

A photograph of two young women in an art gallery. They are standing behind a glass display case, looking down at a small, framed painting inside. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a dark blazer over a blue top. The woman on the right has blonde hair and is wearing a light blue sweater. In the background, there are larger framed paintings on the wall. The overall lighting is warm and focused on the subjects.

The Courtauld

BA History of Art

Undergraduate prospectus
2023/24

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Director's welcome



We pride ourselves on offering a truly transformative learning experience, open to everyone - regardless of background.

The Courtauld Institute of Art is one of the world's leading centres for the study of history of art, conservation and curating. I am delighted you are considering studying with us.

Uniquely, The Courtauld brings together exceptional teaching and research in the history and conservation of art with an outstanding art collection. We offer an unmatched concentration of specialisms from antiquity to the present, and across the world.

We pride ourselves on offering a truly transformative learning experience, open to everyone – regardless of background. You will be challenged daily by your teachers and peers, but remember university is not about learning alone; your whole experience at The Courtauld will enrich your life and open up great opportunities.

One of our greatest strengths is our size; our small classes create an inspiring atmosphere where you can explore subject matters that most interest you. Our world-leading faculty will get to know you as an individual, and will work with you to enhance your strengths and equip you with an intellectual framework that will serve both as a professional springboard and a personal passion. Here, you will gain friends and contacts for life.

Leaders in a broad range of fields, the passion and commitment of our faculty enriches the student experience by bringing current research and debates into classroom discussion. Our teaching places a strong emphasis on critical analysis and historical inquiry. As a result, our students develop deeply transferable skills, including analysis, writing, and presenting arguments – equipping them for careers in the art world

and beyond – and learn to look and think differently and creatively.

The Courtauld is at the heart of a community of specialists – including a global network of over 8,000 alumni – who shape the international art world and play key roles in a huge range of professions beyond. Alumni include the Directors of the National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and Tate Modern in London, and further afield, in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, Istanbul Modern Art Museum, Türkiye, and Christchurch Art Gallery, New Zealand, to name only a few. Our graduates are also entrepreneurs, lawyers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and more.

You will be joining us at a period of great change and excitement. The Gallery – reopened to critical acclaim in November 2021 – gives you constant, free access to globally renowned collections and provides opportunities for you to further develop your skills. This transformation is not just about our physical buildings, but also about how we continue to open The Courtauld up to new audiences and ensure our student experience is relevant to today's challenges. In January 2022, we announced a new relationship with King's College London, in which we will collaborate on teaching, research and student experience and offer joint programmes.

Our community of students and scholars is passionate about art history and committed to the very highest levels of achievement, as are you. Welcome to The Courtauld.

Professor Deborah Swallow,
Märit Rausing Director

About The Courtauld

The Courtauld Institute of Art is a small, friendly, specialist centre for the study of art history, conservation and curating, with one of the UK's major art collections at its heart. Founded in 1932 as the UK's first institution devoted to the study of art, The Courtauld is an independent college of the University of London. Founders Samuel Courtauld, Viscount Lee of Fareham and Sir Robert Witt believed passionately in the importance of art, the power it has in societies across the world, and the need to study and understand the ways in which it works.

The Courtauld has the largest faculty of art historians in the United Kingdom, who are working on an increasingly global scale. In the previous academic year, we added two new academic posts specialising in Modern and Contemporary Art and Visual Culture, with specialisms in critical

race, Black studies. We have recently appointed two new specialists in Buddhist Art History and Conservation.

We have expertise across all periods – from the ancient world to the contemporary. Ours is a close-knit community of scholars, researchers and students pursuing a shared passion for art. We study, research and teach about art in all forms and all media, from the smallest, most personal painting or object to the design and evolution of whole cities; from medieval cathedrals, mosques and temples, to modern fashion, photography and performance art. Over the past 90 years, The Courtauld has developed as the leading Art History department in the country, attracting outstanding students, teachers and researchers. With around 600 students taking degrees from BA to PhD, you will meet students from all courses and years.

We have a very lively research culture, attracting some of the leading artists and figures in art history, museums and galleries from around the art world. They contribute to our Research Forum programme, which offers lectures, conferences, workshops and seminars supporting advanced inquiry in the history of art, conservation and museum studies. Outside their formal studies, students continue to engage and interrogate their subjects through societies, Research Forum and professional networking events.

Our graduates are a testament to the lasting impact of studying at The Courtauld, and go on to have a tremendous impact in the arts, creative and cultural sectors, as well as in law, journalism, technology, marketing, finance, and other non-arts sectors.

Strategic relationship with King's College London

In January 2022, The Courtauld and King's College London announced a relationship which will see our institutions collaborate on teaching, research and student experience, offering joint programmes and research.

As a Courtauld student, you will have access to King's facilities, including cafes, medical services, chaplaincy, library, clubs and societies, and sports teams, enriching your student experience. This is in addition to all the existing facilities and services that we offer at The Courtauld, including our own libraries, clubs and societies, and more.

Language modules for undergraduate students are delivered by King's Modern Languages Centre, and BA History of Art students will be invited to take part in student-led collaborative initiatives.





Campus

There is a strong sense of community in King's Cross, with an exciting cultural scene and a thriving community.

Most of The Courtauld's teaching takes place at our Vernon Square campus, in King's Cross.

