

# The Courtauld



## BA History of Art

Undergraduate Prospectus 2025/26

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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, conservation and curating of art with an outstanding art collection. Across our faculty, we offer an unmatched range of specialisms from the end of Antiquity to the present, covering art from across the world.

We pride ourselves on offering a truly transformative learning experience that is 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.

As 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 many 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 the British Museum in London, and further afield, the Directors of the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the National Gallery of Art 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. The Courtauld Gallery – reopened to critical acclaim in 2021 – gives you constant, free access to a globally renowned collection of art and provides infinite opportunities for you to further develop your skills. 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 history, 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.

## **World-leading specialists**

The Courtauld has been ranked as one of the top four universities worldwide for the study of the History of Art, according to the QS World University Rankings 2024. The Courtauld has the largest faculty of art historians in the United Kingdom, working on an increasingly global scale. In recent years, we have appointed two new academic posts specialising in Modern and Contemporary Art and Visual Culture, with specialisms in critical race and

Black studies, and two new posts in Buddhist Art History and Conservation. We have expertise across all periods from the end of Antiquity to the contemporary. 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 photography and performance art. With around 600 students taking degrees from BA to PhD, you will meet students from all courses and years. Ours is a close-knit community of academics, researchers and students pursuing a shared passion for art.

The Courtauld's research has been assessed as "world-leading" in a national exercise to determine the quality of research in UK universities in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF). 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, The Research Forum, and professional networking events.

Our graduates are a testament to the lasting effect 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.

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## **Offering more than Art History: our 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, offering joint programmes and research initiatives.



As a Courtauld student, you will have access to King's facilities – including cafes, chaplaincy, libraries, 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 Language Centre, and the Undergraduate programme includes opportunities to take elective modules in King's humanities departments.





# Campus



**The Courtauld's undergraduate 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.



**King's Cross has an exciting cultural scene and a strong and thriving sense of community.**

We offer an excellent student experience and learning environment, with purpose-built lecture theatres and seminar rooms, and our library, which holds around 200,000 books, as well as digital resources. We are close to some of the world's biggest museums and collections, including the British Museum and The National Gallery. There are also lesser-known institutions, such as the Foundling Museum – the first public art gallery in London – and the Wellcome Collection nearby.

King's Cross has an exciting cultural scene and a strong and thriving sense of community.

You will also be able to access our extraordinary art collection at Somerset House.





# Why study art history?

If you enjoy looking at art, reading history, studying literature or languages, and are fascinated by the relationship between people, art, and the forces that have shaped the world we live in, then Art History is the subject for you.

## What is Art History?

Art History – which embraces the study of the visual arts and architecture from across the world, from the ancient to the 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 power, beliefs or emotions are visualised – 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?

## Benefits of studying Art History

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. You will also gain a wide range of skills which are highly sought-after by employers across a broad spectrum of professional fields. Many Courtauld graduates have gone on to become industry leaders in heritage management, fashion, publishing, PR and advertising, journalism, law, politics, finance, medicine and a whole host of other industries, in addition to careers in the museum and gallery sectors and in the commercial art markets.

Study at the Courtauld is intellectually rigorous and will provide a multidisciplinary qualification which draws on a great many academic specialisations including literary studies, languages, philosophy, anthropology, social history, politics, curation, conservation and the material history of objects.

# Course information

**BA (Hons) History of Art**  
**UCAS code: V350**  
**Delivery: full-time**  
**Duration: three years**  
**(September-June)**  
**Intake: 90 - 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 across the globe, from late antiquity to the present: 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 both 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,







with classes taught in London's art collections. You will also pick a modern language to study.

In the second year, you will take two core modules. One explores works of art as physical objects (Physical Histories) and the other examines the role that museums, galleries and exhibitions play in society (Exhibiting Art). Alongside these, a range of optional modules are offered, exploring different art histories and critical approaches, as well as some electives through the Arts and Humanities departments at King's College London and the King's Modern Language Centre.

In your final year, you will be able to express preferences for Special Options and further electives and 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 twelve to fifteen 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.

