



RICE HUMANITIES AND ARTS

Department of Art History

2026-2027

Graduate Program Handbook

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All required forms may be found on the Department of Art History website:
arthistory.rice.edu/graduate-forms

Introduction

The Department of Art History at Rice University is a place where images, architecture, and works of art are examined with open minds, attentive eyes, and analytical rigor. Our core faculty includes experts in the art and architecture of the Americas, Asia, and Europe, spanning from antiquity through contemporary times. Across these diverse fields, we look beyond categories of period and style to ask essential questions about what images (still or moving), built structures, and works of art do, and what we do with them in turn.

What is a work of art? Why have human beings, throughout history, found the need to make and destroy images and monuments? How do works of art and architecture function within their social and political contexts? How has visual culture been used to legitimize power, negotiate cultural identity, or resist authority? And how do new technologies—from concrete vaulting to oil paint to cinema to AI—change the nature and function of spaces and pictures in our lives? These are some of the questions we ask in our teaching and research, and which we invite you to explore with us.

The PhD in Art History program at Rice trains students for academic research and teaching, curatorial positions, and other careers in the visual arts.

The Graduate Handbook provides an overview of requirements, regulations, procedures, and resources. It is the responsibility of all students in the PhD program to know and understand program requirements.

In addition to being in agreement with the regulations stated in this handbook, students must also be in agreement with the General Announcements (<https://ga.rice.edu>) and the Code of Conduct of Rice University (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/rights-responsibilities/code-student-conduct/>).

In case there is conflicting information, university-wide regulations take precedence over department-wide regulations, which take precedence over research group-wide regulations. If in doubt, students should seek help first at the department level (Director of Graduate Studies, advisor, and/or department chair) and then at the central administration level (Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)

Program Overview

The Rice University PhD in Art History requirements include two years of coursework and the demonstration of two language proficiencies in addition to English, as well as the successful completion of a graduate research paper, teaching assistantships, oral and written qualifying exams, a dissertation prospectus, and a doctoral dissertation.

In addition to the traditional degree timeline, the department also offers a Museum Professionals track, which is designed for students who currently hold professional appointments at local museums. All requirements for the program remain the same; however, graduate students who continue to hold their positions at museums have an adjusted timetable for completing departmental requirements.

All students entering the PhD program must complete the full curriculum, regardless of the degrees and coursework completed prior to admission to the program. Candidacy is achieved once

coursework, both language exams, teaching assistantships, graduate research paper, and qualifying exams are successfully completed. At this time, students may also choose to apply for the granting of a Candidacy Master's degree.

Students who enter the program with an MA degree could apply, upon successful completion of the first year of coursework and in consultation with their advisor and the DGS, to have three of their MA courses accepted toward the program's requirements. Applications will be reviewed by the Graduate Committee. Students whose MA credits are accepted should dedicate the Spring semester of the second year to preparing for the qualifying exams, which they should take no later than May 31.

Students withdrawing within the first few years of the program may earn a Non-thesis Master's degree upon the successful completion of all coursework, one language exam, and the graduate research paper.

Student Participation in Departmental Events

The Department of Art History is committed to cultivating a vibrant intellectual environment where graduate students refine their analytical skills and professional competencies. Central to this mission is a series of guest lectures, workshops, and symposia organized by the department and faculty members. These scholarly gatherings introduce students to new methodologies and emerging scholarly trends in art history, foster a sense of community, and allow students to expand their professional networks. Prominent departmental events include the Katherine Tsanoff Brown Lecture Series, the Menil Distinguished Seminar, and talks organized in conjunction with departmental job searches. While in residence, graduate students are expected to participate and actively engage in these departmental events.

Advising

The program is overseen by the department's Graduate Committee, which is comprised of department faculty and supervised by a Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). The DGS is responsible for advising students on coursework and degree requirements, and the department's Graduate Program Administrator oversees the completion and documentation of program requirements, as well as financial matters concerning graduate students.

All incoming students will be advised by the DGS for the first semester of enrollment. The DGS will assist in explaining departmental guidelines, choosing courses, and beginning to strategize about general and specific fields of study for the qualifying exams. The general and specific fields are later finalized by the student in consultation with their advisor and with a view toward the requirements of the job market.

First-year students need to identify a potential faculty advisor in their main field of study, approach the faculty member for permission, and, with the faculty member's agreement, declare a permanent advisor by the end of the first week of classes in the Spring semester of the first year.

After that point, a student may change their advisor at any time, with the agreement of the new advisor and notification of the previous advisor, by emailing the DGS and Graduate Program Administrator with the proposed change and copying the potential and previous advisor. If approved by the DGS, the necessary paperwork will then be filed with the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral

Studies.

