



The Courtauld

**Postgraduate
Prospectus
2024/25**

History of Art and Conservation



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Director's welcome



The Courtauld Institute of Art is one of the world's leading centres for the study of the 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 range of specialisms from the medieval period to the present, covering art from across the world.

We pride ourselves on offering a truly transformative learning experience open to everyone, regardless of background. At the Courtauld, you will be intellectually stimulated by your teachers and peers, and become part of a lively, friendly and supportive community. Your whole experience will enrich your life and open up wonderful opportunities.

One of our greatest strengths is our ability to nurture each and every student. Our small classes create an inspiring atmosphere where you can explore the subjects that most interest you. Our world-leading faculty will get to know you as an individual, and will work with you to enhance your talents and strengths. They will equip you with a combination of skills and knowledge that will serve you as both a personal and professional springboard. Here, you will gain friends, mentors and contacts for life.

Leaders in a broad range of fields, our passionate and committed teachers enrich the student experience by bringing current research and debates into classroom discussion. Our teaching places a strong emphasis on critical analysis, historical inquiry and original thinking. As a result, our students develop deeply transferable skills, including the ability to analyse, write, present an argument and speak confidently in public. These skills equip our graduates for careers in the art world and beyond and enable them to look and think differently and creatively.

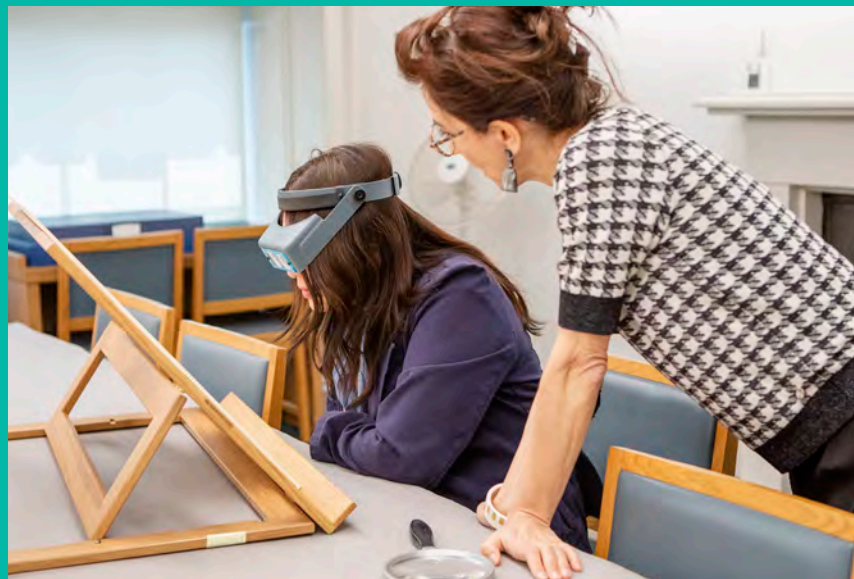
The Courtauld is at the heart of a community of specialists - including a global network of over 9,000 alumni - who shape the international art world and play key

roles in a huge range of professions beyond. Alumni include the Directors of the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery in London, and further afield, the Directors of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, and the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin, to name only a few. Our graduates are also entrepreneurs, lawyers, publishers, journalists, academics, and much, much more.

You will be joining us at a period of great change and excitement. Courtauld Gallery gives you constant, free access to a globally renowned collection of art and provides infinite opportunities to develop your skills further. We are also embarking on a series of initiatives to open The Courtauld up to new audiences and to ensure our student experience is relevant to today's challenges. These include a thrilling new partnership with King's College London, in which we will collaborate on teaching and research, and work together in ensuring the best possible experience for our students.

Our community of students and scholars is passionate about art history and committed to the very highest levels of achievement. If you feel the same, please apply to join us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Professor Mark Hallett
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. Recent appointments include specialists in lens and time based art histories; early modern art and material culture; early modern European

architecture; early Islamic arts; and nineteenth-century art histories, as well as Buddhist art history and conservation; and modern and contemporary art and critical race art history. 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 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.





Research Excellence Framework 2021

The Courtauld's research has been assessed as world-leading in the REF, a national exercise to determine the quality and impact of research in UK universities. The exercise measures the quality and impact of research submitted across all disciplines. Across all UK institutions, The Courtauld tied 1st for research environment, critical given that this supports and enables our world-leading research. The Courtauld tied 12th in the UK for 4* research overall, and 6th for 4* outputs. 89% of The Courtauld's research was deemed world-leading or internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour.

Strategic relationship with King's College London

In January 2022, The Courtauld and King's College London announced a relationship which sees our institutions collaborate on teaching, research and student experience. 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 we offer at The Courtauld, including our own libraries, clubs and societies, and more.



Our campus

The majority of The Courtauld's teaching is conducted at our Vernon Square campus in King's Cross. The Conservation programmes are primarily located at Somerset House.

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 permanent collection at Somerset House. We are currently undertaking a major transformation project to 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.



History of Art



Graduate Diploma in the History of Art

Duration: 9 months, full-time

Intake: 30 students per year

Location: Vernon Square campus

The Graduate Diploma is a concentrated form of the undergraduate degree and gives graduates of other disciplines the opportunity to apply their existing skills to the study of Art History. The curriculum – revised for 2023/4 – 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 from the Buddhist Arts of Asia, to Contemporary China to Black Art Histories. Our teachers are researchers at the cutting edge of their areas of specialism and they share their knowledge, discoveries and ideas 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 change from year to year – modules outlined below are therefore indicative of subjects that may be on offer.

In each semester, you will take a 'Foundations' module, offering a broad picture of art historical themes and methods. You will also take two

further core modules, examining works of art as physical objects (Physical Histories) and scrutinising the role that museums play in society (Exhibiting Art). Alongside these, you will take a selection of modules across the two semesters, devoted to looking in depth at themes, periods and approaches in the History of Art (Histories and Approaches). Finally, you will write a 5,000-word dissertation, supported by a supervisor, which allows you to explore a particular issue and develop your independent research skills. The teaching is a mixture of lectures (with up to 150 students) and seminars (in groups of 10-15 students).

The programme is supported by a personal tutor and by study sessions and workshops on topics such as reading art historical texts and essay writing. Students have access to all that The Courtauld has to offer, including world-class events run by the Research Forum, careers events and one-to-one sessions with professional writers. In addition to the compulsory elements of the programme, you are welcome

to attend lectures from other programmes, including other optional modules which range across art historical periods and approaches to the discipline.

