along with seminars that lie outside of one's comfort zone is recommended and should be discussed with the DGS in the first year and advisers thereafter. As part of the coursework requirement, students must satisfactorily complete and submit all assigned papers and projects associated with the courses they have taken before being approved to take their qualifying exams.

Department faculty members each set their own policy and deadlines regarding the submission of written work in the seminars they teach; however, as a rule, papers and other assigned projects are due no later than the end of the finals period as announced on the JHU academic calendar. Students may not have more than one (1) incomplete/in progress grade per academic year. Incompletes must be resolved by the first week of August following the academic year in which they occurred. Failure to resolve incompletes constitutes grounds for probation.

After the required coursework is completed, it is often desirable for students to continue to audit courses related to their area of concentration, especially if they remain resident in Baltimore after completing their qualifying examinations.

Course Grades and Evaluation of Performance

Students are expected to maintain an A- average in the program. The letter grades indicate very strong work (A), satisfactory work at the graduate level (A-), work that requires action and improvement (B+), or work below graduate level (B/B-). Students who receive a seminar grade below A- are encouraged to discuss ways to improve with the professor in the seminar, with their adviser, and/or with the DGS. Students whose particular grade performance in a semester gives them a B average or below will be notified in writing as part of the annual evaluation process, which involves a self-assessment by the student, an evaluation by the principal adviser, and consultations among the faculty (see below for more information). Continued poor performance after receiving unsatisfactory marks on the annual evaluation will result in a probation period (see below for departmental and school probation policies).

Care should be taken when registering, as university regulations prohibit the awarding of a grade for a course taken as an audit. Students who need to receive a grade in a course should register to take the course for credit and a grade (i.e. not Pass/Fail). Similarly, those who do not require a grade, or who do not wish to complete all assignments for a given course but wish to attend course meetings on an informational basis, should register as an auditor for that course. Once the add/drop period has passed for a semester, the type of registration cannot be retroactively changed.

Foreign Language Exams

All students entering the PhD program will be required to pass two reading competency examinations, as determined by field of study, before the conclusion of the second year of coursework. Although no examinations are required in any additional languages, students in the program often require mastery of additional research languages, depending on field and research interests.

Europe and North America (Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern): German and French. Italian or Spanish may be substituted for French when a student's area of study suggests it.

Early Modern Americas: In cases in which a particular research focus requires it, students may (in consultation with adviser) substitute the standard early modern language requirements with one modern European language (e.g. Spanish or Portuguese) and one indigenous language of the Americas (e.g. Nahuatl, Quechua, Aymara, etc.).

Ancient: German and French or Italian. Students in ancient fields are also expected to develop competency in one or more ancient languages relevant to their specific subfield (e.g. Sumerian, Akkadian, Biblical Hebrew, Egyptian, Greek, and/or Latin).

Islamic: One Middle Eastern language (normally Arabic, Persian, or Ottoman Turkish) plus one additional, distinct, language relevant to region or historiography (e.g. another Middle Eastern language, French, German, Italian, Spanish).

Modern South Asia: One modern South Asian language (e.g. Hindi/Urdu, Tamil, Bengali, Nepali, Sinhala) plus one additional language relevant to region or historiography (e.g. French, German, Marathi, Gujarati, Malayalam).

Modern East Asia: Modern Chinese, plus one additional language relevant to region or historiography (usually chosen from Modern Japanese, Modern Korean, French).

Modern Southeast Asia: One Southeast Asian language (e.g. Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Filipino), plus one additional language relevant to region or historiography (e.g. additional Southeast Asian language, Dutch, French, Spanish, Modern Chinese).

A petition must be submitted and approved by the faculty for any other language substitution to be made.

All departmental language exams consist of two parts, that is, two passages, each requiring translation: the first passage is to be translated with the aid of a dictionary, the second one without a dictionary. Both selected passages are representative of modern scholarship by art historians writing in that particular language or, in the case of an archival or historical language (e.g. Ottoman Turkish), representative of the kinds of sources that students may encounter in their research. The first passage (translation with dictionary) tests the student's ability to tackle intermediate-advanced level writing, and come away with a largely accurate, working translation. The second passage (translation without dictionary) tests the student's ability to come away with a reasonably good sense of the passage. Sample exams are available for review in the HoA Graduate Shared OneDrive Folder.