Located five minutes from King's Cross Station in a dynamic and vibrant part of London, Vernon Square is within walking distance of some of London's finest research and cultural facilities, including the British Library and the University of London's Senate House.

We offer an excellent student experience and learning environment, with purpose-built lecture theatres and seminar rooms, as well as digital resources and our library with around 200,000 books.

We are close to some of the world's biggest museums and collections, including the British Library, the British Museum and The National Gallery.

There are also lesser-known gems, such as the Foundling Museum – the first public art gallery in London — and the Wellcome Collection. There is a strong sense of community in King's Cross, with an exciting cultural scene and a thriving community.

You will be able to access our extraordinary collection at Somerset House. We are currently undertaking a major transformation project that will make The Courtauld's world-class artworks, research and teaching accessible to even more people.

The first stage of the project was completed in November 2021, when The Courtauld Gallery and the new Learning Centre opened to the public and the construction of the West Wing Conservation Studios and Object Study Room were completed.







Why study Art History?

Art History – the study of art from across the world, and from the ancient to this present day – covers virtually every aspect of human history and experience. When you study Art History, you look at works of art not just as objects, but as a way of understanding the world, and the societies in which they were created.

Some of the questions you will ask include: what were the conscious and unconscious choices that led to an artwork's

form and subject matter? What does its content – how people are represented, how religion is shown – tell you about the society in which it was created, and its history? How was it received when it was first put on display, and how has this changed?

By asking these questions, you will gain profound insights into how people throughout time and across the world lived, thought, felt and understood the world around them.



Why study at The Courtauld?

Our world-leading faculty will enable you to acquire different ways of looking at, and thinking about art. You will be encouraged and supported to study across media, time and geographies, taught by leading researchers in their field.

As your course progresses, you will develop your own intellectual interests. Our small class sizes contribute to an atmosphere where you can explore the subjects that most interest you, and where you will develop knowledge, friends and contacts for life.

You will be right at the centre of the global art world, able to freely access a range of galleries and museums across London, as well as art fairs such as Frieze London. We understand the importance of seeing works of art in person, and teaching regularly takes places in galleries and museums across London, as well as further afield.

The Courtauld is unique in also being home to one of the world's great art collections, located in the magnificent historical setting of Somerset House. Our students are able to access this extraordinary collection, and they can also take advantage of work and training opportunities in the Gallery. You can also study works from our collection in the Prints and Drawings Room, where you can call up works to examine from Old Masters to the Avant Garde.

Outside formal teaching, you are encouraged to participate in a range of activities to support and broaden your art historical knowledge. Our Research Forum holds over 150 events per year including workshops and public lectures from guest speakers.

Our Careers Service run a range of events and activities to support your career aspirations, whether in the arts or beyond. Our alumni form a global community of some of the world's most influential leaders in the arts and other sectors.

Course information

BA (Hons) History of Art
UCAS code: V350
Delivery: full-time
Duration: three years
(September-June)
Intake: 100 students

The Courtauld Institute of Art offers one programme at undergraduate level – our highly-regarded BA in History of Art. The curriculum – revised in 2022/3 – offers teaching across an unrivalled breadth of periods and cultures. You will have the opportunity to study art and architecture from late antiquity to the present, and from across the globe: from Byzantium to the Early Modern Islamic World, from Medieval and Renaissance Europe to International Modernism, and from Contemporary China to Black art histories.

Over three years of study, our BA degree builds up a broad, deep and multifaceted understanding of art history, encouraging both range and specialism, fostering subject-specific and transferable skills and knowledge. It encourages you to study works of art at first-hand, including The Courtauld's own extraordinary collections, and to understand them in light of the latest critical approaches and ideas. All our teachers are researchers at the cutting edge of their areas of specialism and they bring their knowledge, discoveries and ideas to discuss with you in seminars, lectures, gallery visits and tutorials. The modules we teach are directly shaped by the tutor's research and partly for that reason, they change from year to year – modules outlined below are therefore indicative of subjects that may be on offer.

Each year you will take a combination of required and optional modules totalling 120 credits, with the whole degree equalling 360 credits. The first year will establish solid foundations in the subject through modules

that introduce you to a range of periods, places, and methods, and with classes taught in London's art collections. You will also study a modern language. In the second year, you will take two core modules that explore works of art as physical objects (*Physical Histories*) and examine the role that museums play in society (*Critical Museology*). Alongside these, a range of optional modules are offered, exploring different art histories and critical methods. In your final year, you will be able to express preferences for Special Options and other electives, some of which may be delivered through departments at King's College London. You will also pursue your own research project, culminating in a dissertation. We will accommodate your choice

wherever possible, keeping in mind the value we place on research-led teaching in small seminar groups of ten to twelve students.

You will be supported throughout your degree by a personal tutor, who will meet with you regularly to discuss your work and progress, assist you in selecting appropriate modules and offer guidance in your future plans.

The degree is assessed by a range of methods, including coursework, exams and a final-year dissertation. You must pass your first year in order to progress to the second year (pass mark: 40%). The second year counts towards 40% of your final degree average and the third year counts towards the remaining 60%.



Year one

The first year is designed to give you a solid basis for the study of Art History by introducing you to broad content and key skills.

Core modules – Foundations 1 and 2:

A series of lectures, dealing with a range of major themes and issues from antiquity to the present day across the globe, runs in two parts in semesters 1 and 2. It is supported by discussion classes of about 15 students which help you to build up your confidence in looking, thinking, discussing and writing about Art History.