The Diploma is particularly suitable for people returning to higher education after a period away, or those who want to gain a broad overview of the possibilities of Art History before moving on to more specialised study. It provides a rigorous and solid foundation for further postgraduate work, and many graduates from the programme continue to an MA at The Courtauld or elsewhere. Others go on to careers in the art world, such as art education or publishing, or combine skills and knowledge from a previous career with Art History to take an entirely new path. There are others who take the Diploma purely for their own personal development. Whatever your motivation, you will become part of a diverse and rich cohort, ready to share experiences and knowledge in a way that fosters high levels of engagement, academic achievement and a unique sense of community that often long outlasts the taught programme itself.

Structure

The Graduate Diploma is structured around five elements:

1. 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.

2. Physical Histories:

A new 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. Teaching takes the form of lectures, supported by small group discussions, workshops and visits.

3. Exhibiting Art:

In semester 2, you 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.

4. Optional modules:

In semesters 1 and 2, you take two of several available modules, exploring different art histories (Histories) and critical methods (Approaches). Histories is taught weekly through one lecture and one seminar, and Approaches through a weekly seminar. These modules are assigned taking into account student preference, but please note that in order to retain small group teaching and appropriate range across your Diploma, we are unable to guarantee specific choices. The modules on offer differ in any given year, but have previously included:

- From Shiraz to Beijing: Persian Arts in the Global Fifteenth Century
- Reality and Fantasy in French Art, 1863-97: From Haussmannisation to Enchanted Ground

- Art and Cold War Politics
- Beyond the Great Wall: Mapping Contemporary Art on the 'New Silk Road'
- Art and Magic in the Pre-Modern World
- Art History and Social Justice
- Embodiments: The Body as Subject and Object in Medieval Art
- Facsimile Debates: From AI to Plato
- Renaissance Art in the Making: Materials and Techniques
- Sexual Politics
- Ways of Seeing and Being Seen: The Politics of Vision in Modern and Contemporary art

5. Dissertation:

This 5,000-word dissertation provides an opportunity to undertake a more substantial piece of independent research. It allows you to engage with an extended treatment of an object or issue on a subject of your choice, supported by a supervisor from amongst the faculty.

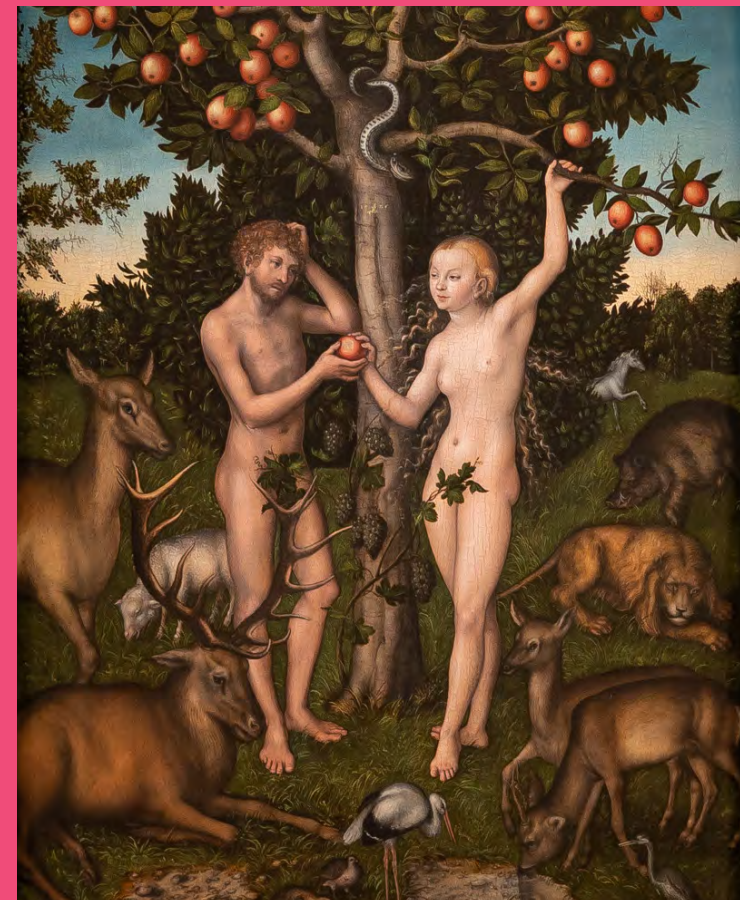
Entry requirements

Applicants should hold or be predicted to achieve the equivalent of the following UK qualifications:

A strong 2:1 in your undergraduate degree, with a 65% average or above.

Please see our website for information about the application process:

courtauld.ac.uk/pg-how-to-apply



MA History of Art

Intake: 230 - 250 students per year
Duration: 9 months, full-time
Location: Vernon Square campus

The Courtauld MA in the History of Art provides the best in research-led teaching by world-class faculty members in a unique, single subject setting. It is renowned for offering outstanding training in the specialised analytical and communication skills necessary for further research or for employment in the arts sector and across a wide range of careers. The programme excels at developing well-rounded and intellectually astute art historians and museum professionals equipped to make an important contribution to public life. According to the prestigious QS World University Rankings 2023, The Courtauld has been ranked as one of the top three universities worldwide for the study of History of Art. The MA History of Art is one of the largest graduate Art History programmes anywhere in the world, and offers an unrivalled combination of breadth and depth. At its broadest, teaching brings together the whole cohort, so that students in our 'Methodologies in Conversation' sessions are exposed to a wide range of different voices and perspectives on issues of current art historical concern. MA students are also invited to join our longstanding 'Foundations'

lectures, offered across The Courtauld, which offer a broad introduction to Art History across a wide range of places and periods. At a middle level, 'Shared Interest' classes address issues pertinent to those working on specific periods in the History of Art, including Byzantine & Medieval Art, Renaissance Art, Early Modern Art and Modern & Contemporary Art.

Our most focused classes are our Special Option classes, ordinarily taught in small groups of 8-10 students, and closely tied to the research specialisms of your teachers. Each year, The Courtauld offers a changing menu of over twenty Special Options, ranging from the early Middle Ages to the present, and from Britain, Europe and North America to Iran, China and Latin America. Stretching across two semesters, these classes provide an unparalleled immersion in the scholarship and issues pertinent to your chosen field. MA History of Art students are also warmly invited to continue to expand their engagement with new art-historical research by attending the almost daily series of seminars and conferences organized by The Courtauld's Research Forum.



Teaching and programme structure

The Courtauld MA History of Art combines a range of teaching methods and learning strands. One-to-one tutorials ensure you get tailored feedback on ideas for your assessments from your Special Options tutor. Special Option classes typically take the form of small group seminars, but may also include exhibition or site visits, and – depending on topic – sometimes include trips in or beyond London or the UK. Shared Interest sessions bring together different Special Options groups to discuss issues of shared relevance to those working on broad historical periods. ‘Methodologies in Conversation’ sessions in the first semester are led by two faculty members, who typically approach issues of shared art-historical concern from the perspective of different places and periods. These Methodologies sessions are delivered in hybrid format, so students can choose to attend them online or in person.