Additionally, an elected graduate representative is available to hear students' ideas or concerns or to offer advice.

Requirements for the PhD Degree

Coursework

Satisfactory completion (grade of C+ or above) of at least 36 hours (equivalent to 12 courses) of graduate coursework (500 or 600 level) is required; at least half of these courses need to be seminars. All incoming students are required to take HART 590 (Methods in Art History), an introductory seminar, in the Fall term of their first year, as well as HART 503 (Graduate Research Paper) in the Spring term of their second year. (Students in the Museum Professional track may take HART 503 in their third year, according to the degree timeline. Students whose MA courses have been accepted should take HART 503 in the fall semester of their second year). Both of these courses count toward the 12-course requirement.

In addition to these two required courses, students must take at least 6 courses in the department (5 courses for students with MA credits accepted). Students are encouraged to explore Art History courses beyond their main field of study, as well as courses offered by other departments. Up to four (4) graduate courses may be taken outside the department, as approved by the student's advisor.

If a student chooses to enroll in an independent study course, the student and course supervisor should establish and document the format and expectations for the course by the second week of the term (forms may be found on the Department of Art History website arthistory.rice.edu/graduate-forms). A syllabus for the course should be uploaded to the Registrar's records. Please contact your Graduate Program Administrator for assistance with the required documents.

Additionally, research hours leading to candidacy and a thesis are also required but do not count toward the 12-course requirement. HART 600 (Qualifying Exams) and HART 601 (Dissertation Prospectus) are taken in preparation for candidacy, and HART 800 (Dissertation Research) is taken in preparation of the thesis and for defense.

Incoming first-year students are required to take HUMA 500 (The Humanities Beyond the Disciplines) in the spring semester of their first year.

In accordance with the Rice University General Announcements, doctoral students must earn at least 90 credit hours for the PhD degree, consisting of required coursework and research hours. For more information, please see:

<https://qa.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-doctoral-degrees/>

Foreign Languages

Reading knowledge of at least two languages other than English is required. These languages should be relevant to research in the student's field of study and must be approved by the student's advisor. A third language may also be strongly recommended by the student's advisor.

For the examination, the student's advisor will select a text in the target language that is close to the student's interest. The student will not be told ahead of time the book from which the selection will be taken and will have two hours to translate approximately 500 words. The student may use a printed dictionary (but not an online dictionary or translation program).

Completed exams will be given to two members of the faculty to be graded according to an evaluation rubric (forms may be found on the Department of Art History website: arthistory.rice.edu/graduate-forms). A student must earn a minimum of 30 (out of 50) points from each evaluator to pass the exam.

The first language proficiency exam must be taken by December 15 of the first semester of the first year, and the second exam by May 1 of the second semester of the second year; students on the Museum Professionals track, must take their first exam by May 1 of their second year and their second exam by May 1 of their third year. If the student fails either exam, s/he/they may retake them no more than two additional times. Not taking the exam by the required dates will result in a "fail" for the attempt.

The first exam must be passed within a year of the original exam date, and the second exam must be passed no later than September 15 of the fourth year. If either of these requirements is not met, a conference will take place with the DGS, advisor, and student to discuss consequences, which will subsequently be determined by the department graduate committee. Depending on circumstances, these may range from mandatory intensive language study to dismissal from the program. If necessary, students are strongly encouraged to begin study of their second language at the start of their first year.

Students are encouraged to explore Rice language courses covered by tuition waivers during Fall and Spring terms. Departmental funding is also available to support independent language study; inquiries should be made to the student's graduate advisor or the DGS.

Graduate Research Paper

In the Spring term of their second year (Fall term of third year for Museum Professionals students, Fall term of the second year for students with MA credit), students are required to complete a substantial research paper, as part of HART 503 (Graduate Research Paper). In preparation for this paper, the student should submit a topic and preliminary bibliography for the graduate research paper to his/her/their advisor by the end of Fall term of the second year (Spring term of second year for Museum Professionals students). The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate research skills in art history including the ability to develop a convincing argument, to use visual evidence, to undertake research in foreign languages where applicable, and to develop an original thesis. The paper topic should be the result of careful thought and planning between student and advisor. It should not be conceived as a preliminary version of the dissertation, but rather as an opportunity to explore in depth a topic of interest, perhaps related to course work. It need not, however, be outside of the student's primary field of study and may end up being related to an eventual dissertation topic. The topic of the paper, and a preliminary bibliography, should be discussed with the advisor before the end of the Fall semester of the second year.