Optional modules:

In each semester, you will join a module that focuses on the first-hand study of art in London, making the most of the world class works in museums and galleries that surround us. These are taught in groups of ten to twelve students and meet weekly.

Indicative topics include:

- Contemporary Art in London
- Sensory Encounters with Dress and Textiles
- Techniques and Meaning in 20th Century Art
- Sites and Monuments
- Possibilities of Portraiture
- Persian Manuscripts
- Looking at the Overlooked in Early Modern Still Life
- Northern European Art in London Collections
- Graphic Arts in the Italian Renaissance
- Westminster Abbey

Academic Literacies:

Throughout your first year, you will attend sessions and undertake tasks that support your transition to undergraduate level work, honing skills in writing fluently, reading critically and looking analytically – essential as you find your own voice as an art historian.

Language:

We strongly believe in the importance of offering you the chance to learn or improve a foreign language. It gives you insights into another culture, helps connect you with other people, and provides you access to new literature and ways of thinking. It is also increasingly important as a way to stand out in the job market. You will study a language initially during your first year, though you may elect to take it further over the course of your degree. Language teaching is provided through the Modern Languages Centre at King's College London and a wide range of languages is available to you including French, Italian, German, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Mandarin.

Year two

The second year is designed to help you develop your skills in critical thinking and extend your detailed knowledge of particular art historical periods and themes.

Core module – Physical Histories:

A pioneering module taken in semester 1, taught with input from colleagues in our conservation department, which encourages you to understand and interpret works of art via close looking at their material characteristics.

Core module – Critical Museology:

In semester 2, you will move to considering the role of museums in societies (past, present, and future), and how display contexts can shape (and also limit) the understanding of works of art and architecture. Making use of London collections, you will think analytically about the particular display choices, methods and narratives adopted by different museums and galleries.

Optional modules:

In each semester you will take a range of modules that look at a particular period, theme or event in the History of Art, situating it in relation to the different ways in which it has been understood or approached. You will also be introduced to theoretical and methodological frameworks for thinking about art and art history. Modules are taught weekly though a combination of lectures and seminars in groups of ten to twelve students.

Indicative titles include:

- Approaching Van Eyck: Problems and Perspectives
- Writing on Sculpture: Making, Inscribing and Viewing
- Reading Spanish Art from Greco to Goya
- Questions of Feminism
- Writing French Modernism from Mallarmé to Matisse
- Mapping Contemporary Asian Art
- Cold War Cultures: Art in a Divided World 1945–1991
- Artists, Radicals, Mystics: European Art c.1800
- From Shiraz to Beijing: Persian Arts in the Global Fifteenth-Century
- From London to Namibia: Art, Travel and Imagination in the Middle Ages

Year three

The third year of the BA enables you to explore specialised topics in depth, and helps you to find your own critical voice as a writer and art historian.

Core module – BA Research:

Beginning in semester 1, you will be supported in honing your skills in independent research, defining an area you wish to explore and establishing appropriate parameters, research questions and approaches before embarking on a sustained piece of work, supervised by a member of our teaching faculty. The research module culminates in the writing of an 8,000-word dissertation, to be submitted at the end of semester 2. For many students, this is one of the most rewarding aspects of the degree.

Optional modules:

You will meet twice a week in a Special Option seminar group, one in each semester. These modules are designed to engage with materials and methods at an advanced level, and to equip students for further study or for a broad range of careers.

Indicative modules include:

- Reassembling Modernism: Artists' Networks in Europe 1909–1960
- Beyond Painting and Sculpture: Happenings and Performance through the Twentieth Century
- Leisure, Commerce and Crime in the Victorian Metropolis
- Monuments and Memory
- Art and Empire in Eighteenth-century London
- Dripping Guts and Heavenly Wonders: the Body as Subject and Object in North Western Europe 1100–1450
- Afro-Queerness and the Black Body
- Surrealism: History, Themes and Concepts
- Art and the Modern Nation: from Medieval Islam to Post-Modern Iran
- Investigating Michelangelo: Drawing, Painting, Sculpture and the Myth of the Artist



Entry requirements

The Courtauld's BA History of Art is open to all those with a passion for the role art plays in the world around us. You don't need to have studied Art History at school to apply; we welcome students from all backgrounds. As an institution, we aim to recruit a wide and diverse student body. While the following describes the standard entry requirements, please note that these are flexible, subject to applicants' personal circumstances.

You will be assessed on your academic potential as much as achievement. Your personal statement should demonstrate your interest in art history and your passion for visual culture.

A-levels: Grades AAA-ABB (excluding General Studies). There are no subject requirements.

International A-levels: Grades AAA-ABB (excluding General Studies). There are no subject requirements.

GCSE: Grade 6 and above in a language other than English is desirable but not required.

Scottish Highers: AAAAB or AAABB, usually supplemented by two or more Advanced Highers. Offers made to candidates on the basis of the Advanced Higher subjects are likely to be set at AA for two subjects, and AAB for three subjects.

Welsh Baccalaureate: Advanced Diploma with two A grades at A-Level alongside the Core Certificate at Level 3.

International Baccalaureate (IB): A minimum of 35 points overall. European Baccalaureate: 80% overall.

Cambridge Pre-U: D3, D3, M2 in three Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects.