#### **Degree progression and assessment:**

- You must pass your first year to progress to the second year with a pass mark of 40%.
- The second year counts as 40% of your final degree average.
- The third year counts as the remaining 60%.



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## 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  
(30 credits each):**

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. Subjects change according to the tutors involved in the modules, but recent lecture blocks have included:

- Classical and Byzantine Art
- The Renaissance: Italy and Beyond
- The Buddhist Arts of Asia
- Connecting Nineteenth-Century Art Histories
- From Civil Rights to Black Power
- What is the Contemporary? Art Since 1960

**Optional modules –  
Topics (15 credits each):**

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, galleries and sites that surround us. These are taught in groups of ten to twelve students and meet weekly.

**Indicative topics include:**

- Chinese Art in London Collections
- Contemporary Art in London
- Modern Women, Modern Artists
- Techniques and Meaning in 20th Century Art
- Architecture and Identity: London's Public Buildings, c.1620-1820

**Academic Literacies (15 credits):**

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 (15 credits):**

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 with 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 are usually 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 (15 credits):*

Physical Histories is 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 - Exhibiting Art (15 credits):*

In semester 2, you will move to considering the role of museums, galleries and exhibitions 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 display choices, methods and narratives adopted by different museums and galleries.

### *Optional modules - Histories (15 credits each):*

In each semester you will take up to two Histories 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. These modules are taught weekly through one lecture and one seminar (in groups of around twelve students).

Examples of this module type include:

- American Art and American Landscape, 1800–1920
- Art and Cold War Politics
- Artists, Radicals, Mystics: European Art, 1760–1830
- Landscape and Environment in Early Modern China
- Learning from Paris: War, Internationalism, Postmodernism

### *Elective modules at KCL (15 credits)*

In place of one Histories module, you may elect to take a module in a participating department at King's College London – currently either Liberal Arts; Languages, Literatures and Cultures; or the Language Centre.

### *Optional modules - Approaches (15 credits each):*

You will also be introduced to theoretical and methodological frameworks for thinking about art and art history through one Approaches module per semester. Modules are taught through weekly seminars in groups of up to fifteen students.

### *Indicative titles include:*

- Art History and Social Justice
- Approaches to Islamic Ornament c.650 - 1350
- Facsimile Debates: From AI to Plato
- Sexual Politics
- Ways of Seeing and Being Seen: The Politics of Vision in Modern and Contemporary art

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## 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 (30 credits):*

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 during the summer assessment period. For many students, this is one of the most rewarding aspects of the degree.

