Art History and Visual Culture offers students critical and creative ways to study the arts and visual cultures of the world throughout history and in the contemporary period.

The program focuses on developing critical thinking and writing abilities for the exploration and analysis of diverse forms of art and visual culture. Art history examines "high" art, popular culture, architecture, everyday objects, performance, and aesthetics using interdisciplinary approaches drawing from art history, literary and cultural studies, history, and anthropology.

The Faculty of Creative and Critical studies (FCCS) run the AMP Lab, which houses projects that engage the work of the humanities, adding value to cultural artifacts through interpretation and analysis in a digital context.

Your career options

UBC graduates from the Art History and Visual Culture program have abilities to analyze and interpret form, technique, iconography and the historical function of art. Art history examines "high" art, popular culture, architecture, everyday objects, performance, and aesthetics using interdisciplinary approaches drawing from art history, literary and cultural studies, history, and anthropology.

Your degree matters, and with so many options available, decision making can be overwhelming. We've prepared a guide to help you get started.

Getting Started

First-year standing

Explore the Art History and Visual Culture program by visiting the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (FCCS) website or reviewing the Academic Calendar. Learn more about your major requirements by logging into Degree Navigator and reviewing the First-Year Planning Guide.

Book an appointment with an advisor to discuss program or career-related questions. Find the advisor that is right for you by reviewing advising options available.

Visit the Student Learning Hub throughout your degree for free supports from peers and professionals that include tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing.

Moving Through Your Degree

Second-year standing

Declare the Art History and Visual Culture major on the Student Service Centre (SSC) by June. Research application requirements, admissions information, and funding options.

Explore the Art History and Visual Culture program by visiting the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (FCCS) website or reviewing the Academic Calendar. Learn more about your major requirements by logging into Degree Navigator and reviewing the First-Year Planning Guide.

Book an appointment with an advisor to discuss program or career-related questions. Find the advisor that is right for you by reviewing advising options available.

Visit the Student Learning Hub throughout your degree for free supports from peers and professionals that include tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing.

Moving Through Your Degree

Third-year standing

Explore a topic of interest in depth by participating in undergraduate research. Apply for an FCCS Undergraduate Research Award to support your research under the supervision of a FCCS faculty member.

Explore co-op opportunities to strengthen your skills and build your work experience by applying to the Co-operative Education Office. Applications open in September to students with 3rd year standing or higher.

Study abroad by participating in a Go Global program such as exchange, faculty-led global seminar, or research abroad.

Receive training and support to help develop career and employment readiness by participating in the Arts Career Apprenticeship Program.

Preparing for Graduation and Your Future

Fourth-year+ standing

Market yourself to employers by reflecting on your UBCO experience and identifying the skills and knowledge you developed through the activities you participated in. Meet with a Career Development Specialist for help with your resume, cover letter, and job search strategy.

Schedule an appointment with an advisor the term before you plan to graduate to ensure that you will meet all academic graduation requirements.

Review graduation eligibility requirements and deadlines before you apply to graduate and learn about convocation.

Looking for support?

UBC Okanagan provides a broad range of support services for students from admission through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers to physical and emotional resources, visit Student Support and Resources for a full list of helpful supports. Some examples are included below:

- Academic & Career Development provides academic and career support for all undergraduate students
- Indigenous Programs & Services provides academic support to self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students
- International Student Advising supports international students with immigration, employment in Canada, and more
- Faculty Program Coordinators or Subject Area Advisors provide faculty-specific academic support
- Disability Resource Centre assists with disability-related accommodations and programming initiatives to help remove barriers for students with disabilities and ongoing medical conditions
- Counsellors help students examine and explore their behaviors, relationships, feelings, or thoughts that cause concern or challenges
- Financial support is available to help students learn to budget, pay tuition, or apply for awards and scholarships

How to use the Program Plan:

Tuun est! This Program Plan is designed to help shape your UBC experience, challenge yourself to try new things, and become the person and scholar you want to be to help make your time at UBC Okanagan yours. The Program Plan offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all!