BTEC: DDM. Access: Access to Humanities Diploma at Level 3 with 39 Level 3 credits from units awarded at Distinction, with the remaining credits at Merit.

International students: A list of equivalent entry requirements for international students can be found on our website: courtauld.ac.uk/ba-entry-requirements

English proficiency:

International students wishing to apply to The Courtauld and whose first language is not English must be able to demonstrate their competence in English in order to benefit fully from their course of study. Non-EEA nationals must also satisfy the UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) requirements for English language before The Courtauld can issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) for visa purposes. Government guidance on English language test providers is subject to change, so visit courtauld.ac.uk/english-language-requirements for the most up-to-date information.

Application:

Application for admission to the BA (Hons) History of Art programme should be made through UCAS. Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process. Applicants who have left school or who are based outside the UK are able to obtain information directly from UCAS (ucas.com). The Courtauld Institute of Art's UCAS code is C80.

Contextual offers

We are committed to admitting the brightest students to The Courtauld, regardless of background or experience of studying Art History.

We warmly welcome applications from the following groups:

- Students from areas of low higher education participation, with low household income or low socioeconomic status
- Mature students
- Disabled students
- Care leavers
- Carers

If you are applying as a candidate from one of these groups of people, we recognise that you may experience barriers which make it more challenging for you to achieve our standard entry requirements. In consideration of this, we may be able to make you an offer at our lower minimum entry requirements.

You may also be eligible for financial support in the form of a bursary and scholarship, and we have a Hardship Fund available during your studies to provide short-term emergency funds to meet the immediate financial needs, if necessary. This is on top of the other support that the Government might be able to give you.

Students from under-represented backgrounds may be eligible to gain access to free workshops and summer universities through our Public Programme activities.

For more information, please see: courtauld.ac.uk/widening-participation

Fees, funding and bursaries

Tuition fees

For up-to-date information about fees, please check our website: courtauld.ac.uk/tuition-fees

Student finance

You may be eligible for loans to help pay for university tuition fees and to help with living costs.

If you have a tuition fee loan, the loan is paid directly to your university or college. You may also be eligible for a maintenance loan, where the money is paid directly into your bank account at the start of each term.

For further information, visit gov.uk/get-undergraduate-student-loan

The James Hughes-Hallett Undergraduate Scholarship

The James Hughes-Hallett Undergraduate Scholarship has been created to support BA History of Art students who are from groups that are underrepresented in UK Higher Education.

The scholarship will be provided to three UK undergraduate students each academic year, and is worth £10,000 over the duration of your three-year degree. You will receive a third of this amount annually, which will be paid directly into your bank account. This is in addition to the annual Courtauld Bursary, which can be worth up to £3,000 per year.

The following criteria are considered:

- Attendance at a non-selective UK state school or college
- Household income
- Your parents(s) / guardian(s) did not attend university

This scholarship is only open to students studying at undergraduate level for the first time.

Additional criteria:

If you also meet one or more of the criteria below, it means you are more likely to be awarded the scholarship – however, there is no order of priority:

- Care leavers
- Carers
- Students living with a disability
- Students from a minority ethnic group
- Students with refugee status

The Courtauld Bursary

The Courtauld Bursary provides financial support on a sliding scale for Home undergraduate students who meet certain criteria.

The Courtauld Bursary is available each year of your studies:

- as long as your parents'/guardians' annual household income remains under £42,620
- May be revised each year if there are changes to your parents'/guardians' household income
- Does not distinguish between students living at home and those living away from home

Eligibility:

The following criteria are considered:

- Household income
- State school or college educated
- Students whose parents have not attended university
- Resident in a neighbourhood which has a low Higher Education participation rate
- In receipt of Disability Support Allowance

When applying for government funding, both you and your parents/guardians must consent to sharing the financial information you provide on your Student Loan application. This will allow us to access your information and determine your eligibility for The Courtauld Bursary.

The Courtauld Bursary is not available for:

- Repeat years of study
- Overseas students, including EU citizens without settled status

The Courtauld Hardship Fund

The Courtauld Hardship Fund provides short-term emergency funds to meet immediate financial needs. It is intended primarily to provide support for short-term urgent needs, such as living costs and rent and cannot be used in payment of tuition fees.

It is open to all students studying at The Courtauld, including overseas students.

Resources and academic support

Academic study support

The Courtauld is fortunate to have two Royal Literary Fund Fellows working with us. Fellows are professional writers who offer individual appointments where students can discuss all aspects of their writing, such as structuring an argument, making the essay clearer and improving style. The Fellows use their expertise in language and communication to help students develop their own voice and writing skills.

Our team of librarians supports students' information needs at each stage of your studies. They can help you define those needs and show you where to search for and find information. Sharing tips on evaluating your search results, they can guide you around citing and referencing your sources correctly.

Our Specialist Study Skills Tutor helps students needing a diagnosis around specific learning difficulties and applying for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). They also support neurodiverse and disabled students with exploring study skills strategies and appropriate assistive technology.

The Courtauld's libraries

Students have access to a significant collection of some 200,000 books, exhibition catalogues and journals, focussed on Art History and related subjects. The library also provides numerous electronic resources to support your studies, including electronic journals, databases and e-books. As members of the University of London you also have access to the central university's printed and electronic resources through Senate House Library. The library is at Vernon Square and will remain there throughout the Courtauld Connects refurbishment project. The Vernon Square Library includes individual study spaces as well as areas for collaborative work and also contains computers, scanners and printers. Library staff are available to answer enquiries in person or by email and to help students find material.