The length of the graduate research paper should, in most cases, range from approximately 25-40 pages, not including endnotes and illustrations. The paper will be graded by the faculty member supervising the project in consultation with a second reader. The paper need not be supervised by the student's primary advisor; in the case that the supervisor of the paper is not the student's primary advisor, the advisor should be the second reader. If the supervisor of the paper is the primary advisor, then student and advisor will consult with a second reader. The paper is due no later than the end of the Spring semester of the second year (Fall semester of third year for Museum Professionals students; please refer to Registrar's Academic Calendar for exact date).
<https://registrar.rice.edu/calendars>

Teaching Assistantships

(Traditional PhD Track Only; Not for Museum Professionals Track)

Pedagogy is a crucial part of graduate training in the School of Humanities and Arts. Graduate students will have a minimum of four (4) semesters of pedagogical training while on stipend through Rice University. This training may take the form of teaching assistantships or serving as instructor of record, either within or outside of the student's home department. Serving as a TA for HART or other courses in the school count towards the four semesters minimum required of students in the School of Humanities and Arts.

All students in their third year will serve as Teaching Assistants (TAs). TAs will be assigned to courses based on course enrollments and numbers of TAs available, but in each semester some TAs will be assigned to HART 101 or HART 102. In some semesters, a TA may be assigned to a different course, based on interest/experience, combined with course size and professors' needs.

In both cases, the focus will be on a collaborative process in which TAs are an integral part of the department's teaching and will be supervised and trained in ways which will help in the development of their pedagogical skills. Students will gain experience by either leading discussion sections or taking over class sessions during the semester and the TA will be observed and given feedback.

Rice University's TA Policy: <https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/rights-responsibilities/student-responsibility/>.

Qualifying Exams

The doctoral qualifying exams (HART 600) are designed to demonstrate the student's grasp of their general and specific fields of study. The qualifying exams consist of two components: an oral section (general field), designed to demonstrate broad knowledge of a chosen general field in preparation for a teaching or curatorial career in that field, and a written exam (specific field) designed to demonstrate detailed engagement with the specific field, in preparation for writing a dissertation in that area. Both exams are to be completed by the end of the Fall semester of the third year (fourth year for museum professional track), preferably by November 15th and no later than December 15th. If one or both of the exams are failed, they may be retaken once within six weeks. Passing the exams is a necessary component of proceeding to the candidacy, and failure a second time on either will result in removal from the program.

Preparation for the qualifying exams typically begins with determining the parameters of the chosen general and specific fields and the selection of the examination committee in the Spring semester of the second year. Comprehensive bibliographies will be made for the general and specific fields. These will be narrowed or added to in consultation with the advisor to form the basis for the general- and specific-field annotated bibliographies. The examination committee, selected by the student in consultation with his/her/their advisor, will consist of three persons: the advisor and two other faculty members familiar with the student's work and scholarly fields. One faculty member from outside the department is permitted. (In extraordinary circumstances, exceptions to this limit may be possible with the approval of the graduate committee.)

The written exam (specific field). The written exam should be scheduled at least one week before the oral exam. It will consist of a four-hour, open-notes response to one of two questions, which will be read by the entire committee. In the months preceding the exam, the student will have created, in consultation with the advisor, a bibliography of at least three pages, from which an annotated bibliography will subsequently be drafted. In further consultation with the advisor, the student will then create a set of three questions central to their dissertation topic and professional goals. Those questions will be ones that ask the student to engage with the critical issues, scholarship, and themes in a specific field in detail. Two of those questions will then be chosen by the advisor as options for the exam. For the exam itself, the student will choose which question to answer.

The oral exam (general field). The oral exam, attended by the entire exam committee, will consist of a one-hour presentation followed by a one-and-one-half hour discussion, covering the presentation content, the written exam, and the student's decision-making in designing their syllabus and making their bibliography selections. In the preceding months, in consultation with the advisor, the student will have created a bibliography and a syllabus featuring ten topics covering the chosen major field of study. Both syllabus and bibliographies should be shared with all exam committee members at least two weeks before the oral exam date. The general field bibliography should be comprehensive, totaling no fewer than 9 pages but with an exact length as agreed upon between student and advisor. (Its organization need not correspond exactly to the ten themes structuring the planned syllabus.) The syllabus will be built around annotated bibliographies for each topic, which will address the key themes, analytical approaches, and methodologies adopted in the scholarship that would be used to teach that field to a high-level (graduate or professional level) class. Once

approved, the student and advisor will select five of these topics to be prepared as one-hour presentations. One week before the exam date, as agreed upon by the student and committee, the advisor will inform the student of one of these topics, which will then be presented as the oral exam. Students will be evaluated on the substance of the presentation, not on pedagogical style or ease of public speaking.