### *Optional modules - Special Options (30 credits each):*

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

### *Examples of Special Options include:*

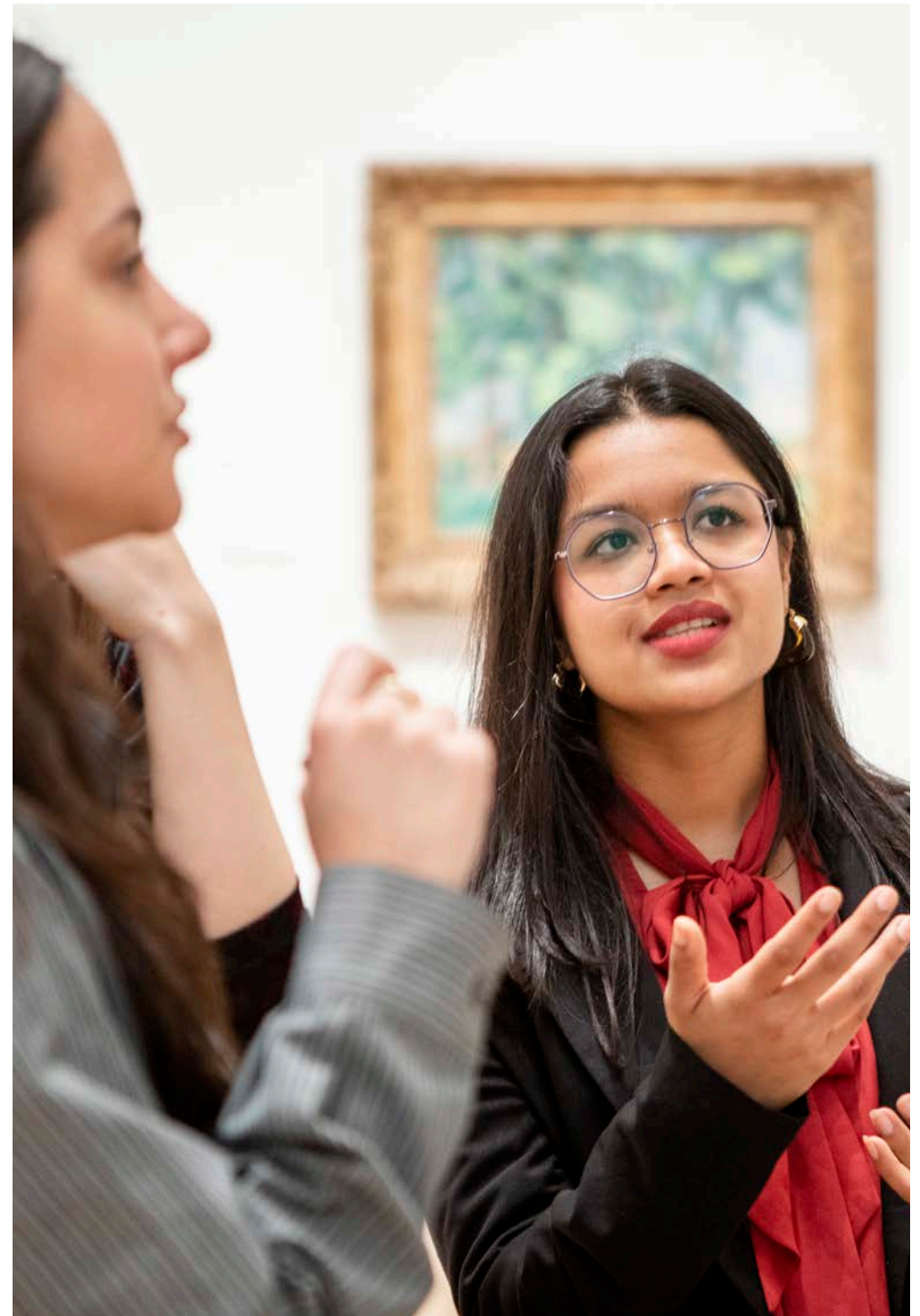
- Arts at the Courts of France, c.1360-1420
- Art and the Modern Nation: from Medieval Islam to Post-Modern Iran
- Sea of Dreams: A Tidalectic Approach to Modernism
- Soviet and Post-Soviet Art
- The Global Print

### *Optional Modules - Histories/ Approaches/Electives (15 credits each):*

Finally, you will take two further 15-credit modules from the range of Histories, Approaches and electives available within the department or at King's.

➔ **Please refer to page 21 for details.**

**The Courtauld is an independent college of the University of London. Your degree will be awarded by the University of London.**



# 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 with a broad range of qualifications. 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](https://courtauld.ac.uk/ba-entry-requirements)

**English proficiency:** International students wishing to apply to The Courtauld whose first language is not English must be able to demonstrate that their competence in English is sufficient to allow them 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](https://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](https://ucas.com)). The Courtauld Institute of Art's UCAS code is C80 and the course code is V350.

## Contextual offers

We are committed to admitting students with the greatest potential 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, 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.

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

Please see the Courtauld Learning Programme on page 48 for free events which provide an introduction to Art History and The Courtauld collections.

→ For more information, please see: [courtauld.ac.uk/widening-participation](https://courtauld.ac.uk/widening-participation)

# Fees, funding and bursaries

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## The James Hughes-Hallett Undergraduate Scholarship

The James Hughes-Hallett Undergraduate Scholarship was 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

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## 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 £45,000
- 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

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## 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.