Digital resources

As a Courtauld student, you will be able to access most of the required readings for each of your courses online through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The library provides links to e-books, articles from digital magazines and scans of key chapters to help you prepare for each lecture and seminar. We have a range of electronic resources on the history of art and architecture, including image and video databases, as well as more traditional academic resources.

Prints and Drawings Room

The Courtauld Gallery houses one of the most significant collections of works on paper in Britain, with approximately 7,000 drawings and watercolours, and 27,000 prints ranging from the late Middle Ages to the twentieth-century avant-garde. This includes masterpieces by artists such as Dürer, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Turner, and provides coverage of major national schools and periods. Students can also have access to our collection through our Prints and Drawings Room, which is used for collection-based teaching.

The Witt and Conway photographic libraries

The Witt Library is a collection of over 2 million photographs and reproductions of Western paintings, drawings and engravings from c 1200 to the

present day, and the Conway Library has a collection of photographs of world architecture, architectural drawings, sculpture and manuscripts. In support of our ambition to open The Courtauld to the world, we are currently digitising the Witt and Conway libraries. As a result of this initiative, both libraries will be physically inaccessible to visitors during the 2023/24 academic year.

Digital collections

The Courtauld's publicly accessible digital collections already feature The Courtauld Gallery's complete collections of paintings and drawings, and over 40,000 images of world architecture and sculpture from the Conway Library. Students also have access to more than 130,000 images covering painting, sculpture and architecture to illuminated manuscripts, prints and decorative arts.



Student stories



Kanon

Third year student

My three years at The Courtauld have been such a precious learning and growing experience. The academic faculty counts the most exceptional professors, highly specialised in their fields, delivering an outstanding quality of teaching. Thanks to the great variety of offered modules, I was able to find my specific area of interest – 20th/21st century modern and contemporary art across Europe and Asia. The well-rounded teaching style, typical of The Courtauld, allowed me to deepen my knowledge on the topics through Research Forum talks, individual and group research, funded trips, and numerous museum visits.

Outside the classrooms, I had the chance to chair the Business of Art Society, the largest society at The Courtauld, organising weekly lecture series with professionals working in different sectors within the art world (From Auctions, Galleries,

Museums, Curation, Art and Tech, Art and Law, to Art and Finance). The society, together with The Courtauld career support, provided me with the opportunity to expand my network within the art world and work in different leading art institutions such as the Guggenheim Museum, Venice Biennale, and Phillips alongside my studies.

The association with the newly reopened Courtauld Gallery gave us students not only free and easy access to the exceptional museum collection but allowed us to get involved in its development through voluntary and paid opportunities such as the Digitalisation Project at Somerset House, the Student Ambassador scheme, or assisting the Gallery's special openings or events.

For me, The Courtauld is the place where my career in the art world really kicked off and I genuinely cannot imagine myself studying anywhere else.

Elliot

First year student

After spending a few years abroad focusing on my career, I returned to the UK to study as I felt I had missed out. I can happily say that it was soon clear to me that I made the right decision. The Courtauld has crafted an academic programme which inspires and challenges me beyond my expectations. The combination of different courses with different set criteria has enabled me to extend my art history knowledge and methodological practices, as well as finding my academic voice.

I found the range of perspectives and expertise of such an acclaimed body of staff to be something that has pushed me to explore different topics that I may not have considered a match before. For example, before I started at The Courtauld I was particularly fond of 20th century art. By chance, my topic course focused on *Techniques and Meaning in 20th Century Art*, which gave me a whole new layered insight into many artists and movements. In stark comparison to this, my other topic course *Graphic Arts in The Italian Renaissance* contributed a bodied comprehension of artistic practices in this particularly exciting period and enabled me to explore how I can discuss and interpret the materiality of different kinds of art.



I have worked as a Digital Assistant for The Research Forum. That in particular has been so fulfilling as I have been able to engage with a plenitude of different academic lectures, as well as the different organisations that The Courtauld is related to. I always find myself so inspired and encouraged by the environment of like-minded, engaged individuals.

I also thoroughly enjoyed the different societies, which have enabled more integration with students in the other years. It is always an enlightening opportunity to hear about others' experiences and insights.

Being in London at a world-leading art history institution is really incomparable and a privilege I am utterly grateful for. I would recommend studying here to anyone with a passion for culture and a curiosity to achieve excellence.

Health and wellbeing

Wellbeing team

Student wellbeing is a key priority for us. Our team of wellbeing, disability support and mental health staff provide a safe, confidential and non-judgmental space to support all students. The Wellbeing team is a first point of call for students experiencing any issue that affects their studies – whether it be personal, mental or physical health, financial or welfare.

We are able to provide guidance for students with disabilities, mental health conditions, or other long-term health conditions. Our Wellbeing Team can help you to apply for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) if appropriate, which may include the funding for a Mental Health Mentor. The team can also arrange for reasonable adjustments, such as extra time in assessments and exams, access to specialist equipment and assistive software, library assistance in the form of extended book loans, assistance to locate and/or collect research materials, access to course materials in alternative formats and advocate special circumstances.

Personal support

Our team of experienced counsellors are available to support you on a range of personal issues.

General medical support

It is vitally important that you are registered with an NHS doctor in London to ensure that you have access to medical services when you need them. The Gower Street practice is located a short walk from Vernon Square, and offers a full range of medical services, including a travel clinic, lifestyle clinics and counselling services.