Dissertation Committee Selection

As the student prepares for qualifying exams, s/he/they will select, with the guidance of his/her/their advisor, a dissertation (thesis) committee. The dissertation committee is typically composed of three members: the student's departmental advisor, who serves as the committee chair and thesis director; a second faculty member from within the department; and a third reader from a different department at Rice. All core committee members must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members at Rice University. Additional members may be added to the committee, including faculty from other universities or scholars at other institutions such as museums. For more information regarding committee composition, please refer to the Regulations and Procedures for Doctoral Degrees section of the General Announcements (<https://ga.rice.edu/>). In all but exceptional circumstances, a student's dissertation committee needs to be approved by the department's graduate committee, and should be submitted for review no later than March 25 of the third year (fourth year for Museum Professionals students).

Dissertation Prospectus

In the Spring semester of the third year, students will enroll in HART 601 (Dissertation Prospectus), and prepare a prospectus of 10-12 pages plus bibliography on their dissertation topic to be presented to their advisor and dissertation committee. Students are encouraged to think of the dissertation prospectus as a base document for their dissertation research and writing phases. It should clearly present the dissertation's topic, significance and contribution to the field(s), historical context, methodology and archival sources, and preliminary structure. Format details should be agreed upon with the dissertation advisor.

The student will submit the final version of the prospectus to the dissertation committee by May 10 of the third year (fourth year for Museum Professionals students). The deadline for prospectus approval by the dissertation committee is May 31.

Additionally, the student will give an oral presentation of their dissertation prospectus to the dissertation committee as well as to other faculty and students. This presentation could occur during the last week of the Spring term of the third year or (with the permission of the principal advisor) during the first weeks of the Fall semester of the fourth year. The oral presentation will last no longer than 40 minutes, with 20 minutes for the presentation and 20 minutes for questions.

After the dissertation topic has been approved, it must be registered with the College Art Association. This will be kept on file at the CAA and published yearly in the June issue of the Art Bulletin, thereby alerting the art historical public that a given subject has been chosen for a dissertation.

Achieving Candidacy

Candidacy is achieved once coursework, both language exams, teaching assistantships, graduate research paper, and qualifying exams are successfully completed. Once the student has passed the qualifying exams, the student will file a petition for approval of candidacy for the PhD with the Office of Graduate Studies, with the help of the Graduate Program Administrator.

Filing for PhD candidacy must be done in accordance with each student's own time boundaries. The term "PhD Candidate" refers only to persons so certified by the Office of Graduate Studies. The university requires that students pursuing the PhD must be approved for candidacy before the beginning of the ninth semester of their residency at Rice.

Students who have not yet completed their preliminary exams by the end of the third year, or have their prospectus officially approved by the end of the fourth year, will be subject to dismissal. If an exception must be granted due to familial or medical circumstances, a letter of request, approved by the DGS, can be directed to the Dean's Office.

Per School of Humanities guidelines, students must achieve candidacy after six academic semesters (or the end of the third year).

Co-Teaching and Pedagogy Opportunities

Methods Co-Teaching

This opportunity allows a graduate student to co-teach the department's undergraduate methods course with a faculty member in the Spring semester. Available to in-residence students beginning in their fourth year or beyond, with applications due by September 15 annually. The course focuses on developing students' ability to write and speak about art, research skills, and applying different theories and methods to analyze artworks. Candidates must be in their fourth year or beyond, advanced in candidacy, and comfortable explaining complex ideas, planning micro-lectures, contributing course content, and assisting with grading and feedback.

Course Co-Teaching

This opportunity allows a graduate student to co-teach a course of their own design with a faculty member in Fall or Spring. It is available to in-residence students beginning in their fifth year, with applications due by January 15 of the preceding year. Preference will be given to students applying to teach in their fifth and sixth year, either semester. This is a chance to build on the teaching assistant experience of the third year, while giving students a means to build their teaching resume during the dissertation stage of the program and as they prepare to go onto the job market.

Students will work with the professor, sharing equal responsibility for every aspect of the course, including syllabus development, teaching and grading evaluation. This builds on the TA experience by offering mentoring and feedback within the context of a peer relationship. The co-teaching opportunity is not open to students in the Museum Professionals track.

Dissertation

A dissertation represents independent and original research, equivalent to a publishable book, which makes a significant contribution to the current body of knowledge in the field. It must show a mastery of the literature in the subject, be written in an acceptable literary style, and conform to the standards outlined on the Rice University Office of Graduate Studies website. Dissertations may be written on any subject that falls within the supervisory competence of a permanent member of the department.

Development of the Dissertation: The dissertation advisor has primary responsibility for directing all phases of the dissertation after the proposal has been approved. The candidate should arrange for regular meetings with the advisor to review progress. Candidates are responsible for establishing a schedule for dissertation completion and review, and for keeping the members of their committee informed about the progress of their work. The members of the committee, in turn, should review the dissertation in a timely manner, approving a preliminary form of the thesis before scheduling the oral defense.

