

Art History BPhil or BSGS

Overview

Art History examines the development of this relationship across cultures, as well as the elements of style and the aesthetic ideas behind them.

The academic approach to art history suggests that a culture's nature is best revealed by its art. Art historians apply that principle when comparing past eras in western history or when relating western forms of thought and feeling with those of other cultures. Art history programs offer students the means of immersing themselves in cultural and aesthetic issues.

Job Outlook

The employment outlook for graduates is competitive, but jobs are available in art publishing, art journalism, libraries, public art councils, art galleries, architectural survey work, and with companies specializing in furniture and architectural restoration. There are some entry-level jobs in museum work, but most careers in this field require advanced degrees.

See <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos065.htm> for more information.

Compensation

See <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos065.htm> for more information.

Career Options/Tracks

Some students want to pursue careers as curators or archivists at the many museums and galleries across the country. Others, knowing they have an eye for art and design, but lacking the interest in pursuing a career as an artist, use art history to hone their intellectual abilities in art for careers in media, advertising, publishing, fashion or design. Another path for historians is art therapy, working with handicapped or disabled people. There is a trend toward providing additional training and certification for this specialty. Others move into careers in business, government and other non-profit organizations.

Advanced Education Options

Many careers do not require a specific major but rather a wide range of demonstrated skills and accomplishments. Regardless of career choices, increasing one's marketability to employers through internships, responsible work experience, good grades and involvement in college activities is important. A bachelor's degree is sufficient for many entry level positions, but for advancement in an area of specialization, an advanced degree may be required.

Sample Job Titles

*assistant curator

*archivist

*museum inventory specialist

*conservator

- *museum attendant
- *education director
- *development officer
- *exhibit designer

- *library assistant
- *art appraiser
- *registrar
- *curator

Some Employers of Art History Majors

- * museums
- * state/federal government
- * interior design firms
- * colleges/universities
- * restoration firms
- * publishing firms
- * archives
- * federal/state parks
- * historical societies

Other Sources of Information

American Association of Museums

<http://www.aam-us.org>

Art History Network

<http://www.arthistory.net/>

Art History Research Centre

<http://art-history.concordia.ca/AHRC>

Association for Art History

<http://www.indiana.edu/~aah>

Metropolitan Museum of Art, A Timeline of Art History

<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/splash.htm>

Society of American Archivists

<http://www.archivists.org>

The Riley Guide

<http://www.rileyguide.com>