Careers

A degree in Art History makes you highly employable, and opens paths to careers in all sectors of the economy, not just the arts. As a humanities subject, it gives you skills in critical thinking and writing, and the ability to express yourself succinctly and persuasively. Uniquely, it also gives you the ability to understand the visual world around you and the ways in which images, buildings and objects have an effect on society. This has a strong vocational element, particularly if you are interested in a career in the arts.

Transferable skills

The BA programme is designed to produce graduates with highly transferable skills, which prepare them for a wide range of employment opportunities, or further academic study. Our graduates are not only equipped with a detailed knowledge and understanding of the History of Art, but they also learn how to:

- Analyse visual imagery and articulate sophisticated arguments in formal writing
- Read critically and economically
- Assimilate complex material
- Formulate and express a broad range of different ideas
- Present research to a varied audience
- Develop independent research skills
- Experience collaborative work in groups

The Courtauld Careers Programme

The Courtauld Careers Programme is a comprehensive careers education programme designed to help students to explore their career options, receive practical tips from and network with alumni and employers, and develop their employability skills. The programme consists of a wide variety of events, including:

- Panel sessions led by alumni in a range of careers
- Talks by recruitment and careers professionals
- Employability skills workshops on a range of topics, including career management, interview techniques and networking



All students are encouraged to attend the events which benefit them most. Those who demonstrate commitment to their personal and professional development by either attending five one-to-one careers guidance appointments/ five careers events or through a combination of one-to-one sessions and careers events are invited to an exclusive alumni networking event. This gives them the opportunity to meet a wide range of alumni and build valuable professional contacts. Each year, students are able to secure work opportunities through attending this event. Other events offered outside of the programme include workshops with employers or sector leaders or access to events offered by other university career services in London, for example, on self-employment.

The event programme is complemented by a wide range of online resources, from 'How to write a CV' to a 'Guide to Heritage Careers', and one-to-one support from a specialist Careers Consultant.

Work experience

Many students work part-time to gain valuable work experience and supplement their income. They may also embark on full-time internships during the holiday periods. Some find jobs in galleries, museums, auction houses and other arts institutions to complement their studies, while others gain internships to explore sectors outside of the arts.

The Courtauld also has various opportunities internally, such as assisting in the Prints and Drawings Study Room and providing general services in the libraries. In addition, a carefully selected listing from the University of London's jobs board is posted online each week which offers a range of vacancies across various industries. The Careers Service provides support and guidance in finding and applying for work experience opportunities, using all or any of these and other sources.



Alumni

The Courtauld is small but mighty – and our alumni are testament to that. Our community spans 83 countries across the world, forming an international powerhouse that influences the arts and creative sectors on a global scale. Many of the world's major museums and galleries are led by Courtauld graduates, but our alumni also go on to become pioneers in a wide range of sectors – including technology, law, finance, journalism, marketing and politics. Whether working in or outside the arts, our alumni use the skills that they learnt at The Courtauld to analyse, challenge and influence the world around them.

Staying connected

After graduating, students automatically join our vibrant and highly active alumni community and receive regular communications through our monthly alumni e-newsletter, annual Courtauld News publication and through our social media.

Events

We host a range of alumni events in the UK and around the world. These events are attended by alumni of all ages and range in scale from our popular Summer Party to more intimate curatorial tours and exclusive lectures.

Careers support

The Courtauld offers a careers and professional support service for alumni for up to two years after graduating, as well as the opportunity to book one-to-one meetings and interview practice sessions with The Courtauld's Careers Consultant. All alumni, at any career level, are welcome to attend The Courtauld Institute Careers Programme (CICP) for students, which provides a range of webinars, panel discussions, skills workshops, and professional networking opportunities.

Alumni-student mentoring programme

The Courtauld offers a small-scale mentoring programme aimed specifically at BA students from underrepresented backgrounds. Taking place in March every year, the programme provides 30 students with one month of personalised careers support with a mentor in an area of work that interests them. Mentors are hand-selected from The Courtauld's network of successful alumni and students are carefully matched with a professional who suits their unique needs and career aspirations.

Alumni spotlight



Sieun Lee (BA 2021)

Sieun is an Associate Cataloguer in Modern and Contemporary Art at Sotheby's. A recent graduate, she previously chaired the Business of Art Society and runs Now Curation, a curatorial collective focused on exhibiting emerging contemporary artists.



Aindrea Emelife (BA 2015)

Aindrea Emelife is an art historian, writer, independent curator, author and presenter. She has been widely published internationally including articles in The Guardian, Vanity Fair, BBC, GQ and she has written two books. Aindrea frequently makes appearances on podcasts and delivers lectures on topics pertaining to contemporary art, popularising art history and supporting female artists and artists of colour. In 2021, Aindrea was appointed to the Mayor of London's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm.

Harry Hutchison (BA 2006)

Harry Hutchison is the Director of Aicon Gallery in New York, which specializes in modern and contemporary non-Western art, with a particular focus on emerging and established artists from South Asia. In addition to producing solo shows by the gallery's artists, Aicon exhibits curated group shows that helps to pave the way for serious discussion around non-Western art in the U.S.