Defense and Submission of the Dissertation: The thesis defense is intended to be an examination of a completed work and should be scheduled only after consultation with the advisor, who agrees that the dissertation is approaching completion and ready to be defended. Once agreed upon, a date for the thesis defense, as well as a preliminary meeting of the thesis committee (3-4 weeks ahead of the defense), may be set. A preliminary meeting of the committee will be held to allow the candidate and his/her/their committee to discuss the state of the research and for all involved to agree on whether or not the candidate is ready to go forward with the defense.

For the doctoral degree, the examination must be publicly announced. Students should note that announcements should be made at least two weeks before the scheduled defense. Defense announcements can be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies by filling out the following form: <https://events.rice.edu/rgs>. A copy of the dissertation must be submitted to the department no less than two calendar weeks prior to the date of the oral defense. For additional university policies, please see: <https://graduate.rice.edu/current-students/defense>.

In the Department of Art History, the defense will consist of a public presentation by the candidate (usually twenty to thirty minutes in length), followed by questions and general discussion by the committee and public. The total length of the oral defense and the subject matter on which the candidate is questioned are left to the judgment of the committee.

Approval of the defense requires a unanimous vote by the thesis committee. In the event of a split vote, the Dean of Graduate Studies determines the review procedure after consultation with the student, the department chair (or the school dean), and the committee. Should a candidate fail, the committee chair may schedule a second defense. Students who fail a second time will be dismissed from the university.

If the defense is approved, students must upload a copy of their defended thesis and the approval of candidacy form, signed by the dissertation committee signifying successful defense of the dissertation, to the thesis submission website within one week after the oral defense. The final

thesis, along with all additional required documents, must be turned in to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies within six months of the defense, and in order for the PhD degree to be conferred. Students are responsible for understanding and following thesis submission guidelines, available here: <https://graduate.rice.edu/thesis>.

Research & Professional Development

Opportunities to conduct research and engage in professional development are encouraged and supported by the Department of Art History. As part of the curriculum, students have opportunities to present their research and papers regularly. Furthermore, students can choose to participate in individual and/or collaborative research, seminars and symposiums, and internships, locally and abroad. Travel funding is available for graduate research, conferences, and visits to exhibits related to a student's academic work. Additionally, the department provides funding for a graduate symposium and invited speakers.

Progress to Degree

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory academic progress is defined as completing the requirements of the PhD program in an adequate and timely manner. During coursework, satisfactory academic progress in the department means maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or above each semester, and earning individual grades of B- or above in graduate coursework. A grade of C+ or above is required to earn credit for the degree. Additionally, students must, in time, meet all requirements for language proficiency, graduate research paper, qualifying examinations, and dissertation prospectus, as well as make substantial progress on thesis research and writing in the latter dissertation stage.

Academic Probation and Dismissal

Students who did not make satisfactory academic progress in a given semester will be placed on academic probation during the following semester, and with the advisor and/or DGS, come up with an improvement plan, the terms of which must be met by the end of the probationary semester. If the student successfully meets the terms of probation, s/he/they will return to good academic standing in the department for the following semester. If the student fails to meet the terms of the probationary semester or has two consecutive semesters of unsatisfactory progress, the department has the right to dismiss a student from the program at the end of the probationary term, and terminate any financial support.

Dispute Resolution

The Department of Art History follows the process established by Rice University's Office of Graduate Studies for handling petitions, appeals, grievances, and problem resolution. For more information, please see

<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/rights-responsibilities/dispute-resolution/>

Time Off and Leave Policy

Graduate students are required to remain enrolled full-time during their program, and follow the University academic calendar for days off and holidays. It is the student's responsibility to arrange any make-up work for additional vacation time needed. If a short-term release or leave is needed, students should reference Rice University's General Announcements for policy on Leaves, Interruptions of Study, and Withdrawals.

Evaluation of Student Progress

Beginning with the first year of the Art History PhD program, each student will receive an annual review, to assess progress to degree. Each annual review will include a letter of evaluation, written at the end of the academic year by the DGS. That letter will be shared with the student and his/her/their advisor, as well as added to the student's academic record.

Student Self-Assessments: As part of the annual review each Spring, each graduate student should complete a self- assessment, summarizing his/her/their progress to date, and plans for the subsequent summer and coming academic year. The self-assessment should be submitted no later than April 15 to the Graduate Program Administrator, copying the Director of Graduate Study and the student's advisor. The advisor can comment on the assessment and forward to the student's thesis committee, if applicable, who can also respond.

First- and Second-Year Reviews: After the first and second year of study, and no later than the first week of Fall semester of the following academic year, the advisor and/or DGS will meet with the student to discuss his/her/their progress in the program. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss the student's plans and any concerns.