### Tuition fees

For up-to-date information about fees, please check our website: [courtauld.ac.uk/tuition-fees](http://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](http://gov.uk/get-undergraduate-student-loan)

# Academic resources and support

## **The Courtauld Library**

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 the required readings for each of your courses online through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The library provides links to e-books, scholarly journals online, and scans of chapters from print books to help you prepare for each lecture and seminar. We have a range of subscriptions to journals and societies that publish articles on the history of art and architecture, conservation, and curation.

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

The Academic Skills Tutor provides study skills support to students studying at The Courtauld. Support is provided in group and one-to-one formats, and is tailored to the specific needs of students, depending on the programme of study and the study skills that require development. This support enables students to develop and realise their academic potential. Core study skills classes are also provided as part of the taught provision on most courses.

## **Specialist SpLD, neurodiverse and disability support**

If you have, or suspect you might have, Specific Learning Differences (SpLDs such as dyslexia/ADHD etc), a neurodiverse condition or have a mental or physical health disability, our Wellbeing Service can work with you throughout your studies to help arrange specialist support such as Specialist Study Skills Tutoring, Mental Health Mentoring or, Assistive Technology. They can also help you apply for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) where eligible, arrange reasonable adjustments for exams and assessments, and can support with other general wellbeing matters.





# Student stories



## Lynn

Third year student

**Having not studied History of Art before university, I was a little worried about the scope of my knowledge ahead of my first year at The Courtauld.**

However, I was reassured very soon after starting. First year courses such as Foundations taught me about the history of art in great depth and breadth. As I approach graduation, what I have appreciated from studying at the Courtauld is the quality of teaching. Lecturers have been consistently encouraging and inspiring, and are highly knowledgeable and passionate about their specialisms.

**‘Lecturers have been consistently encouraging and inspiring, and are highly knowledgeable and passionate about their specialisms’**

The social aspect of university life is also crucial, and I am grateful to have met so many amazing people throughout my time at The Courtauld. Through societies and social events run by the Students’ Union, I have got to know many people and develop close friendships.

Being an international student, making myself at home in London was important for me and my mental wellbeing. With the strong bond among international students, living in London has not only been exciting but has felt like home, where I feel safe and taken care of.



**‘The course so far has covered some of my most-loved passions, as well as stretching my knowledge and experience’**

## Noah

First year student

**My first connection to The Courtauld started when I attended the half-term lectures and the Summer University scheme during my A levels. This gave me the confidence to apply to the BA History of Art, and I have now just completed my first year.**

The course so far has covered some of my most-loved passions, as well as stretching my knowledge and experience. My first year has been a great challenge, but one that I am glad to say has been accompanied by some of the most-engaging learning experiences amidst London’s galleries and museums. I have been able to take up a student staff position within The Courtauld’s very own Research Forum. This paid opportunity has allowed me to meet and engage with faculty and experts in their field both from within The Courtauld, and from other universities and research institutions. This experience has

broadened my horizons both in terms of networking and future work opportunities, and positively impacted my education.

When I reflect on this year, I think what made my first year so special is how I could integrate all facets of The Courtauld’s teaching and extra-curricular programme with external arts activities in London, such as the Mayfair Gallery Openings, theatre performances and gallerist talks. I like to say that due to what is on offer across London, I have the highest ‘contact-time’ of any student in the country.

I’ve often been told that university is the time in our lives when we are the most productive. At The Courtauld, my work has only been possible through the relationship between students and faculty, and I have appreciated the daily opportunities to learn from lecturers’ knowledge in lectures and the connections that are built in seminars.

# 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-judgemental 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 and access to course materials in alternative formats.

## 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

**The BA course has a strong vocational element, particularly if you are interested in a career in the arts.**

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.

## 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 Institute Careers Programme (CICP)

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 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 attending either five one-to-one careers guidance appointments or five careers events, or through a combination of these, 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.