Language exams are offered once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester, and students are given two hours to complete the exam (inclusive of both parts). The exams are graded as pass/fail. If a student passes only one part of the exam, they will be required to re-take only the part which they did not pass. Students have three (3) opportunities to pass an exam in a given language. Failure to pass the language requirements constitutes grounds for probation.

Qualifying Exams

In consultation with their advisers, students who have completed their coursework, have no outstanding incompletes, and have passed the required language exams prepare for qualifying exams. All qualifying exams, regardless of the fields in which they are taken, are comprised of two written exams (one major field and one minor field), followed by an oral defense before the advisers and other department faculty. Exams should take place during the student's third year; ideally late in the fall semester or early in the spring semester. In some instances (e.g. the need for additional specialized language training beyond the modern language requirement or additional coursework) the exams may be taken later. In all cases, the exams must be scheduled in consultation with the primary adviser. In order to prepare for the exams, students may opt to be exempt from TA obligations; students should consult with their advisers to determine the best use of their exemptions. (See Teaching Assistantships, below.)

Toward the end of the second year, after consulting with the relevant faculty advisors, students must submit a form to the department administrator to declare a major and a minor field for their qualifying exams, naming the two History of Art faculty members who will serve as an exam committee and supervise the respective fields (i.e., the primary adviser and one additional department faculty member). If appropriate and agreed upon by the primary adviser, an additional committee member may be chosen from either inside or outside the department to serve as a third reader (there is no third field exam). No later than three months prior to the target exam date, the student needs to contact the department administrator to coordinate scheduling.

Students should work with the exam committee members as they prepare for their major and minor fields and should establish early on the responsibilities of each committee member in preparing the exam questions. When the committee comprises only two History of Art faculty members, the primary adviser typically prepares the major exam and the second faculty member prepares the minor exam. In cases when the committee includes a third member, the responsibilities of that third committee member should be clearly delineated on the form. The third member might participate in setting exam questions within the major or minor fields or might simply commit to attending the oral examination.

The student will be given eight hours to complete the major exam, four hours to complete the minor exam, and two hours for the oral defense. In the event a student does not pass one or more portions of the exam, the necessary portions can be retaken, at faculty discretion. Failure of the entire exam may be grounds for probation. Failure in the second attempt will constitute grounds for dismissal from the program. In exceptional cases, at the discretion of the faculty, failure in the first attempt may also be grounds for dismissal.

Dissertation Proposal

After the successful completion of qualifying exams, it is expected that students will be ready to begin work towards the dissertation by formulating a proposal. Completed proposals may be submitted at any time in the calendar year and ideally within three months of the successful completion of the qualifying exams. Significant delays in dissertation proposal submission may result in probation. Students planning to apply for external (pre-doctoral or dissertation research) grants, or who wish to be considered for departmental nomination for an external fellowship award, must have an approved proposal on file with the department no later than October 1 of that year.

The dissertation proposal should be approximately 6-8 pages in length (10 pages maximum), with a list of works cited and a very selective sample of figures appended. Simple parenthetical references to the “works cited” list are preferable to footnotes. Each proposal must contain a relatively straightforward description of the principal object of study and the defining questions the work seeks to answer, as well as a working title that captures the subject and the theme. The body of the proposal often also includes discussion of the current state of research, the intended contribution of the work to the field, and a preview of the research agenda and its challenges.

Dissertation proposals will be read, and commented upon, by two faculty members, one of whom is assumed to be the student's principal adviser. Revision may be requested. Once the proposal is approved by the department, the student is admitted to candidacy and commences work on the dissertation. Dissertation proposals will be kept on file in the department office, and each student will also be asked to prepare an abstract of 1-2 pages to be circulated among the faculty at large. Faculty will informally discuss newly approved proposals as a part of their business at regular meetings.

Dissertation Defense / Graduate Board Oral Exam

When the dissertation is complete, the student must successfully defend the dissertation before a Graduate Board Orals committee consisting of three internal (departmental) readers and two external readers. The dissertation defense should be scheduled in consultation with the student's principal adviser (First Reader), the Second Reader, the Department Chair, and the department administrator. Before scheduling the defense, the dissertation must be accepted and approved as complete and finished by the first and second readers. Although consultation between candidates and their faculty advisers regarding

possible exam committee members is appropriate, selection of the committee is the department's responsibility and is not the candidate's responsibility or prerogative.