Subsequent Reviews: Thereafter, all students in the program will be evaluated at the end of each Spring term and have their progress deemed satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Satisfactory evaluation is based on the student's successful completion of the requirements of a given year according to the student's advisor's assessment in consultation with the dissertation committee. Once candidacy has been granted, it is important for the student's thesis committee to be informed about his/her/their dissertation progress.

Students who have not yet completed their preliminary exams by the end of the third year, or have their prospectus officially approved by the end of the fourth year, will be subject to dismissal. If an exception must be granted due to familial or medical circumstances, a letter of request, approved by the DGS, can be directed to the Dean's Office. Per School of Humanities guidelines, students must achieve candidacy after six academic semesters (or the end of the third year).

Program Timeline

Year 1

Six (6) courses taken (three in the Fall and three in the Spring) including HART 590 (Methods in Art History) in the Fall. First language exam must be taken by December 15 of the Fall semester. By the end of the first week of the Spring semester, students should have identified an advisor who has agreed to work with him or her. Museum internships are discouraged until the third year although museum-based projects may count as an independent study course with approval of the faculty advisor.

Year 2

Six (6) courses taken (three in the Fall and three in the Spring) including HART 503 (Graduate Research Paper) in the Spring. By the end of Fall term of the second year, the student should submit a topic and preliminary bibliography for the graduate research paper to his/her/their advisor. Students must take a second language exam by May 1.

Year 3

All students serve as teaching assistants for both semesters and must register for HART 528 (Teaching Practicum) during the semester in which they are a Teaching Assistant. In the Fall, the students will take HART 600 (Preparation for Candidacy I). In the Spring, the students will take HART 601 (Preparation for Candidacy II). Qualifying exams must be completed by the end of the Fall semester of the third year, preferably by November 15th. After completing exams, students prepare the final version of their dissertation prospectus. This should be submitted to the dissertation committee, and a public presentation scheduled, by the last week of classes of the Spring semester. With advisor approval, the dissertation prospectus may also be submitted and presented early in the following Fall term. Students can file for PhD candidacy once their qualifying exams are approved by their exam committee.

Year 4

Students will be engaged in research and writing the dissertation and will thus be enrolled in HART 800 (Dissertation Research) each semester until the completion of their dissertation. Students may ask to serve as teaching assistants, research assistants, or museum interns or fellows for one or both semesters, as well as apply for co-teaching opportunities within the department. Students are encouraged to apply for outside funding for dissertation research. If s/he/they receive outside funding for the sixth year, the student may make a request funding in the 7th year upon approval of the graduate committee. Residency is not required.

Year 5

Students will be enrolled in HART 800 (Dissertation Research) each academic semester as they engage in thesis research and writing, and preparation for their defense. Residency is not required. Students in residency may apply to co-teach within the department, as well as other teaching opportunities on campus.

Year 6 and Later

Students will be enrolled in HART 800 (Dissertation Research) each academic semester as they engage in thesis research and writing, and preparation for their defense. Residency is not required. Students in residency may apply to co-teach within the department, as well as other teaching opportunities on campus. Students should be aware of degree time boundaries, as set by the university and the Office of Graduate Studies.

Program Timeline for Museum Professionals

Year 1

Four (4) courses taken (two in the Fall and two in the Spring), including HART 590 (Methods in Art History) in the Fall. By the end of the first week of the Spring semester, students should have identified an advisor who has agreed to work with him or her. First language exam taken by May 1.

Year 2

Four (4) courses taken (two in the Fall and two in the Spring). By the end of the Spring semester, students should submit a topic and bibliography for the graduate research paper to their advisor.

Year 3

Two (2) courses taken in the Fall, including HART 503 (Graduate Research Paper). One (1) course in the Spring, along with **nine** hours of HART 600 (Preparation for Candidacy I). Students must take a second language exam by May 1 of the third year.

Year 4

One (1) course taken in the Fall, as well as **nine** hours of HART 600 (Preparation for Candidacy I), and **nine** hours of HART 601 (Preparation for Candidacy II) in the Spring. Qualifying exams must be completed by the end of the Fall semester of the fourth year, preferably by November 15th. After completing exams, students prepare the final version of their dissertation prospectus. This should be submitted to the dissertation committee, and a public presentation scheduled, by the last week of classes of the Spring semester. With advisor approval, the dissertation prospectus may also be submitted and presented early in the following Fall term. Students can file for PhD candidacy once their qualifying exams are approved by their exam committee.

Year 5 and Later

Students will be enrolled in HART 800 (Dissertation Research) for **nine** hours each academic semester as they engage in thesis research and writing, and preparation for their defense.