### Employment opportunities and internships

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, event support through the Research Forum, and providing general services in the libraries. The Research Forum offers flexible work experience. These roles allow students to work across departments and gain a sense of deeper community during their studies. 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. Students may also benefit from opportunities listed on the **Alumni-student Jobs board**. The Careers Service provides support and guidance in finding and applying for work experience opportunities and longer term career steps.



# Alumni

## 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 students from underrepresented backgrounds. Taking place every spring, the programme provides students with one month of personalised careers support with a mentor in an area of work that interests them.

Mentors are carefully selected from The Courtauld's network of successful alumni and students and are carefully matched via a bespoke matching process with a professional who suits their unique needs and career aspirations.

# Alumni spotlight



## Harry Hutchinson (BA 2006)

Harry Hutchinson 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 help to pave the way for serious discussion around non-Western art in the U.S.



## Stephanie Wickenden (BA 2011)

Stephanie Wickenden is a Barrister at Serle Court chambers, specialising in intellectual property, art and media law. She works with galleries, museums, dealers and artists on a range of legal issues, as well as representing household brands such as Marks & Spencer and easyJet. Recent art cases include high court proceedings relating to a work of appropriation art by Glenn Brown, a dispute between gallery directors and advising on the use of art works within film.



## 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.

# 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, whilst our strategic relationship with King's College London allows our students to experience the bustle of a London-based university. Our Vernon Square campus is only a ten-minute walk from King's Cross Station, placing us next to numerous cafés and restaurants, as well as some of the world's best galleries and museums. There truly isn't a better place to engage with art history.

The Students' Union advocates on behalf of students in all matters including academia, welfare support and the student experience. We also work to provide students with exciting and relevant opportunities throughout the year. As a student at The Courtauld, you can expect to have a stimulating array of social and wellbeing events available. We often receive tips from employers about internships and work opportunities and maintain a close relationship with our Alumni network. We have a passionate group of student-led societies which include our Business of Art

Society, Art Law Society, Feminist Society, Film Society, and The Courtauldian – our incredible student-run publication. Another great thing about The Courtauld is that you can join societies and student-led groups or participate in competitive sports through our King's College London relationship or 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 the Alumni-Mentoring Programme. I hope that this has given you a good idea of student life at The Courtauld.

## Prune Engéant (she/her)

President of The Courtauld Students' Union

→ To find out more about The Courtauld's SU, visit our website and Instagram page where you can find all the latest information on our events, campaigns, and more: [courtauld.ac.uk/students-union](http://courtauld.ac.uk/students-union) and [@courtauld\\_su](https://www.instagram.com/courtauld_su)

Alternatively, we can always be reached at: [students.union@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:students.union@courtauld.ac.uk)

**'Our role is to advocate for students, to make everyone feel welcome and included, and to ensure the happiness of all students at The Courtauld'**

## The Students' Union

The Students' Union is a student-run representative group. Our role is to advocate for students, to make everyone feel welcome and included, and to ensure the 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, a Vice President, five Executive Officers, a representative from each year group, as well as officers from our LGBTQIA+, Disabled, International, and Global Majority communities. As well as campaigning on their behalf, the Students' Union holds social events for Courtauld students. The Union Committee organises events such as Welcome Week, the Winter Party and the Summer Ball, but many of our events come from 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](http://courtauldian.com) or [@thecourtauldian](https://www.instagram.com/thecourtauldian) on Instagram.



# Research Forum



**The Research Forum delivers an extensive programme of lectures, conferences, seminars, workshops, artist talks, Gallery lates, podcasts, films and digital publications supporting advanced inquiry into the History of Art, Conservation and Curating.**

Hosting around 150 events per year, the varied programme covers periods and themes in art, visual culture, and its history. Recent event series include 'Black British Art: Histories, Presence, Futures' which expanded on the Courtauld Gallery exhibition Claudette Johnson: Presence.

The programme provides The Courtauld community, as well as the public, with insight into topics that expand on and go beyond their main areas of study. Students are encouraged to engage, debate and question during the events.

Attending events provides students with extra opportunities for enhanced learning and can help contextualise content taught in class.