Danielle Radojcin (BA 2000)

Danielle Radojcin is a multimedia journalist, consultant and podcast producer specialising in fashion, art and culture, whose clients include Miu Miu, Matches Fashion and the British Fashion Council. She has worked for Vogue, ASOS, Net-A-Porter and GQ and is currently a contributing editor for MATCHESFASHION.COM as well as an associate lecturer on the MA fashion journalism course at Central Saint Martins.



Charlie Casely-Hayford (BA 2009)

Charlie Casely-Hayford is a fashion designer and founder of the internationally renowned menswear brand Casely-Hayford, which he co-founded at the age of just 22. Clients have included Benedict Cumberbatch, Sam Smith, Drake, John Legend and David Beckham.



Rowan Lowe (BA 2008)

Rowan Lowe is Head of Public Fundraising at Refugee Council, a leading charity working with refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK. She has over ten years of fundraising experience, and prior to joining Refugee Council she worked at The National Autistic Society and Shelter UK.

The Students' Union



A note from the President of the Students' Union

On behalf of The Courtauld Students' Union, I'd like to thank you for considering studying at The Courtauld. The student experience here is truly unique, and I am excited to be able to share it with you. Our small size enables the student body to come together as a vibrant and diverse community.

Our campus in King's Cross places us close to some of the world's best galleries and museums on our doorstep. There truly isn't a better place to enhance your understanding of the history of art whilst engaging with the vibrant cultural life of the capital.

At the SU, we work to support students and to provide them with opportunities throughout the year. As a student at The Courtauld, you can expect to have a diverse, inclusive and exciting array of social and wellbeing events available to you. We also have a small but passionate group of student-led societies which include our Art Law Society, Art and Climate Society,

LGBTQ+ Society and The Courtauldian - our incredible student-run magazine - as well as many more.

You're more than welcome to join societies and student-groups at nearby universities like King's College London via the University of London network.

Aside from social and academic life, looking after the welfare of our students is one of the SU's most important jobs. The Courtauld and the Students' Union offer valuable wellbeing support and student-led initiatives. These stretch from before students have enrolled, through the SU enabled 'Peer-to-Peer programme', to a new alumni-mentoring programme, to our wellbeing service which includes counsellors and specialist support.

I hope this has given you a good idea of the tight-knit community that thrives at The Courtauld.

If you are interested in the Students' Union, please consider visiting our website and our Instagram page:
[@courtauld_SU](https://courtauld.ac.uk/students-union)

Alternatively, we can always be reached at: students.union@courtauld.ac.uk

Diego Artechelbinarriaga

President of The Courtauld Students' Union

The Students' Union

The Students' Union is a student-run representative group. Our role is to campaign for students, to make everyone feel welcome and included, and to ensure happiness of all students at The Courtauld. We do this by representing the students' needs to the staff and to the outside world. Every year, there are lots of great opportunities to get involved, and we elect a President, six Vice Presidents, a representative from each year group and officers from our LGBTQIA+, Disabled and BAME communities.

As well as campaigning on their behalf, the Students' Union holds social events for Courtauld students. The Union Committee itself organises events such as Freshers' Week, the Winter Party and the Summer Ball. The majority of our events come from the students themselves. Our Union is unique in only asking for as few as five students to form a society for it to be eligible for Union funding; these can also be large projects like our student publication The Courtauldian. Alternatively, societies might take the form of weekly lectures, like those organised by our Business of Art Society or Film Society, or creative self-expression as in Fine Art Society.

The Courtauldian

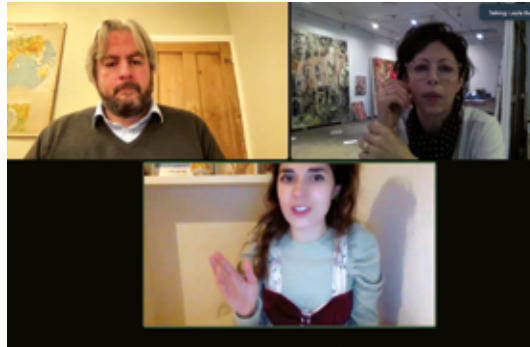
The Courtauldian is the student-run publication of The Courtauld Institute of Art. The Courtauldian was founded in 2012 and attracts contributions from alumni, staff, and students at all levels of study from BA1 to PhD.

With magazines published termly, and online content published continually, the publication features articles, reviews, interviews, creative writing, and columns covering subjects from art and design, to current affairs, politics, student news and more.

To view the latest publication, visit courtauldian.com



Research Forum



Open Courtauld Hour: In Conversation with Cecily Brown



The Research Forum delivers an extensive programme of lectures, conferences, workshops, artist talks, seminars, gallery lunches and online and digital publications supporting advanced inquiry into the History of Art, Conservation and Curating.

Hosting around 150 events per year, the varied programme of events looks to different periods and themes in art, visual culture and its history. Recent event series include 'The Art of the Buddhist World', 'Considering Collecting', and 'Exiles and Émigrés.'

The programme provides undergraduate students with insight into topics that expand and go beyond main areas of study, and students are encouraged to engage, debate and question during the events. Attending events provides students with extra opportunities for enhanced learning, and it can also help contextualise content taught in class.

In addition to the core programme, online Open Courtauld events embrace a wide and diverse audience. Open Courtauld Hour provides packages of pop-up talks, performances and in detail object study sessions that explore and celebrate our collection, research in art history, curation and conservation. The series touches on pertinent issues — magnifying contemporary thinking in society through the field of art history. The Research Forum also hosts a Decolonisation Reading Group scheme, open to all staff and students, intended to enable learning, debate, and reflection as a community.