Feedback from a range of writing and presentation tasks in the first semester helps students to research and write a 4000-word Assessed Essay, supported by tutorials with their Special Option

tutor. Further tutorials in the second semester help students prepare a second Assessed Essay and a Virtual Exhibition, an exercise that encourages students to conceive an (imaginary) exhibition, judiciously selecting exhibits and writing, for example, a sample wall label and catalogue entry. The Virtual Exhibition often produces some of our students’ most original and inventive work, and has served for many as a stepping stone into issues of museology and curating. In the second semester students also begin to research and write their 10,000 word Dissertation, which is submitted in the summer and benefits from one-to-one tutorials and feedback from a draft. The dissertation represents 50% of the overall degree classification and the results are often highly original contributions to scholarship across a wide field, regularly commended by external examiners for being of publishable quality.

Assessment

The formal assessment of MA History of Art is based on the following four components:

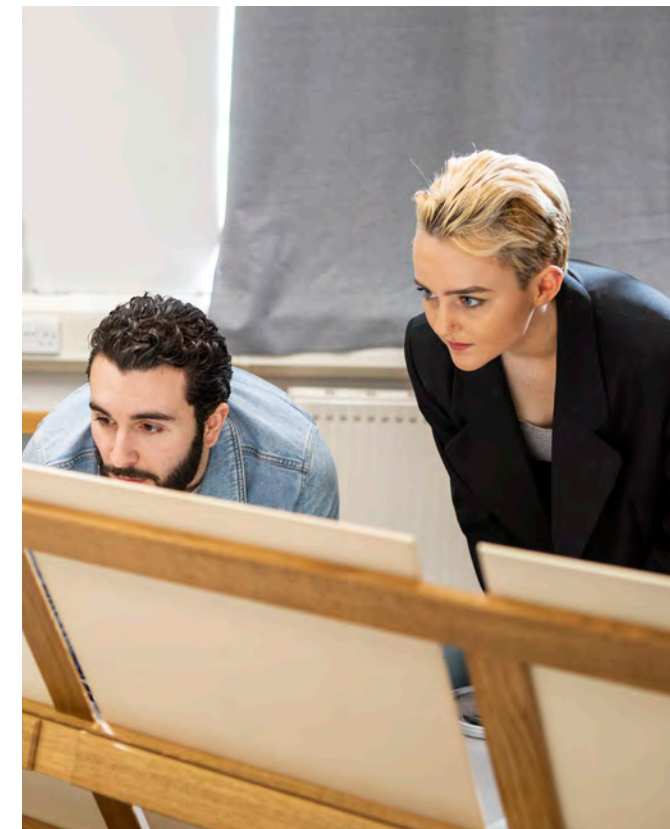
1. A 4,000 word essay relating to the special option, valued at 15% of the overall degree classification (Semester 1).
2. A second 4,000 word essay relating to the special option, valued at 20% of the overall degree classification (Semester 2).
3. A virtual exhibition assignment, involving the selection and presentation of works of art to be included in an exhibition addressing a particular theme, valued at 15% of the overall degree classification (Semester 2).
4. A 10,000 word dissertation, researched and written over a period of approximately three months with supervision from the special option leader. The dissertation is valued at 50% of the overall degree classification (Summer).

Entry Requirements

UK qualifications: Students will normally have achieved a good 2.1 in their Bachelor’s degree (typically in the Humanities or Social Sciences), considered to be an overall average of 65% or above.

Please see our website for information about the application process:

courtauld.ac.uk/pg-how-to-apply



MA History of Art

Special Options 2024/25

All MA Special Option teaching is research-led. In making your choices, please explore our faculty profile pages on the website to discover more about individual research interests and approaches to art history:

courtauld.ac.uk/faculty

Please note: Special Options vary from year to year and are subject to demand. The Courtauld reserves the right to amend or withdraw the options which run if necessary. In the event that a course leader is on sabbatical, takes up a fellowship, or otherwise is not able to teach the course, they will be replaced by another experienced course leader either for a semester or, in some cases, the academic year.

Whilst many Special Options will include site visits within the UK and further afield, these are subject to confirmation.

The Courtauld will always directly inform all applicants of any changes via email and courtauld.ac.uk/ma-hoa

Medieval, Renaissance, & Early Modern

- **Byzantium and its Rivals: Art, Display and Cultural Identity in the Christian and Islamic Mediterranean**
- **Court & Commerce: Arts of Islam and the Great Mongol State, 1206-1368**
- **Medieval Art & Architecture, 1066-1603: England & Beyond**
- **Miniature to Monumental: Encounters with Medieval Art**
- **Reinterpreting the Object. Late Medieval and Renaissance Art in Northern Europe c. 1360-1520**
- **Continuity and Innovation: Reframing Italian Renaissance Art from Masaccio to Michelangelo**
- **Violent Materials: Art & War in the Early Modern Period**
- **Beijing and Beyond: Art and Empire in Early Modern China**
- **Architectural Legacies of Empire at Home & Abroad, c. 1620-c. 1920**

Modern and Contemporary

- **Art & Empire in the Indian Ocean World, c. 1800-1900**
- **Collecting and Curating the Modern: European Art 1863-1930**
- **New York-London-Paris, 1880-1940**
- **Music and the Visual Arts 1870-Now: Appropriation, Remediation, and Reproduction**
- **Wordplay: Intersections between the verbal and**

the visual, c.1870 to the present

- **The Surrealist Century: Mediums, Madness, Magic and the Manifesto of Surrealism (1924)**
- **Beyond Utopia: Soviet and Post-Soviet Art**
- **Experiencing Modernism: Utopia, Politics, and Times of Turmoil**
- **No Black in the Union Jack? Race and Nation in Postwar Black British Art**
- **The Sixties: Eccentric, Erotic, Psychotic**
- **Countercultures: Alternative Art in Eastern Europe since 1968**
- **Telling Stories: performing identities and histories in art (1970 to the present)**
- **Black Futures. Reimagining Modernism after critical race**
- **Ecologies in American Art, 1950 to now**
- **Global Conceptualism: The Last Avant Garde or a New Beginning?**
- **Global China: Contemporary Chinese Art & Infrastructure**



Special Option: Beyond Utopia: Soviet and Post-Soviet Art
Alexander Deineka, *Stakhanov Workers*, 1937. Oil on canvas, 126 x 200 cm. State Art Gallery of Perm, Russia



Special Option: Telling Stories: performing identities and histories in art (1970 to the present). Anna Bunting-Branch, *W.I.T.C.H. (Redux) "Whispers Increase 'Til Cacophonies Heard"*, digital poster, 2022



Special Option: Architectural Legacies of Empire at Home and Abroad, c.1620- c.1920
Stamp issued on 9 February, 1931 to mark the inauguration of New Delhi as the capital of India showing Sir Edwin Lutyens' (1869 - 1944)



Special Option: Byzantium and its Rivals: Art, Display and Cultural Identity in the Christian and Islamic Mediterranean
Detail of ivory oliphant from South Italy or Sicily, c.1100. Now in the National Museums Scotland.