The defense should be planned at least eight weeks in advance of the proposed defense date. Students should communicate with the department administrator to ensure they understand the deadlines, forms, and procedures involved in scheduling the defense and completing all requirements for graduation (for further information visit the Graduate Board website:<https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/graduate-board/graduate-board-oral-exams/>).

In preparation for scheduling a defense, students should send the department administrator their dissertation title and abstract. At least three weeks in advance of the defense, the student is responsible for providing the departmental administrator with an electronic copy of the dissertation along with hard copies as requested by the committee (up to seven).

Successful defense of the dissertation and electronic submission of the work, complete in all its components, marks the fulfillment of the program's degree requirements. Note that there is a fee for submission of the dissertation to the library; this will be paid directly by the department.

Policy on Probation and Termination

Students who do not make satisfactory academic progress or otherwise do not meet the requirements of the program may be put on academic and/or research probation. Failure to meet the terms of probation will result in the dismissal of that student from the program. The latest policy documents on probation can be found online: <https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/>.

Teaching Assistantships

In addition to their own studies and research, students in the PhD program gain valuable academic experience and pedagogical training by serving as Teaching Assistants. Because they do so under a variety of faculty mentors, students witness different styles of teaching and methods of course organization across a range of subject areas and historical periods. Benefits include: close collaboration with and mentoring from professors in the department; building confidence in leading discussions and teaching classes independently; preparing for the experience of designing and teaching one's own course; learning the principles, practicalities, and rigors of evaluating and grading student work; gaining experience in mentoring and tutoring undergrads; building greater familiarity with subjects within one's own area of expertise and gaining a broader exposure to unfamiliar subject areas. Instructors supervising TAs commit to mentoring their TAs in all these areas, providing constructive feedback and evaluation of their performance. A list of general expectations and best practices is circulated to all TAs and instructors each semester.

In light of their academic and professional benefits, the department treats Teaching Assistantships as a uniform degree requirement for all its PhD candidates; but it also represents paid work, and is treated as such. In accordance with the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) of 2024 (see below under "Financial Support"), a work expectation of no more than 20 hours/week is part of the contractual obligation of each graduate student in KSAS during all ten semesters of their guaranteed funding. This means that all teaching assistantships in the department are compensated within the baseline fellowship stipend current for that year. Additional pay for additional work beyond the 20 hours is theoretically possible, but is not a customary practice in the department. As stipulated in the CBA, no teaching,

teaching assistantship, or grading work is ever “unfunded,” even if it is for academic credit and serves a largely educative purpose.

Every student in the PhD program is therefore considered eligible for assignment as either a Teaching Assistant (TA) – or, when circumstances permit, a Research Assistant (RA) – at the discretion of the department during six of the ten semesters in which they are receiving guaranteed KSAS fellowship funding. During the remaining four they are granted *exemptions* from this obligation, with no diminution of the fellowship funding. See below for more on exemptions.

TA assignments are distributed on the basis of undergraduate enrollments and faculty-instructor needs for a given course. Graduate student are asked to state their preferences for the TA assignments available in the coming semester, and the department makes every effort to place each student in one of their preferred courses. This is to ensure that students serve as TAs across a variety of courses in terms of course levels, enrollments, faculty mentors, and subject matters.

New TAs will be required to attend the mandatory orientation put on by the university and the Center for Teaching Excellence and Innovation (CTEI). This is usually hosted the week before classes begin in the fall semester, and an announcement will be sent via email. The CTEI offers a Teaching Academy throughout the year and students are encouraged to take advantage of the courses, institutes, and workshops they offer: <https://ctei.jhu.edu/teaching-academy/>.

Semesters Exempt from TA Assignment

Each student in the program will be exempted from the obligation to serve as a Teaching Assistant during the entire first year of coursework, and then for two additional semesters, to be taken some time after the second year in residence. Semesters exempt from TA responsibilities should be timed to facilitate preparation for the qualifying exams, language study or other targeted training, research, and/or the writing of the dissertation. Thus, students usually take one semester of exemption during their third year (when preparing for exams), and another in the second semester of the fourth year (to facilitate beginning dissertation research; see "Early Dissertation Research Funding" below). The timing of the post-coursework exemptions must be planned in consultation with the primary faculty adviser; formal approval must be sent to the DGS before TA allocations are made for the exempt semester.