The Program Plan includes four categories:

- Explore the Major: Explore what you’ll be studying and learning. Make connections between your program and future career or education opportunities and goals.
- Connect and Build Community: Making connections will help develop your support network throughout your studies and beyond.
- Develop Skills and Gain Relevant Experience: Expand your capacity to understand the changing world and embrace different perspectives by seeking out new experiences and opportunities.
- Plan Ahead: Statement highlighted with a symbol must be completed during a specific term(s) or have an associated deadline.

Plan ahead! Statements highlighted with a symbol must be completed during a specific term(s) or have an associated deadline.

Legend

Experiential Education opportunities are highlighted with a symbol.
BACHELOR OF ARTS
Art History and Visual Culture

Explore Experiential Education
Participate in hands-on, immersive learning experiences.

Explore high-impact, “learn-by-doing” experiences that take your education beyond the classroom. Whether on- or off-campus, paid or volunteer, participating in directed experiences and focused reflection helps to increase knowledge, develop skills, clarify values, and build your capacity to contribute to your communities.

Experiential Education opportunities are highlighted with a symbol. Most opportunities highlighted below can be pursued at any time. Opportunities with timelines or deadlines are noted with a symbol.

Getting Started:
Explore new opportunities and interests.

New to UBC? 
Participate in orientation and transition programming to connect with other students and get involved in the campus community.

Find on-campus events to meet new people and get involved with the campus community using the Events Calendar.

Meet a Student Connector at Student Connect for help with navigating campus and to learn more about the opportunities available at UBC Okanagan.

Follow @UBCOSstudents on Instagram for campus tips, opportunities, and event updates.

Attend a Heat Varsity Athletics game. Admission is free with your student UBCcard.

Develop Interests and Broaden Perspectives:
Get more involved and build your skills and connections.

Branch out, get involved in student life, and have fun by joining a student association or course union to meet peers and participate in events and activities.

Build your connections to the community by attending FCCS events and workshops.

Build your networking skills with alumni working in careers in your desired industry by using Ten Thousand Coffees and LinkedIn or by attending career events and workshops.

Commuting? Visit Colleger spaces on campus to relax, study, and socialize with others.

Planning to live on campus? Apply to join a Living Learning Community.

Immersive Experiences:
Take part in unique opportunities and programs. Find ways to immerse yourself in your experiences.

Explore professional associations such as the Canada Council for Arts or the Universities Art Association of Canada for more information about potential careers, networking and professional development opportunities, and more.

Give back to the campus community by volunteering or applying to work on campus: Student & Alumni Job Board.

Engage with your community in a meaningful way and help to create social change by participating in the Community Service Learning program.

Create your own student association, study group, or social club to connect with peers.

Connect your experiences
Whether you’re new-to-UBCO or nearing graduation, reflect on the questions below to help connect your values, interests, and education to your future career or personal goals. Practicing reflection can help deepen your learning, strengthen your connections, and encourage life-long learning. These reflection questions are meant to help you build a UBC Okanagan experience that is unique to you.

• What are you hoping to learn as you progress through your degree?
• What kind of career are you interested in after completing your degree?
• How will the skills and knowledge you acquire during your studies help you in your career after graduation?
• What relationships and experiences are you hoping to gain from your time at university?

Use the Program Plan regularly throughout your time at UBC to build an experience that is fulfilling and rewarding.

Learn about UBCO’s commitments to Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous initiatives.

Explore course options and electives that broaden your own perspectives and worldviews.

Learn about programs and supports available through the Equity & Inclusion Office.

Participate in cross-cultural initiatives organized by the Global Engagement Office (GEO) to increase cultural awareness and grow professionally.

Get involved with Student Union Okanagan (SUO) resource groups:
• Indigenous Peoples Collective (IPC)
• Peer Support Network (PSN)
• Pride Resource Centre (PRC)
• Women’s Resource Centre (WRC)
• Sex Positivity Centre (SPC)

Join the Get Involved Program: sign up for volunteer projects in the Okanagan.

Attend Kelowna community events to get connected and learn about different cultures, activities, and experiences that make the Okanagan unique.

Build your cross-cultural skills and intercultural fluency by participating in the Intercultural Development Program.