Special Option: Violent Materials: Art and War in the Early Modern World, ca. 1500-1800
Frock and Slops of a Conquistador, Peru, ca. 1560, cotton, linen and blood, Ingolstadt, Bavarian Army Museum.

Special Option: Continuity and Innovation : Reframing Italian Renaissance Art from Masaccio to Michelangelo
Pieta, detail, Michelangelo, 1498, St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.

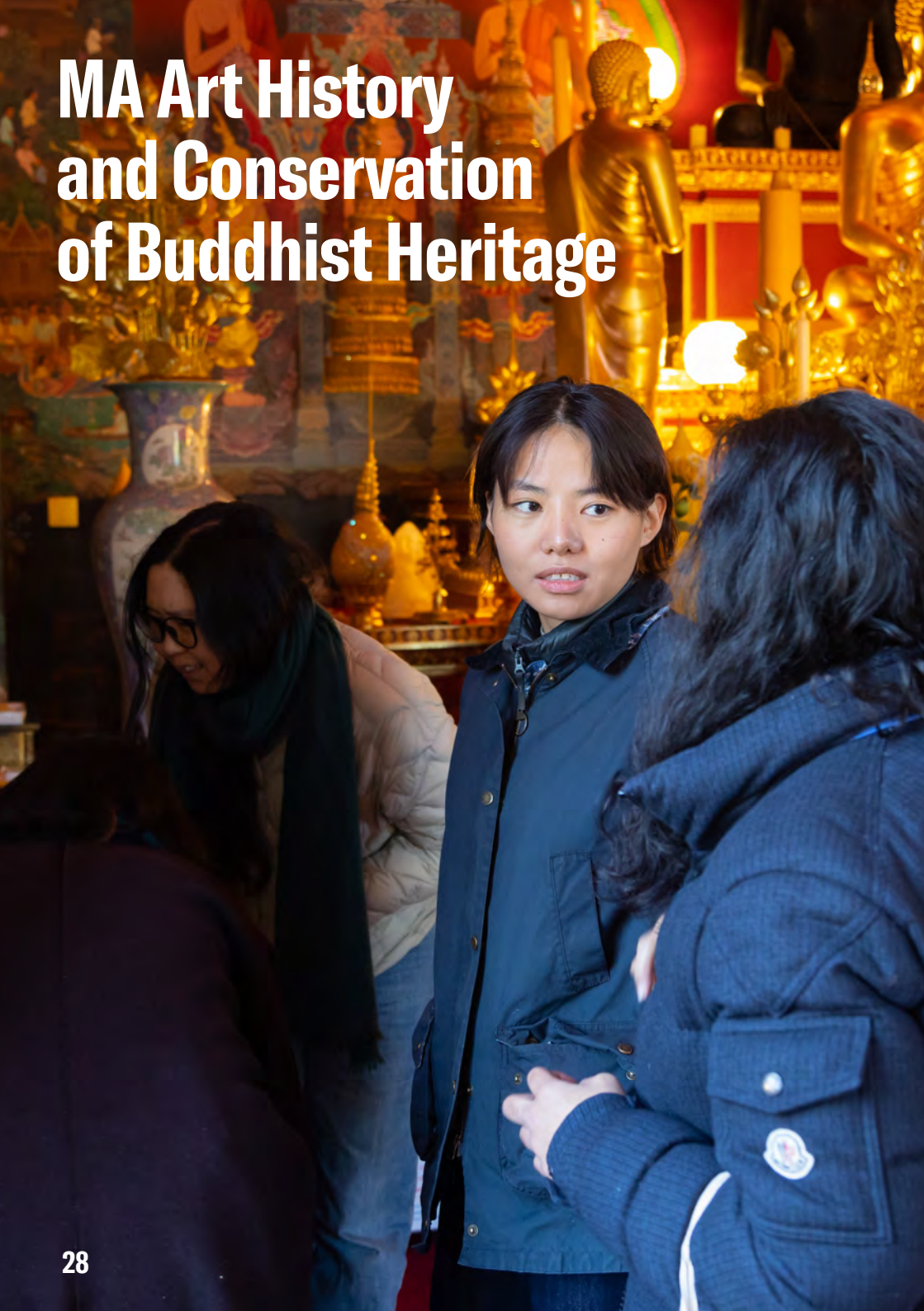


Special Option: Countercultures: Alternative Art in Eastern Europe since 1968
Detail of *Snail Action (piece 1 of 2)*, 1972, Géza Perneckzy, Courtesy of the artist and Chimera-Project Gallery, Budapest, Hungary

Conservation



MA Art History and Conservation of Buddhist Heritage



Intake: 12
Duration: 12 months, full-time
Location: Somerset House and Vernon Square campus

Affiliated with the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Art and Conservation at The Courtauld, the MA is focused on the study and preservation of cultural heritage created and connected to the beliefs, practices, and diverse traditions of Buddhism. Unique in its concept and content, this interdisciplinary programme—which harnesses the combined perspectives of both art history and conservation—aims to expand the ways in which Buddhist heritage is researched, engaged with, and preserved, in order to build knowledge and critical thinking skills in the next generation of art historians, conservators, heritage and museum professionals.

In this programme, students will gain an understanding of Buddhist heritage—both tangible and intangible—through the study of diverse objects and sites from the Buddhist world, in collections and in situ, spanning wide geographies, cultures, and temporal landscapes. Students will learn about current topics in the research, preservation, and protection of Buddhist heritage and the economic, socio-political, and environmental contexts in which they exist. You will also be introduced to the ethical and sustainable challenges of these pursuits from both a theoretical and practical vantage point.

The degree is taught by leading specialists in Conservation and Buddhist Art and brings in diverse voices from related fields and religious communities. Teaching in the first semester begins with foundational courses in Buddhist art history, conservation, and academic skills; in the second term, a jointly taught class integrates these disciplines through case studies and key themes; and finally, an independent research project is undertaken with the writing of a dissertation. Experiential learning is an important component of this program that exposes students to a rich body of Buddhist heritage through site visits to UK-based collections as well as a study trip overseas to develop appreciation for and to provide first-hand experience of conservation and management challenges.