Residency is not required. Students should be aware of degree time boundaries, as set by the university and the Office of Graduate Studies.

Prospective students applying to the Museum Professionals Program should contact the Graduate Program Administrator at least one month before the application deadline.

Awards and Fellowships

Tuition Waivers & Stipends

All students accepted into the PhD program will receive a full tuition waiver for five (5) years. In addition, all full-time graduate students (with the exception of Museum Professionals students) will receive a standard yearly stipend amount for six (6) years. After the first six years, a tuition waiver exception may be granted for a particular semester in which a student is receiving an external fellowship. In summer term, when students are only required to register for research hours, no tuition is charged and thus no tuition waivers are needed.

Departmental Awards & Internships

Beyond the annual stipend, the department offers a number of awards and paid internships. Depending on the type of award, additional funding may be considered taxable income. Students applying for any of the following awards should be in good academic standing, submit applications in advance of travel, follow all individual award requirements, and submit a letter of support from their advisor.

Please visit <https://arthistory.rice.edu/graduate-awards> for application due dates and amounts for all department awards.

Conference and Exhibition Travel

Graduate students may apply for funds to cover the costs of attending a conference, presenting at a conference, or visiting an exhibition or museum collection related to research in their field of study (flight, hotel, conference fees, and/or entrance fees). Applications must be submitted in advance of travel and each type of funding may only be awarded twice during a student's time in the program, and funds are not guaranteed.

Students must submit a proposal and budget, to be reviewed by the Graduate Committee.

Brown Foundation Research Assistantships

Graduate Students who will be in their third to sixth year (Museum Professionals students in their fourth to seventh year) are eligible to apply to be a research assistant and work on a project with a faculty member for one semester. Students should submit a proposal describing the project, accompanied by a statement from the faculty member with whom they would like to work about the student's potential contribution to the project. Research assistantships require up to 10 hours of work per week, and students receive a \$5,000 stipend during the semester that they work and may also qualify for a tuition waiver. Two research assistantships are available each year, and a student may only receive the award once during his/her/their time in the program.

Art History Graduate Student Symposium & Invited Speakers

Graduate students interested in organizing invited lectures, half-day colloquia or workshops, or a biennial symposium or conference, may apply to the department for funding (up to \$15,000 annually for all proposals). Students should submit a proposal and budget when applying.

Summer Research

[First through third year students only]

Students may apply for summer research funds to cover costs of travel and research for their qualifying paper or potential dissertation topics by submitting a proposal (1 page) and a budget.

\$3,000 summer research support funding is available for the initial five years in the program (pending successful completion of program requirements), and \$5,000 guaranteed travel funding available during your first two years.

Brown Foundation Dissertation Research Award

[Post-candidacy students only]

Students who expect to pass their Qualifying Exams and expect to advance to candidacy may apply for a Brown Foundation Dissertation Research Award. The primary purpose of the award is to allow students to travel and undertake research necessary for their dissertation. Students must present a detailed proposal (no more than 4 pages) and a budget. The student must also show proof of application to outside funding sources. Awards up to \$10,000 are possible, but funds are not guaranteed; if such an award is granted twice to the same student, the total amount of both will not exceed \$10,000. Final confirmation of the award and the release of funding will occur only after the student has the qualifications to advance to candidacy.

Intensive Language Study

[Rolling Deadline]

The department can award grants of up to \$1,500 per semester or summer session for intensive language study. The language must be a target language in the student's field of research and preference is given to languages not taught at Rice during the academic year. In exceptional cases, funds for private tutoring in languages taught at Rice may be available. Students should discuss intensive language study with their advisor or DGS.

Rice University Awards & Internships

(Museum fellowships are not open to students in the Museum Professionals Track. Though all students are welcome to apply, preference will generally be given to those who have completed coursework.)

N. B.: Because of the TA requirement, graduate students entering their 3rd year cannot apply for a museum fellowship. In rare cases, exceptions can be made with permission from the Director of Graduate Studies.

William A. Camfield Fellowship for Graduate Students at the MFAH

Graduate Students in any year may apply for a museum internship at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, to work on a specific project or exhibition defined by the museum curators. The project or area of research changes every year. Finalists chosen by the Department of Art History will be interviewed by the curators of the MFAH for final selection. Award is \$10,000 per year. Application deadline: mid-March

Jameson Fellowship

The Jameson Fellow will spend the academic year as an intern at the Bayou Bend Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The annual stipend is \$13,000. Additional funds (up to \$1,500) are reserved for a research trip during the time of the Fellowship. Students can look for application information on the department website beginning in January or contact Prof. Joseph Manca at manca@rice.edu. For information on the Bayou Bend Collection, go to <https://www.mfah.org/visit/bayou-bend-collection-and-gardens/>.