The Research Forum facilitates The Courtauld's cross-sectional research clusters which include groups such as Documenting Fashion, Courtauld Asia, and Gender and Sexuality. Like the majority of events, activities organised by these advanced working research groups are open to undergraduates too. Event details and recordings are posted online - follow on social media @CourtauldRes or visit courtauld.ac.uk/research

The Courtauld Collection

As a student at The Courtauld, you will have unrivalled access to The Courtauld Gallery which is home to one of the greatest art collections in the UK.

The Gallery, based in historic Somerset House, is most famous for its collection of Impressionist and Post-impressionist works – including masterpieces such as Van Gogh's *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear*, Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère* and the most significant collection of works by Cézanne in the UK. The collection has remarkable works ranging from the Medieval and Renaissance to the present day, including an internationally renowned collection of prints and drawings, and an important holding of decorative arts.

The permanent collection sits alongside an exciting programme of temporary exhibitions, which showcase works by internationally renowned artists in focussed exhibitions. Recent exhibitions have included *Van Gogh. Self-Portraits* and *Edvard Munch. Masterpieces from Bergen*.

Highlights of the newly transformed Gallery include the spectacular LVMH Great Room, which once hosted the Royal Academy of Arts' famous summer exhibitions, exhibitions, which has been restored to its original proportions to provide a new home for our world-famous collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings.

The Courtauld's collection has been completely redisplayed and newly interpreted. Internationally famous works from the Renaissance to the 18th century are shown in the beautifully restored Blavatnik Fine Rooms, and there are new and transformed galleries devoted to the Medieval and Early Renaissance collection, 20th century art, and the work of the Bloomsbury Group.

The Prints and Drawings Study Room, and a new Object Study Room, offer the opportunity to study and work closely with The Courtauld's collection. Teaching for BA History of Art also takes place in these spaces as well as across the Gallery. To support collection care, teaching and learning, the conservation studios have been extensively rebuilt.

To find out more, visit:
courtauld.ac.uk/gallery



Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890),
Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear,
1889, The Courtauld, London
(Samuel Courtauld Trust)
Photo © The Courtauld

Photo © Hufton+Crow

Edouard Manet (1832–1883),
A Bar at the Folies-Bergère,
1882, The Courtauld, London
(Samuel Courtauld Trust)
Photo © The Courtauld



Courtauld Learning programme

Our Learning Team deliver an extensive programme of free workshops, projects, events and resources for a wide and diverse range of audiences. These include schools, young people (16-18), families, community groups and English Language Learners.

Our online and in-person programmes bring art history, conservation and curating to life and invite participants to share their own experience and knowledge with us. We believe everyone should have the chance to realise their potential irrespective of social, financial or personal circumstances. Through our **Schools programme**, we work closely with students and teachers in non-selective state schools and colleges across the UK, free of charge. Our ambition is to transform access to art history education, by extending the horizons of what this is, and ensuring as many people as possible can benefit from the tools to better understand the visual world around us.

In addition to our core Schools programme, our **Young People's Programme** offers 16-18 year olds from under-represented backgrounds free art history taster workshops, a week-long

Art History Summer University and other lively collaborative events covering a broad range of periods, geographies and themes in art history. Participants work with professional artists, curators, conservators, and art historians to explore our collections, uncover new research, work with new materials, and to debate, discuss and question different approaches to analysing, interpreting and making art. The programme also provides an opportunity to learn more about the diverse career paths available to art history graduates and meet other young people interested in the visual arts.

For more information about the programme and our eligibility criteria, please see: courtauld.ac.uk/young-people

Our **Student Ambassador Programme** and **Student Talks Programme** provide skills training for Courtauld students, and enable you to develop your confidence, skills and knowledge through shadowing and supporting our Learning programmes and/or delivering short talks to the public on works in the The Courtauld's collection. For more information, please see: courtauld.ac.uk/take-part



Accommodation

Intercollegiate Halls

Intercollegiate Halls are mainly located within walking distance of Vernon Square. Most of the rooms offered are en-suite rooms in catered and non-catered halls. Students who live in Intercollegiate Halls are housed with students from other University of London colleges, which is a great way to meet a diverse community of neighbours studying a wide range of subjects. For further information about Intercollegiate Halls see london.ac.uk/halls

King's College London Residences

King's Residences act as a platform for students to live and learn through life experiences, developing strategies to manage life's challenges and using those skills to thrive long after they have left their accommodation.

King's Residences will deliver that by providing a safe, professional, service-driven and inclusive residential community where independent living stimulates non-academic learning to enhance student experience and success at university and beyond.

For general information, please refer to King's accommodation page: kcl.ac.uk/accommodation



Contact us

Open Days

Our Open Days usually take place in the summer and early autumn. For further information on dates and how to book, visit: courtauld.ac.uk/opendays

You can explore our Virtual Open Day Hub at: courtauld.ac.uk/ug-virtual-open-day

Campus and Gallery tours

Campus and Gallery tours are held regularly during term-time. Book your place online: courtauld.ac.uk/opendays

Contact

The Courtauld Institute of Art, Vernon Square, Penton Rise, London WC1X 9EW

The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London, WC2R 0RN

Email: ugadmissions@courtauld.ac.uk
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