Learning outcomes include providing students with a specialized knowledge of diverse Buddhist art worlds along with analytical, research, and writing skills, and diverse fieldwork experiences; approaches to conservation and an understanding of the ethical, technical, and administrative contexts, philosophical underpinnings, and decision-making processes in the preservation of Buddhist culture. The broader learning outcomes for this

course will provide transferable skills that have wider applicability beyond just the Buddhist context to other religious and spiritual cultures and traditions. The course also serves to prepare students for further specialist education in art history, conservation, curating, or heritage studies and for roles in museums or within the cultural heritage sector.

The Courtauld MA provides you with outstanding tailored support and supervision to help you to realise your full academic potential and to go on to flourish in your career. A graduate of The Courtauld recognizes art history, conservation, and curating as inclusive, interdisciplinary, trans-historical, and global practices.

Structure

The programme is structured in three research-led modules taught over two semesters and concludes with an independent research project during the summer.

In the first semester, You will take two foundational modules, Conservation in a Buddhist Context, and Buddhist Art Worlds.

Teaching is then integrated into a single module in the second semester, focused on Art History and Conservation of Buddhist Heritage. During the summer

you will complete a 10,000-word dissertation.

Please note that this is subject to change; applicants will be informed if there are any changes to the programme.

Entry requirements

Applicants should hold or be predicted to achieve the equivalent of the following UK qualifications:

A strong 2:1 in your undergraduate degree, with a 65% average or above in a humanities or science subject.

Please see our website for information about the application process: courtauld.ac.uk/pg-how-to-apply



MA Conservation of Easel Paintings

Intake: Six students

Duration: Three years, full-time

Location: Somerset House and Vernon Square campus

The MA in the Conservation of Easel Paintings is a 3-year full-time course which will prepare you for a professional career. Its interdisciplinary nature brings together art history, fine arts and the natural sciences. Applicants usually have a BA or equivalent degree in any of these subjects. The student body is international, with a yearly intake limited to six students, which makes the teacher-student ratio exceptionally high.

The course leads to an exceptionally high degree of employment upon graduation, in both the most reputable institutions and private conservation studios in the world, such as the National Gallery, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Getty, the National Trust, and the Royal Collection.

The strong practical and intellectual focus of the degree is reflected in courses designed to build on knowledge and to develop both practical and decision-making skills underpinned by ethical and scientific principles. Upon graduation you will have gained practical experience in a range of real easel paintings conservation and will be able to design, carry out and evaluate conservation

treatments proficiently and independently. You will be able to interpret results from technical study and relate them to practice, and will be able to plan and develop original research relating to easel painting conservation. You will gain critical and communication skills that will equip you for diverse careers in conservation and beyond.

Structure

Year 1

This year focuses on the acquisition of foundation knowledge and the development and application of scientific methods. Courses focus on the theory, ethics and practice of conservation, technology and history of easel paintings, art history and technical study. Applied science is integrated throughout theoretical and practical courses. The teaching provides a foundation for understanding and identifying the condition and conservation requirements of easel paintings. Practical work in the studio forms a substantial part of each term, beginning with replica-making and the examination of easel paintings, and then introducing the application of principles and theory of conservation to practical conservation.

Year 2

The majority of time in the second year is devoted to practical work in the studio, with students becoming increasingly independent in carrying out conservation work. Lectures and workshops are devoted to preventive conservation and collections care with a monitoring exercise, and advanced principles and theory of conservation.

Year 3

The majority of the year is spent in the conservation studio undertaking practical conservation treatments. One third of the final year is devoted to an independent research project.

Entry requirements

Applicants should hold or be predicted to achieve the equivalent of the following UK qualifications:

A strong 2:1 in your undergraduate degree, with a 65% average or above in a humanities or science subject.

Please see our website for information about the application process:

courtauld.ac.uk/pg-how-to-apply



MA Conservation of Wall Paintings

Intake: Six students
Duration: Three years, full-time
Location: Somerset House and Vernon Square campus

The Courtauld is a leading centre in the world for education and research in wall painting conservation. The 3-year practical MA in Wall Painting Conservation will prepare you for a professional career. Wall painting conservation is an inclusive, interdisciplinary and global profession. The student body at the Courtauld is international. Applicants usually have a BA or equivalent degree in the humanities or the natural sciences. The course leads to a high degree of employment beyond graduation.

On the course, you will learn to evaluate the synergistic relationship between wall paintings, built heritage and the environment. Teaching at the Courtauld focuses on wall painting conservation through a rigorous art historical, ethical and scientific framework for the assessment of risk, and the impact of passive, preventive and remedial conservation. You will be able to scientifically analyse wall paintings, assess their condition, and test performance of interventions with reference to material science.

The MA degree will provide you with extensive practical experience in various aspects of wall paintings conservation, and on completion of the MA degree you will be able to design, evaluate and carry out conservation treatments on wall paintings. Upon completion of the course you will have gained the digital and organisational skills to manage ambitious projects, both independently and in collaboration. The course will provide you with critical, and communication skills for diverse careers in conservation and beyond.

By the end of the course of study you will be able to:

- Research and assess the significance of a wall painting and its context
- Examine the original and added materials on wall paintings and their support, and assess the implications these might have for deterioration and intervention
- Design and implement a holistic programme of conservation of wall paintings with full awareness of ethical considerations, the professional context and values



- Recommend preventive and passive measures that address the activation mechanisms of deterioration, identified through environmental monitoring and scientific analysis
- Carry out monitoring and maintenance programmes related to the assessment of wall paintings
- Produce full written, graphic, scientific and photographic documentation
- Propose, research and write an individual research project

Structure

Year 1

This first year focuses on the acquisition of foundational knowledge in art history, in the original materials and technology of wall paintings, and in their deterioration. A major part of the year's training covers conservation ethics, and the development and application of scientific methods in the theory and practice of conservation, and in condition assessment and documentation. Materials science is integrated throughout theoretical and practical course modules. Practical work, including laboratory sessions and a substantial period of

field work, introduces scientific methodologies for conservation interventions and develops manual skills. Usually 8 weeks of the first year are devoted to field work.

Year 2

Formal instruction is concentrated on diagnosis and preventive conservation, on technical examination of wall paintings and their supporting structures, and on the advanced theory and materials of interventions on wall paintings. Materials science is integrated throughout. Students will also receive insights into professional practice as a conservator, and receive training in research skills, enabling them to propose an individual research topic for their dissertation in the following year. Usually almost half of the second year is devoted to practical work in the field.