John & Dominique de Menil Fellowship

The John & Dominique de Menil Fellowship offers one undergraduate or graduate art history student the opportunity to work as an intern for one academic year at The Menil Collection under the guidance of the museum's internationally respected curatorial departments. Area and field of research are open. Finalists chosen by the Department of Art History will be interviewed by the curators of TMC for final selection. Award is \$3,000 per year. Application deadline: mid-March. <https://www.menil.org/collections>.

Rice University Wagoner Foreign Study Scholarship Program

James T. Wagoner '29 loved to travel, and he loved Rice, so he made provisions that after his death a study-abroad scholarship for students would be established in memory of his late wife and parents. The Wagoner Foreign Study Scholarship provides students and alumni the opportunity to conduct research abroad for a minimum of four weeks to one year. For application and deadline information, go to <https://graduate.rice.edu/academics/finance/wagoneraward>.

Humanities Research Center (HRC) Funding

Since its establishment in 1987, the Humanities Research Center has been committed to fostering connections among diverse disciplines while promoting the research goals of the humanities broadly construed. This commitment includes generous and varied funding opportunities for graduate students, including opportunities for research, travel, teaching, and fellowships. Please visit <https://hrc.rice.edu> for an up-to-date list of calls and deadlines.

Rice University Fondren Library Research Awards

Fondren Library's annual Research Award program is funded by the Friends of Fondren Library and recognizes students who demonstrate extraordinary skill and creativity in the application of library and information resources to original research and scholarship. For information, go to <https://library.rice.edu/research-awards>.

Important Dates

This list is not comprehensive, and dates can change. Please refer to the Registrar's Academic Calendar (<https://registrar.rice.edu/calendars>) and the Department of Art History website (<https://arthistory.rice.edu/>) for the latest information.

FALL

October 15

Applications due for Conference and Exhibition Travel funds, Brown Foundation Research Assistantships, and Graduate Student Symposium funding.

December 15

Deadline for first-year students (except Museum Professionals students) to take first language exam.

November 15 (or by last day of fall semester)

Last day for all third-year students (fourth-year Museum Professionals students) to complete their Qualifying Exams.

SPRING

January 15

Brown Foundation Co-Teaching applications due for potential Fall or Spring courses for the following academic year.

End of Week 1 of Spring Semester

Deadline for first-year students to identify a faculty advisor.

February 1

Applications due for Brown Foundation Dissertation Research and Writing Awards, and Brown Foundation Research Assistantships.

March 1

Applications due for Summer Research, Conference and Exhibition Travel, and Graduate Student Symposium.

Mid-March

Museum Internship applications are due.

March 25

Deadline for third-year students to submit the Thesis Committee Approval Form.

April 15

Annual self-assessment due to Graduate Program Administrator.

By Last Week of Classes in Spring semester (or the following Fall semester with permission)
Third-year students' (fourth-year Museum Professionals students') oral presentation of dissertation prospectus.

May 1

Last day for all second-year Museum Professionals students to take their first language exam.

Last day for all second-year students (third-year Museum Professionals students) to take their second language exam.

End of the Spring Semester

Last day for all second-year students (third-year Museum Professionals students) to turn in final version of Graduate Research Paper.

May 10

Deadline for third-year students (fourth-year Museum Professionals students) to submit final version of dissertation prospectus to their dissertation committee.

Faculty

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Student Resources

Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

<https://gps.rice.edu>

Student Health Services

<https://health.rice.edu>

Rice Wellbeing & Counseling Center <https://wellbeing.rice.edu/rice-counseling-center>

Center for Career Development (CCD) <https://ccd.rice.edu/students/graduate>

Office of Sexual Violence Prevention & Title IX Support* <https://safe.rice.edu>

*Rice encourages any student who has experienced an incident of sexual, relationship, or other interpersonal violence, harassment or gender discrimination to seek support. There are many options available both on and off campus for all graduate students, regardless of whether the perpetrator was a fellow student, a staff or faculty member, or someone not affiliated with the university. Students should be aware when seeking support on campus that most employees are required by Title IX to disclose all incidents of non- consensual interpersonal behaviors to Title IX professionals on campus who can act to support that student and meet their needs. The therapists at the Rice Counseling Center and the doctors at Student Health Services are confidential, meaning that Rice will not be informed about the incident if a student discloses to one of these Rice staff members. Rice prioritizes student privacy and safety, and only shares disclosed information on a need-to-know basis. If you are in need of assistance or simply would like to talk to someone, please call Rice Wellbeing and Counseling Center, which includes Title IX Support: (713) 348-3311. Policies, including Sexual Misconduct Policy and Student Code of Conduct, and more information regarding Title IX can be found at <https://safe.rice.edu>.