Positions such as curatorial internships and teaching fellowships may be held concurrently with residential funding with approval of the primary adviser. Also note that exempt semesters are funded as residential semesters, so unless prior arrangements are made with the DGS, students are expected to remain in residence in Baltimore, in order to take advantage of local research facilities, participate in the community at departmental and interdisciplinary talks, and interact with colleagues and advisers. Reasonable exceptions will be made for research travel connected to the dissertation, intensive language study, and other needs associated with the research and writing of the dissertation. Students should consult with their adviser and notify the DGS in advance of any travel plans during residential semesters.

Annual Evaluations

Every spring, as part of the fellowship renewal process, the department conducts graduate student evaluations to assess the accomplishments and progress of each individual in the program. This is a multi-step process that begins with the student’s written self-evaluation, continues with the adviser's

evaluation, and concludes with one-on-one meetings between student and adviser. Faculty advisers also receive input from colleagues in the department.

For this process the student first completes “Part A: Graduate Student Self-Assessment.” This self-assessment is then made available to the entire tenure-track faculty (though in practice it is the principal adviser who reads it most carefully). Once faculty have reviewed the self-assessments and confer, advisers complete “Part B: Adviser’s Assessment,” and the student is asked to schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss it. After that, “Part C: In-Person Meeting” is completed and the form receives signatures from both student and adviser.

If there are concerns about academic progress, the student in question is notified and a meeting is arranged to discuss possible disciplinary measures (see above for policies on probation and termination). Concerns with the quality of contractually required work (for example, that involved in a Teaching Assistantship) are handled differently, through the disciplinary procedures outlined in Article 7 of the CBA.

Financial Support

General Overview

As mandated by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) concluded between Johns Hopkins and the union representing graduate students (TRU-JHU), all graduate students entering the program are guaranteed five years of support from the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences (KSAS), contingent upon satisfactory academic progress and meeting their contractual work expectations year by year. Students will receive appointment letters either annually or by semester if expectations or funding change from one semester to the next. These letters contain financial details of each individual's funding package, as well as an explanation of each student's status and responsibilities for the coming academic year. Accordingly, these letters should be read carefully for accuracy. Letters must be signed and returned by the deadline indicated (typically, mid-May), since they are used to set budgets for the coming year. In cases where letters do not reflect a student's own understanding of their funding or the obligations attached to it, the Department Chair and administrator should be notified immediately, and prior to the signing deadline. Detailed information appears below.

PhD Student Employee Union and Collective Bargaining Agreement

Information about the TRU-JHU PhD Student Union and the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) can be found on this website: <https://provost.jhu.edu/education/graduate-and-professional-education/phd-union/>

- PhD students in the History of Art PhD program who receive work appointments and/or health insurance premium subsidy through Johns Hopkins University are under the Collective Bargaining Agreement dated March 29, 2024-June 30, 2027.
- This agreement has established wages, work hours, benefits, and conditions of appointment, many of these are described below.
- Eligible PhD students will be contacted by the Union and may elect to join the union and pay dues or pay agency fees. All eligible PhD students are under the CBA, regardless of Union membership.
- This agreement only covers work, which is limited to 20 hours per week on average for base funding. A PhD Student Employee may voluntarily elect to participate in supplemental-funded activities beyond the 20 hours per week on average.
- Academic policies are defined elsewhere in the handbook/catalogue/program materials.

CBA Summary

The following is only a summary, not the actual terms of the CBA. To review the actual terms of the CBA, please click on the [link](#)). Not all elements of the agreement are summarized below; please reach out to the department's Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) with questions.