Year 3

Most of the third year is devoted to major field work programmes, consolidating students' theoretical, technical and professional practice skills. Another component of the third year is the writing of a substantial 10,000 word research project on an original aspect of the conservation of wall paintings. Research may be on any aspect of the materials and techniques of wall paintings, their deterioration, or of the methods or materials used in their conservation.

Entry requirements

Applicants should hold or be predicted to achieve the equivalent of the following UK qualifications:

A strong 2:1 in your undergraduate degree, with a 65% average or above in a humanities or science subject.

Please see our website for information about the application process:

courtauld.ac.uk/pg-how-to-apply



Research



PhD Programme

Intake: Around 10 - 20 students
Duration: Full-time: Three years,
Part-time: Six years

Since 1932, The Courtauld has been among the world's leading institutions for research in Art History, Curating and Conservation. Our internationally renowned PhD programme is one of the largest in the United Kingdom, hosting over 100 Post-Graduate Researchers at any one time on their paths toward a PhD. At The Courtauld, you will join a cohort of the most ambitious and gifted students in your field as you pursue your research goals.

Our diverse cohort of students comes from across the UK and internationally to explore an equally wide range of research topics. Our students' excellence is reflected in the large number of AHRC-funded awards gained over the last decade, one of a number of routes available for supporting your studies.

Recent and current doctoral projects include Persian architecture, Medieval manuscripts, modern and contemporary textile arts, early-modern patronage, contemporary Chinese avant-gardes, among many others.

The Research Forum is central to The Courtauld's intellectual

community and to doctoral life here. Presenting a programme of leading professors, curators, conservation scientists, and artists from around the world, the Research Forum invites you to explore a wide range of art historical thinking and consider your research from new perspectives.

Research programmes are further supported by a variety of thematic clusters. Groups such as the Sculptural Process Study Group, The Textile Working Group and Painting Pairs: Art History and Technical Study highlight the Institute's foundation in object-based research; Connecting Cultures, 1200-1850, Sacred Traditions and the Arts, and the Digital Art History Research Group underline the interdisciplinary nature of our teaching and research.

The Courtauld is also home to several major research centres, including the Centre for American Art and Courtauld Asia. These groups bring together postgraduates, faculty and visiting scholars for seminars, study days, site visits, and symposia, all supported by our professional Research



Events team. From all this, doctoral students enjoy unique opportunities to suggest speakers, devise and convene events, chair sessions, and draw together research in published form.

Courtauld Research students edit and produce a postgraduate journal, *immediations*, and have opportunities to contribute curatorially in our gallery and print room. Our doctoral students can also gain valuable teaching experience through our Public Programmes and at BA and MA level. A Courtauld Research degree includes scheduled skills and methodology seminars along with the main element: one-to-one supervision on your chosen project. Your supervisory team will guide your research, help plan, develop and shape your thesis, and support your scholarly and professional development in diverse ways.

A research-intensive institution, The Courtauld consistently achieves outstanding results in the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) audit. Courtauld teachers publish on a host of topics, with recent important

books and articles on Persian kingship and architecture, Spanish Renaissance sculpture, Netherlandish artists and migration, gardens and empire in China, Victorian art and science, American fashion photography, and many others. Members of faculty have extensive experience curating major exhibitions of historic and contemporary art, editing and contributing to academic journals, winning competitive research grants, speaking publicly in a great variety of institutions and events, and working in archives and collections worldwide. All this and more contributes to our mentoring of students as they undertake their doctoral careers at The Courtauld.

To learn more about current faculty at The Courtauld, visit: courtauld.ac.uk/faculty

Entry requirements

PhD applicants are expected to hold a Master's degree in a subject relevant to their proposed research. Those with Masters awarded in the UK normally have received at least 70% in the dissertation or thesis. Please see our website for information about the application process: courtauld.ac.uk/pg-how-to-apply

Fees and funding

Fees

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

Postgraduate Master's Loan

Some students may be eligible for a Postgraduate Master's Loan from Student Finance. Unlike UK undergraduate Student Finance, this is a single loan that acts as a contribution towards the cost of study. The loan is paid to you directly to use in any way you choose. This means you will be responsible for arranging payment of your own tuition fees, as the loan will not go directly to The Courtauld like an undergraduate tuition fee loan.

You might be eligible if you:

- are a UK or EU national who has settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme
- under 60 on the first day of the first academic year of your course
- have not successfully completed an equivalent level qualification, regardless of whether it was self-funded, or undertaken abroad
- are undertaking a full-time MA programme lasting 1-2 academic years

Please visit the Gov.UK website for further information and to apply online: gov.uk/masters-loan/apply

Alumni loyalty scheme

This scheme is open to any graduate of the Courtauld Institute of Art admitted to a taught postgraduate programme of study. Recipients will receive a 10% loyalty discount off their tuition fee for the duration of the course. This discount will be applied automatically and does not require any further action from applicants.

Hardship Fund

The Courtauld Hardship Fund provides short-term emergency funds to meet the 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.

Scholarships

Courtauld Institute of Art Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of an international group of committed donors, The Courtauld is pleased to be able to provide financial assistance to postgraduate students when possible in the form of scholarships and bursaries. In 2022 this amounted to more than £750,000. Postgraduate scholarships are awarded to students to cover fees and in some cases a contribution towards living expenses. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit combined with financial need. The average postgraduate scholarship awarded in 2023/24 was £7,000.

Applications are welcomed from Home, EU and Overseas students applying to or currently studying the following programmes in 2024/25:

- MA in Conservation of Easel Paintings
- MA in Conservation of Wall Paintings
- MA Art History and Conservation of Buddhist Heritage
- MA History of Art
- PhD Research

For more information please check the website at: courtauld.ac.uk/postgraduate-fees-funding-and-scholarships

Consortium for the Humanities and Arts South- East England (CHASE)

The Courtauld is one of nine leading institutions of higher education – together with the Universities of East Anglia, Essex, Kent and Sussex, The Open University, Goldsmiths, Birkbeck and SOAS – which form the CHASE Doctoral Training Partnership, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The Consortium annually offers a number of scholarships to PhD students.

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Admissions



Applicants can apply directly to the Courtauld Institute of Art for entry in 2024 using our online application portal, found at the below web address:
courtauld.ac.uk/pg-apply

International Students

Qualifications

For advice on international entry requirements, please contact Student and Academic Services at: pgadmissions@courtauld.ac.uk

English proficiency

For applicants whose first language is not English (as determined by the UK Visa and Immigration list of English-majority speaking countries) wishing to apply to The Courtauld, we require proof of English language proficiency. Details can be found on our English Language Requirements page:

courtauld.ac.uk/english-language

Students requiring a Tier 4 visa to study in the UK must satisfy the requirements for English language before The Courtauld can issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). As government guidance on English language test providers is subject to change, it is important to check The Courtauld's website for the most up-to-date information.

