We live in a visual culture. In everything around us, from the workplace to public spaces and through our multiple forms of leisure and learning, the visual is instrumental and ubiquitous. In this image saturated society, it is becoming increasingly essential to learn tools to negotiate the visual.

The MA in Art History and Visual Culture examines the production and consumption of images, objects, and spaces from varied cultures and historical periods. It challenges many ideas about cognition and perception, and includes the study of the ocular. Because the visual is crucial to our understandings of cultural difference, Art History and Visual Culture Studies is vitally concerned with the manner in which the interdependent elements of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class construct identity. It demands that we think across cultures and national boundaries, and within a global context. Intercultural visual analysis necessarily questions conceptions of “high” and “low” culture and requires that we substantially change the ways in which we practice the discipline of Art History.

Towards this end, the objectives of the MA program are:

1. To enable students to gain a command of visual literacy through global and critical understandings of art and its cultures and histories;
2. To combine art historical methodology and visual and material culture perspectives in the study of objects – both past and present;
3. To explore critically the assumptions underpinning writing about art and visual culture.

Graduate Student Funding

Assistantships and scholarships will be awarded through an application protocol devised and supervised by the Graduate Studies Committee. All students are expected to apply for and to receive two Teaching Assistantships during his/her program of study. Students will be encouraged to apply for additional internal and external financial support.

Faculty

The faculty of the MA program offer a broad spectrum of historical and theoretical perspectives. At an optimal size for student-faculty interaction, the program encourages graduate students to pursue their development as art historians in an environment of stimulating intellectual, cultural and social exchange. For more information about the faculty please review the faculty profiles on the SOFAM website:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/sofam/faculty-and-staff

To Apply

Applicants submit a one-page statement of intent and two letters of reference along with the application form and transcripts. Applicants are encouraged to review the admission requirements in the Graduate Calendar. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis but admission is for the Fall only.

http://www.uoguelph.ca/sofam/ma