- Compensation
 - Academic year (AY) 24-25: \$47,000 effective July 1, 2024
 - The hourly appointment rate will be \$25.41/hour, at minimum for teaching/research supplemental appointments.
 - Minimum 5 years of guaranteed funding for all PhD student employees in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

- PhD student employees with external awards paid through the University will have their compensation increased to the minimum rate during a period of guaranteed funding.
- Benefits
 - Enrollment information will be available through [HR Benefits for Students and Learners](#) and communications will be sent in advance of benefits election periods.
 - Paid by the University
 - The University will pay the premiums for University Student Health Benefits Plan (SHBP), including dental and vision coverage, employee coverage for employees in full-time resident status during the terms of full appointments.
 - PhD student employees will receive subsidies of \$4,500 per child per year for eligible children under 6 years and \$3,000 per child aged 6-18 years or adult dependent, with a maximum of \$12,000 per family per year, in installments throughout the year.
 - Reimbursed by University/Departments
 - The University will pay the cost of the health insurance premiums for eligible dependent children and spouses unable to work in the US, including dental and vision. Reimbursement procedures will be available on the [HR Benefits website](#).
 - International students will be eligible to apply to a yearly fund to cover required visa fees.
 - Students will be eligible for reimbursement for MTA All Access College Transit Passes or DC U-Passes. Registration and enrollment information will be available on the [HR Benefits website](#).
- Time Off/Vacation/Leaves
 - All University holidays are recognized.
 - PhD student employees have at least 15 vacation days per year. Additional time can be given by a supervisor.
 - PhD student employees receive 15 sick days per year with an additional 5 days if the student is primary caregiver. Student employees should report their absence as soon as possible to their work supervisor.
 - PhD student employees receive 5 days of bereavement leave for the passing of immediate and extended family members and close friends, with 1 additional day for those needing international travel.
 - International PhD student employees who are required to travel out of the country in order to maintain their immigration status necessary to be able to continue their program at the University are eligible for up to fourteen (14) days off with pay during the period of such travel.
 - Parents are eligible for 8 weeks of paid leave following birth or adoption, with an additional 4 weeks for parents who have just given birth. [New Child Accommodation](#) applies to the academic, not work, PhD student experience.
 - Employees will make a written request for vacation days in advance to the designated supervisor and receive written approval, which will not be unreasonably withheld.
 - Employees with instructional responsibilities should not use vacation days in a way that would result in the diminution of those duties.
 - Leaves of absence, including family leave, medical leave, and personal leave, are governed by the applicable academic divisional and [University leave policies](#) .

- Work Hours
 - No PhD student employee shall be required to perform work for more than 20 hours/week on average.
 - Teaching appointments are included in the 20 hours of work that may be assigned. Academic coursework, exams, and academic research are *in addition* to this assigned 20 hours of work.
 - There are no restrictions on work external to Hopkins except when decreed by funding source or visa status.
 - All work appointments (baseline funding or supplemental funding) require an appointment letter. Appointment letters will define the expectations and requirements of the teaching, research, or other University activity appointment. Students should contact their department program administrator or DGS with any questions.
- Union Representation
 - All directory information will be sent to the Union unless restricted. Supplemental information will require a FERPA consent form available on SIS self-service.
 - Union Representatives are current PhD Student Employees who are elected/selected to help their fellow PhD Student Employees navigate work-related disciplines, grievances, and other procedural/policy issues. Contact TRU-JHU with questions about specific Union Representatives.
 - TRU-JHU Contact Information
 - Website: <https://trujhu.org/>
 - Phone: (443) 281-9462
 - Address: TRU-UE Local 197, PO Box 41149, Baltimore, MD 21203
 - Email: trujhu@gmail.com

External Fellowships, Deferral of Guaranteed Funding, and Supplemental Support

Students with approved dissertation proposals are encouraged to apply for competitive external grants to support their dissertation research and writing. The department considers the pursuit of the most competitive, high-profile predoctoral fellowships a critical piece in the student's overall strategy of research skill-building, professional development, collaboration and networking, and fostering intellectual growth. Several of the most important external fellowships require departmental nomination. Information and instructions for seeking nominations will be circulated early in September every year. Students are also expected to investigate other sources of funds for which they might be eligible.

Students in years 1-5 in the program who have been awarded an external fellowship that provides a stipend for one semester, a full year, or multiple years will rely on that institution's stipend and benefits package as their principal means of support. But, in keeping with the terms of the CBA, the department will top-up that student's semesterly income to the then-current KSAS stipend level(s). Each semester in which a student receives top-up funding while on fellowship, regardless of residential status, will be counted as one of the ten semesters of guaranteed KSAS funding. This applies to all students throughout their years 1-5 in the program.