Taught programmes

Decide which programme is right for you, reading through each programme description listed in the prospectus and online.

Check that you meet the entry requirements for the programme.

International students will need to check international qualification equivalencies, whilst also ensuring that they can/will meet the English language requirements.

Check application deadlines

If you wish to apply for loans or scholarships: start researching which options are available to you.
courtauld.ac.uk/postgraduate-fees-funding-and-scholarships/

Any questions you have at this point - before starting to submit your application - should be made to pgadmissions@courtauld.ac.uk

Submit your application via the appropriate online application form:
courtauld.ac.uk/pg-how-to-apply

PhD Programme

Determine which of our faculty best suits your research, and would be best placed to act as your supervisor:
courtauld.ac.uk/faculty

Check that you meet the entry requirements for the programme.

International students will need to check international qualification equivalencies, whilst also ensuring that they can/will meet the English language requirements.

Check application deadlines

Submit a pre-application.

If you wish to apply for loans or scholarships, start researching which options are available to you. Home/EU students should familiarise themselves with the AHRC CHASE funding process and deadlines:
courtauld.ac.uk/chase-ahrc

If you are applying for funding from an external source or your government, you should check requirements and deadlines well in advance.

If your pre-application is approved, proceed to submit a full application.

Submit your application via the appropriate online application form:
courtauld.ac.uk/pg-how-to-apply

Student stories

Nadine

As an international student, studying History of Art at The Courtauld has been an incredible experience. Having studied in Egypt and in the UK, I found the rigorous research-led training that this Courtauld MA provides to be unparalleled. Learning through objects and works of art and being able to think through them and build research around them has completely changed the way that I think about art.

I found the course load to be much more intense than I anticipated, in the best possible way. I studied the Special Option Strolling Isfahan with Professor Sussan Babaie, which focused on the early modern period of the Persianate world. This was especially challenging for me, having had no prior familiarity with the subject. A significant aspect of the teaching format is the close supervision and guidance for assessed coursework that proves invaluable. I was lucky to have an amazing group of colleagues, and, led by Professor Babaie, throughout the academic year we met for seminars, visits to museums, galleries, and auction houses to engage with the material we were studying beyond our coursework.

Being at The Courtauld offers so many opportunities and experiences.



Throughout the year, I enjoyed attending events at The Research Forum, The Business of Art Society and life drawing sessions organised by the Courtauld Fine Art Society.

I devised and delivered talks at The Courtauld Gallery for summer courses and The Research Forum events including the inaugural Morgan Stanley Lates, where I was able to share aspects of my research with a diverse range of audiences. I also had the opportunity to teach an introduction to Islamic art for Art History Link-Up's course for young students from state schools. Alongside colleagues from The Courtauld, I was invited to participate in an academic symposium at the University of Cambridge, presenting new research.

Overall, my experience studying at The Courtauld in London exceeded my expectations.

Sharon

Embarking on the Courtauld Graduate Diploma in the History of Art is not for the faint of heart! What I discovered on the course was so more challenging and wide-ranging than I had ever anticipated.

I came to the Courtauld as an older student, from a fine art practice background, and found the course extremely demanding as well as full of unexpected challenges and surprises. Perhaps the biggest surprises were topics such as Buddhist art and Contemporary Asian Art, and the attempts to broaden and decolonise the history of art are exciting to be a part of. The resources at the Courtauld are vast, and I don't think I could have survived without my inspiring classmates as well as all the amazing support services that the Courtauld has available. Another rewarding aspect of study at the Courtauld was joining the Learning Ambassador Programme, where I could use my experience as an artist and teacher.

I am now about to embark on the Courtauld MA History of Art and I am excited about what the next chapter of my Courtauld will bring.



Resources and academic support

The Courtauld's libraries

Students have access to a significant collection of 200,000 books, exhibition catalogues and journals focused on Art History and related subjects. The library also subscribes to millions of digitally published articles, e-books, image banks, and scholarly e-journals.

Librarians working at The Courtauld Library are available to help you find articles, chapters, paintings, photographs, drawings, manuscripts, material culture, and anything else that you are researching. They can guide you around citing and referencing your sources, and share tips on evaluating the quality of your research.

Senate House and King's College London

As a member of the University of London, you also have access to the prestigious Senate House Library, which offers study spaces, online resources, and books in addition to those which are freely accessible to you at Vernon Square.

King's College London offers additional resources and places to study including the Maughan Library, which supports the teaching and research interests of Humanities, Law and Science. Each of the King's campus libraries are open to Courtauld students, as well as the King's Online Library which gives you access to thousands of documentaries, films, and radio programmes.

Digital resources

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 ebooks, 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, including image and video databases, as well as more traditional academic resources.

Writing tutors

The Royal Literary Fund Fellows are professional writers who offer one-to-one sessions where you can discuss all aspects of your 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. Writing tutors are available for individual appointments.

Developing your academic skills

Enhance your course work through our Academic Literacies module, which is available to first year students to ensure that your academic skills are developed alongside your subject expertise.

Specialist tutor for disabled students

Our specialist study skills tutor, available throughout your studies, helps students with specific learning difficulties, and can help you apply for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). They also support neurodiverse and disabled students with exploring study skills strategies and appropriate assistive technology.





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 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 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 counselling team, comprising skilled and experienced professionals, is available to provide students with support and guidance on a wide range of personal issues. The team is adept at addressing the unique needs of each student. Whether it's emotional challenges, mental health concerns, or the need for a supportive conversation, our team is on hand to assist students.

General medical support

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

Careers

Career prospects

The Courtauld's graduates fill prestigious positions around the world as:

- Heads of major museums and galleries
- Curators
- Conservators
- Art dealers and Auctioneers
- Lawyers
- Entrepreneurs
- Publishers
- Media professionals
- Academics
- Teachers
- Banking and finance professionals
- Business professionals
- Marketing and communications professionals

Individual careers support

All students can access bespoke, one-to-one careers guidance throughout their studies. The Courtauld Careers Service offers advice and support on exploring career and further study options, finding internships, enhancing employability, understanding and navigating the jobs and self-employment market, and making successful applications. The Careers Consultant also offers a tailored interview practice service, with detailed feedback, enabling students to prepare effectively for interviews.

The Courtauld Institute Careers Programme

The Courtauld Institute 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 with alumni in 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.

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 fulltime internships during 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. 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, and 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 skills learned 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.



Alumnus Jeremy Epstein (MA 2009) giving a lecture at The Courtauld's annual Frieze Bubbly Breakfast event, 2019.
Photo: © Jim Winslet

Events

We host a range of alumni events in the UK and globally. 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.