In addition to the core programme, the Research Forum organises events that open up The Courtauld to a wide and diverse audience. These include pop-up talks, performances, and in-detail object study sessions that explore and celebrate our collection, research in art history, curation and conservation. The event series touch on pertinent issues – magnifying contemporary thinking in society through the field of art history.

The Research Forum also hosts the Decolonising Action Groups, open to all staff and students and intended to enable learning, debate, and reflection as a community.

→ Event details and recordings are posted online – follow us on social media [@courtauldres](https://twitter.com/courtauldres) or visit [courtauld.ac.uk/research](https://www.courtauld.ac.uk/research)



# The Courtauld's 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*, *Peter Doig*, *Claudette Johnson: Presence* and *Frank Auerbach: The Charcoal Heads*.

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.



## 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 include works from the Courtauld Gallery, and our photographic collections.

## The Courtauld Gallery

The Courtauld Gallery's collection, which comprises over 33,000 objects ranging from the Middle Ages to the 21st century and includes paintings, drawings, ceramics and sculptures, among others, is available to explore in its entirety online for free for the first time thanks to a new digital platform.

To find out more, visit [gallerycollections.courtauld.ac.uk/](https://gallerycollections.courtauld.ac.uk/)

## The Witt and Conway photographic collections

The Witt 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

holds a collection of just under one million 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 and publishing these collections alongside other smaller significant photographic resources.

Images from the Conway have been sorted, digitised and catalogued by an onsite team of over two thousand volunteers working alongside a global online community of nearly thirteen thousand volunteer transcribers. The Witt is currently being digitised by an external contractor. Images of British Art are now online, and art from other countries will be added over the next nine months.

The photographic collections are available online here: [photocollections.courtauld.ac.uk/](https://photocollections.courtauld.ac.uk/)



Paul Cézanne (1839-1906), *The Montagne Sainte-Victoire with a Large Pine*, around 1887, The Courtauld, London (Samuel Courtauld Trust) © The Courtauld



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



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



Mosul, Northern Iraq, Metalwork bag, 1300-1335, The Courtauld, London (Samuel Courtauld Trust) © 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 year olds), 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.

## Schools Programme

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, and ensure that as many people as possible can benefit from gaining the tools to better understand the visual world around us.

## Summer University programme

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, to experience undergraduate study at

The Courtauld with our Summer University programmes and other lively collaborative events covering a broad range of time 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](https://courtauld.ac.uk/young-people)

## Take-Part Programmes

Our Learning 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 Courtauld's collection.

→ For more information, please see: [courtauld.ac.uk/take-part/schools/](https://courtauld.ac.uk/take-part/schools/)



# Accommodation

**The Courtauld has partnered with King's College London Residences for the purposes of providing accommodation for first year undergraduate students.** Subject to availability and demand, The Courtauld aspires to accommodate all first year students living outside of Greater London in Halls.

Kings Residences operate a number of Halls, the majority of which are located within a commutable travel time of thirty minutes of our main teaching spaces at Vernon Square and Somerset House, which houses our Gallery and Conservation studios.

King's Residences provide a safe, professional, service-driven and inclusive residential community where independent living stimulates non-academic learning to enhance the student experience and success at university and beyond. You will live alongside students studying at both The Courtauld and King's College London, which is a great way to meet a diverse community of students studying a wide range of subjects.

Contracts to live in halls commence mid-September 2025, and the duration of these is normally 40 weeks depending on the Hall allocated.

Other rooms outside our partnership with King's are available by applying direct to the University of London or to third party private accommodation providers. In addition, University of London's Housing service offers assistance and support to students who are looking for and living in private accommodation in London.



# 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](https://courtauld.ac.uk/opendays)
- You can explore our Virtual Open Day Hub on our [website](#)

## Campus and Gallery tours

Campus and Gallery tours are held regularly during term-time.

- Book your place online: [courtauld.ac.uk/opendays](https://courtauld.ac.uk/opendays)



[www.courtauld.ac.uk](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk)

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