Alternatively, students on external fellowships may choose to rely entirely on the granting institution's stipend and benefits, forego the top-up, and instead suspend their guaranteed KSAS funding package to the period following the fellowship. Students who choose this option do so with the assurance that their KSAS funding will be reactivated and funded at then-current stipend levels. The default, however, is to top-up the external funding, and students who receive an external fellowship will receive an appointment letter to this effect. If the student wishes to forego the top-up and “bank” their guaranteed KSAS funding, they must reject the appointment letter and write an official letter to the department stating this intention.

During any period when KSAS funding is being deferred, students are responsible for the costs of their non-resident tuition and health coverage; a waiver for health coverage costs may, however, be obtained by providing proof of external health care coverage. Students who defer KSAS funding and find that a given external fellowship's funding package is inadequate to meet their expenses during the period of the fellowship may apply to the department to request additional support, for example, to help in defraying non-resident tuition or health insurance costs. Requests must be submitted to the department chair by the designated spring deadline (usually in early April), and must include the following: a) justification for the requested support; b) description of the research and writing to be done during the fellowship (including a timeline for the completion of the dissertation); and c) a simple budget declaring the amount of fellowship funding being received and an estimate of monthly costs during the fellowship period. Such requests should be discussed and approved in advance by the student's primary adviser. In cases where news of fellowship awards comes later than early April, or comes off-cycle, the student should forward the request as soon as they are awarded the fellowship.

Teaching and Museum Fellowship Opportunities

The university offers several opportunities for advanced graduate students to develop and teach their own courses:

- Dean's Teaching Fellowships (only ABD students, with permission from the department, may apply for a DTF).

- JHU Intersession Courses / January Term and Summer Sessions (Interested students must first consult with their adviser and obtain permission from the Department Chair.)
- The Expository Writing Program (ABD only)

History of Art collaborates with the Walters Art Museum and the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) to support several museum fellowships:

- Hall Fellowships at the Walters Art Museum (open to all students in good standing)
- Carlson/Cowart Fellowship in the Department of Prints, Drawings & Photographs at the BMA (open to all students in good standing beyond their first year; all subfields may apply)
- The Zanvyl Krieger Fellowship at the Walters Art Museum (ABD only)

Further details about many of these opportunities are posted on the departmental website and the websites linked above; for internal department opportunities, information will be circulated to all students by the department administrator in advance of the respective deadlines.

Registration Status

Students who are in their five fellowship years, and/or being funded as TAs, are considered “Resident” students. Those still doing coursework are responsible for meeting with their advisers before registering for courses. Once the adviser approves the student’s schedule and lifts the adviser hold, the student is free to register.

Those who have completed all coursework, are receiving departmental funding, and are therefore on Resident status must register each semester for the course “Special Research & Problems” (AS.010.801/802). This course represents the time spent in research, writing, and study directed to exams, the prospectus, and the dissertation. Students must register for a minimum of 9 credits per semester. As of Summer 2022, all students must register each summer for AS.010.807, “Summer Research.” For 801, 802, and 807, students should register for the section that corresponds to their primary faculty adviser in order to facilitate grading. Unlike other courses taken for credit in the program, which receive letter grades (see above), advisers will assign a grade of Pass/Fail for this course.

Students who have exhausted department funding are permitted to continue in the program but will be required to apply for “Non-Resident” status. Non-resident students who are not receiving additional departmental support are responsible for paying for their own tuition costs (equivalent to 10% of full-time tuition that year), and health insurance costs. In order to obtain non-resident status, one must apply to the Graduate Board through the department and be approved. Please contact the department administrator for instructions on applying for the change of status. Once approved by the Graduate Board, students must register themselves for the non-resident course (AS.910.600). This is not an actual course but a registration of status. For more information about residency requirements, please see the Graduate Board website: <http://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/graduate-board/new-grad-board-residency-page/>

Note that the university strictly limits all graduate students to *ten non-resident semesters*. Students who do not receive their degree within this limit are terminated.

BA/MA Program in the History of Art

Distinct from the department's PhD program is a special BA/MA degree track offered to especially promising History of Art undergraduate majors, taken as a fifth-year extension of their bachelor's degree at Johns Hopkins.