Images ©KatrinaDuffeys

Alumni stories



Marv Recinto
(MA History of Art 2018)

Marv Recinto is Managing Editor of the magazines ArtReview and ArtReview Asia, as well as the academic journal ARTMargins (MIT Press). She has lectured and published extensively, including editing a forthcoming monograph on the artist Pio Abad. The Courtauld encouraged her to explore and foster her interest in non-Western contemporary art, which continues to inform her work today.



Mona Yapova
(Graduate Diploma in History of Art 2020)

Mona Yapova is a lawyer specialising in art and cultural heritage law. She advises artists, collectors, galleries, museums, government entities, auction houses, art advisors, and tech companies on a variety of market and heritage-related issues. This ranges from acquisitions, large-scale artist commissions and exhibitions to complex regulatory issues involving cultural heritage protection frameworks and high-profile IP, authenticity, and ownership disputes.



Chiedza Mhondoro
(MA History of Art 2021)

Chiedza Mhondoro is Assistant Curator of British Art at Tate Britain. She previously held curatorial roles at Somerset House and Southbank Centre. She also worked in arts education and public programming at a range of institutions including The Peggy Guggenheim Collection and Camden Arts Centre.



Jamie Roston
(MA History of Art 2017)

Jamie Roston is Account Director at M&C Saatchi London. He has enjoyed a successful career in the advertising world and has been at M&C Saatchi since 2018, working with high profile clients such as Royal Mail and Coca Cola.

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 due to our small size which enables the student body to come together as a vibrant and diverse community.

Our campus in King's Cross places us on the doorstep of some of the world's best galleries, museums, and libraries. 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.

The Students' Union is the representative body for the students of The Courtauld. We run alongside but separate to the University and spend our time advocating on behalf of students in all matters including academia, welfare support and the student experience. As a student at The Courtauld, you can expect to have an 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, Business of Art Society, LGBTQIA+ 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 King's College London through our strategic relationship. Aside from social life, looking after the welfare of our students is one 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 we help to grow and support at The Courtauld.

If you are interested in the Students' Union, please consider visiting our website and our Instagram page: [@courtauld_SU](https://www.instagram.com/courtauld_SU)

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

Olivia Cheney
President of the Students' Union

The Students' Union

The Students' Union is a representative group run by a full time officer, the President, and volunteer student representatives. Our role is to campaign for students, to make everyone feels welcome and included. We do this by representing the students' needs to the staff and faculty, and to the outside world. Every year, there are lots of great opportunities to get involved, and we elect a President, a Vice President, five Executive Officers, a representative from each cohort, as well as officers from our LGBTQIA+, Disabled, International, and BAME communities.

As well as campaigning on their behalf, the Students' Union holds social events for Courtauld students. The Union Committee 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.

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

The Research Forum delivers an extensive programme of lectures, conferences, workshops, artist talks, seminars, gallery lates 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.

The programme provides 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 Decolonising Action Groups, open to everyone in The Courtauld Community, intended to enable learning, debate, and reflection as a community.

The Research Forum facilitates The Courtauld's cross-sectional research clusters. Like the majority of events, activities organised by these advanced working research groups are open to all students. Event details and recordings are posted online - follow on social media [@CourtauldRes](https://twitter.com/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 periods 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, Edvard Munch: Masterpieces from Bergen, and Peter Doig.

The Gallery reopened in November 2021 following a three year major transformation project, and highlights include the spectacular LVMH Great Room, which once hosted the Royal Academy of Arts' famous summer exhibitions, and has been restored to its original proportions to provide a new home for our world-famous collection of Impressionist and Post Impressionist paintings.

Other highlights at The Courtauld Gallery include internationally famous works from the Renaissance to the 18th century on display in the spectacular Blavatnik Fine Rooms, and galleries devoted to the Medieval and Early Renaissance collection, 20th century art, and the work of the Bloomsbury Group.



Édouard Manet (1832 - 1883), *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, detail (1882), The Courtauld, London (Samuel Courtauld Trust) © The Courtauld

Prints and Drawings Room, and Object Study 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, providing coverage of major national schools and periods. Students have access to our collection through our Prints and Drawings Room, which is used for collection-based teaching.

Our new Object Study Room is also based in The Courtauld Gallery, offering students 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.

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. To find out more, visit:

courtauld.ac.uk/gallery

The Witt and Conway photographic libraries

The Witt Library is a collection of over two million photographs and reproductions of Western paintings, drawings, and engravings from c.1200 to the present day. The Conway Library holds 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 libraries. As a result, both libraries will be physically inaccessible to visitors during the 2024/25 academic year.

The Conway Library has recently undergone a major public digitisation project involving 14,000 volunteers, the largest and most diverse public inclusion project in the Gallery's history. The library's collection of over one million photographs is now available to access and view online at: photocollections.courtauld.ac.uk.

We will soon be embarking on a digitisation programme for the two million images from the Witt library. These images will start to appear online at the end of 2023, and the project will take 14 months to complete.

Accommodation

Intercollegiate Halls

The Courtauld has been assigned a number of rooms in Intercollegiate Halls which 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 the academic year 23/24, Courtauld students are living in Garden Halls, International Hall, College Hall, Connaught Hall and Bonham Cater House. For further information about these Halls see london.ac.uk/halls

Duchy House

Duchy House, managed by The Courtauld is located approximately 100 metres from Somerset House, on the corner of the Strand and Lancaster Place. The accommodation is approximately 30 minutes' walk to Vernon Square. Arranged across four floors, Duchy House offers 63 single occupancy self-catered rooms ranging size from large and medium sized ensuite rooms to small single rooms with shared shower rooms. For further details about Duchy House see courtauld.ac.uk/duchy-house

General information

Allocation of a room in halls is primarily based on several factors including (but not limited to), whether you have a particular disability that would mean not having accommodation in Halls would put you at more of a disadvantage than a non-disabled student; the distance of your family home (not current place of study) from central London; whether you have previously studied in the UK. Students currently living within 60 minutes commuting distance of central London are less likely to secure accommodation,

although some have secured accommodation in previous years and are therefore if you are within this commutable distance you are encouraged to apply.

Other rooms outside these Halls are available by applying direct to the University of London see Direct Booking's for further details. In addition, University of London's Housing Services offers a range of services to assist and support students who are looking for and living in private accommodation in London.



Contact us

Open Days

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

Explore our Virtual Open Day Hub at: courtauld.ac.uk/pg-virtual-open-day

Campus and Gallery tours

Campus and Gallery tours are held regularly during the semester. Book your place online: courtauld.ac.uk/opendays

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

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

Email:
pgadmissions@courtauld.ac.uk

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