Admissions

Admission to the BA/MA program is restricted to current Johns Hopkins University undergraduate History of Art majors who are pursuing the honors track in the department, including the writing of a senior honors thesis. Admission is based on outstanding performance in previous History of Art courses.

Students considering the fifth-year program are expected to declare their interest during the spring semester of their junior year. Prior to application, students must consult with the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies, their faculty adviser, and the department's academic program coordinator. A formal graduate application must be submitted by the departmental deadline for regular graduate admissions. This will be done in the fall semester of the senior year for admission to the program in the spring of the senior year, meeting the requirement for concurrent status. In the senior (fourth) year, students are expected to devise and undertake a program of study that would best prepare them to do advanced work in their final (fifth) year. Admission to the BA/MA program will be contingent on completing all requirements for the BA by the end of the fourth year; because the Senior Thesis is an honors requirement, a first draft of the thesis must be completed and submitted by March 15th.

In the MA (fifth) year, students must:

- Take six graduate seminars in the History of Art Department
- Demonstrate reading proficiency in one modern language according to the department's modern language requirements.

In cases where a BA/MA student does not pass the language exam in the Fall, an additional exam will be offered in early December to enable the student three opportunities to take the exam during the course of the MA year.

The BA and MA degrees are conferred consecutively: at the end of the senior year for the BA and the end of the fifth year for the MA. The department does not award degrees during the summer; students are expected to complete the degree requirements to conform with the university Graduate Board spring deadlines.

Department Files

Files are maintained in the department office for all graduate students. These files may contain information to which the student has waived access and/or confidential communications. The department reserves the right to refuse access to portions of the file if a student does not make an appointment in advance to view the file. Requests for specific information should be made to the department administrator.

Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Policies and Resources

Academic Misconduct Policy

<http://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/policies/>

Diversity and Inclusion Resources

<https://krieger.jhu.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/>

Homewood Council on Inclusive Excellence: <https://hcie.jhu.edu/>

Departmental Diversity Champions: <https://hcie.jhu.edu/diversity-champions/>

Family Resources for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows

<https://www.jhu.edu/assets/uploads/2017/06/newchildaccommgradandpostdoc.pdf>

Career and Professional Development Resources for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows

<https://imagine.jhu.edu/channels/life-design-lab/>

<https://engineering.jhu.edu/cle/>

Pedagogy Resources

<https://ctei.jhu.edu/>

Women and Gender Resources

<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/women-resources/>

Faculty and Staff Directory

Research Faculty:

Rebecca M. Brown (Professor), Modern Art
Stephen J. Campbell (Professor), Italian Renaissance and Baroque Art
Marian Feldman (Professor), Ancient Near Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean Art
Mia Yinxing Liu (Assistant Professor), Modern Art
Mitchell Merback (Professor), Late Medieval and Northern Renaissance Art
Ünver Rüstem (Associate Professor), Islamic Art and Architecture
Caroline Lillian Schopp (Assistant Professor), Modern Art
Jennifer Stager (Assistant Professor), Greek and Roman Art
Daniel Weiss (Homewood Professor of the Humanities), Medieval Art
Nino Zchomelidse (Associate Professor), Medieval Art and Architecture

Postdoctoral Fellow:

Anthony Meyer (Austen-Stokes Postdoctoral Fellow, 2024-25)

Affiliated Faculty:

Emily Anderson (Secondary Appointment), Assistant Professor, Classics
Betsy Bryan (Secondary Appointment), Professor, Near Eastern Studies
Jennifer Kingsley (Secondary Appointment), Associate Professor, Director, Museums and Society
Jennifer Wester (Secondary Appointment), Associate Research Scholar, Director of Undergraduate Research

Emeritus Faculty:

Elizabeth Cropper, Early Modern Art
Michael Fried, Modern Art
Herbert Kessler, Early Christian and Medieval Art
Henry Maguire, Byzantine and Medieval Art
Alan Shapiro (Secondary Appointment), Classics

Staff:

Lauren Crabtree, Academic Program Administrator
Viktoria Waith, Academic Program Coordinator
Lael Ensor-Bennett, Curator, Visual Resources Collection
Christian Prezzano, IT Specialist
Don Juedes, Librarian

Dean's Office:

Ying Chen, Vice Dean for Graduate Education, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
Renee Eastwood, Director of Graduate and Postdoctoral Academic Affairs, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences