

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester



# ***HISTORY OF ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER OFFER HOLDER GUIDE***





**6th best UK university  
for History of Art**

*The Complete  
University Guide, 2026*



**Top 10 UK university  
for art and design  
research**

*Research Excellence  
Framework, 2021*



**35th best university  
in the world**

*QS World Rankings,  
2026*

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# MEET THE DEPARTMENT

Here's an overview of what some of our academics specialise in:

## Prof Edward Wouk

Teaches a wide range of topics including the history of printmaking, 17th century Dutch painting and artistic theory.

## Prof Cordelia Warr

Expert on medieval and renaissance art, specifically the religious body, female patronage, representation of dress and visual culture of stigmata.

## Dr Claire Reddeman

Teaches in the areas of Digital Humanities and Art History, and is interested in digital cultural heritage, visual methods, mapping, contemporary art and 'ways of seeing' using new technologies.

## Dr Charlie F B Miller

Senior lecturer in art history and theory, currently focusing on the problem of magic in modern and contemporary art.

## Dr Anthony Gerbino

Historian of early modern architecture in France and England.

“What impressed me most about studying here is the **amount and quality of support** that the staff provided. Whether you go to see them about personal or academic issues, they always have time for you.”

Michaela Blackburn, BA History of Art

## Dr Emma Merkling

Teaches 19th century British art, focusing on intersections between Victorian art and science; issues of gender and sexuality; and the occult.

## Dr Luke Skrebowski

Lecturer in contemporary art, focusing on the history and theory of late 20th and early 21st century art in the UK, USA, Europe and Brazil.

## Dr Emilia Terracciano

Specialist in modern and contemporary art, with an emphasis on South Asian artists and their diaspora, and on critical ecologies.

## Dr Anne Kirkham

Focuses on European medieval art, especially the visually rich European medieval manuscripts in the John Rylands Library where she teaches some of her classes.

# CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE



With a broad range of staff specialisms, the course offers an exciting range of modules exploring art history and visual culture from the medieval era to the present.

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art Spaces (core)</li> <li>• Art History Tutorial 1 (core)</li> <li>• Art History Tutorial 2 (core)</li> <li>• Ice Age to Baroque: Artworks in History (core)</li> <li>• Rococo to Now: Artworks in History (core)</li> <li>• Art Spaces (core)</li> <li>• Free choice across the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (optional)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art in Theory (core)</li> <li>• European Art History Fieldtrip (core)</li> <li>• British Art and The Environment, 1800–1900 (optional)</li> <li>• Art Markets (optional)</li> <li>• The Art of Late Medieval Italy: Commerce, Religion, Travel (optional)</li> <li>• Made in India: Modern and Contemporary Art (optional)</li> <li>• Renaissance and Baroque Architecture 1450-1750 (optional)</li> <li>• The Neo-Avant-Garde and the Crisis of Medium, 1945-1974 (optional)</li> <li>• Digital Ways of Seeing: Theory and Practice (optional)</li> <li>• The Italian Renaissance (optional)</li> <li>• Core Themes in Animated Film and Visual Culture of Postwar Japan (optional)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of Art Dissertation (core)</li> <li>• The English Baroque: Architecture and Society 1660-1730 (optional)</li> <li>• Victorian Bodies: Art, Science, and Modernity 1848 - 1901 (optional)</li> <li>• The Art of Clothing in Renaissance Italy (optional)</li> <li>• Art and Ecology: Bodies, Environments and Technology (optional)</li> <li>• Digital Art (optional)</li> <li>• Art After Modernism: Approaching Contemporary Art (optional)</li> <li>• Picasso (optional)</li> <li>• The Art of European Medieval Books (optional)</li> </ul>

\* May be subject to change. Please check the course webpage for more information.

Click [here](#) for more detailed information on our course page, including the syllabus for each module

# ART & CULTURE IN THE CITY

Manchester offers a vibrant arts and culture scene. As a student here, you can immerse yourself in art throughout the city from numerous art galleries to Ford Madox Brown's murals at the town hall.

## *The university's cultural institutions:*

- **Whitworth Art Gallery** houses a collection of over 60,000 works of art, textiles and wallpaper from the medieval to contemporary age.
- **John Rylands Research Institute and Library** is home to books, maps and other visual materials spanning 5000 years. The library's Special Collections are an invaluable resource for art history students.
- **Manchester Museum**, named European Museum of the Year 2025, is home to over 4.5 million objects with its wide range of collections including Egypt and Sudan, Archaeology, and Living Cultures.

The city is also home to **Manchester Art Gallery** (with collections from Dutch painting to contemporary ceramics and fashion), **HOME** (a theatre, cinema, and contemporary art space), **ESEA Contemporary** (East and Southeast Asian art gallery), **Castlefield Gallery**, **The Lowry** (a theatre and gallery space), and more.



Whitworth Art Gallery



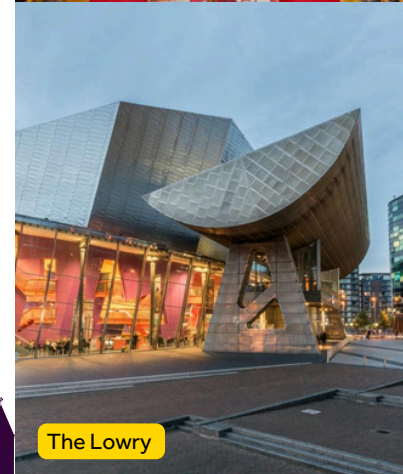
Manchester Museum



John Rylands Research Institute and Library



Manchester Art Gallery



The Lowry



ESEA Contemporary

# WORK EXPERIENCE & INTERNSHIPS



The University of Manchester's links to other institutions means we can offer our students high-quality work experience opportunities and internships.

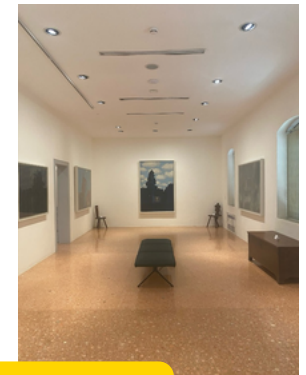
## **John Rylands Research Institute and Library (JRRIL) Placement**



- Available for two third year students
- 3 hours per week during term time
- Each student develops a short project around a visually engaging item (or items) of their choosing
- The short project might include writing a 'story' for JRRIL's teaching platform, participating in JRRIL's placement symposium, or producing a short video/audio
- Students gain experience of collaborative working in a professional environment, as well as receive a certification of their training in handling and conservation of Special Collections items

## **Summer Internship: Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice**

- Spend summer of second year in Venice at the world-famous collection of modern art
- This highly-regarded internship programme introduces students to many aspects of museum work, while providing a foundation in issues surrounding the exhibition and display of modern art and an introduction to the visual culture of Venice
- Students join others from across the world to experience first-hand the excitement of working in this prestigious museum



Read a blog post from Jasmine, a Peggy Guggenheim intern [here](#)

# WORK EXPERIENCE & INTERNSHIPS

## **The Friends of the Whitworth Student Ambassador**



- Available for one first or second year student
- Around 3 hours per week during term time
- The Friends of the Whitworth (FOW) is a charity group supporting the Whitworth Art Gallery
- FOW ambassadors promote the group to other art history students at Manchester, in person and using social media
- They attend FOW meetings, assist with events, as well as contribute to short research projects and to write content for the FOW website

## **Tabley House Internship**

- The university's Tabley House Collection is located in the Grade I listed Tabley House, Knutsford
- The collection showcases a permanent exhibition of early British modern masters alongside interchanging displays of treasures that tell the story of Tabley



## **Castlefield Gallery Internship Scheme**



- Castlefield Gallery is a contemporary art gallery and artist development organisation
- There are multiple curatorial, research, and marketing placements in one of Manchester's premier not-for-profit contemporary art galleries

You can also do a work placement in third year, read more [here!](#)

# ART & CULTURE IN THE CITY

Click on any of the organisations to find out more!

## Galleries & Art Spaces

From major galleries to community-run art spaces, Manchester offers a rich art scene with both modern art and historic collections.

### Major Galleries

- Whitworth Art Gallery - one of the university's cultural institutions and five-minute walk from campus, houses a collection of over 60,000 works of art, textiles and wallpaper from the medieval to contemporary age
- Manchester Art Gallery - city-centre gallery with collections from Dutch painting to contemporary ceramics and fashion
- The Lowry - contains the largest collection of L.S. Lowry pieces

### Independent Galleries

- HOME Manchester - platforming both inter/nationally recognised and local artists and cross-artform collaboration and transgressive practices
- Castlefield Gallery - contemporary art gallery and artist development organisation
- ESEA Contemporary - the UK's only non-profit institution specialising in platforming artists and art practices that are informed by East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) heritages
- Islington Mill - studios, gallery and event space home to over 100 artists
- Paradise Works - gallery and artist-led studio community of contemporary visual artists
- Smolensky Gallery - independent art gallery aiming to make art accessible



# MUSEUM VISITS & FIELDTRIPS

## **Museum Visits**

We have regular visits and classes to the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester Art Gallery, HOME, the Lowry and ESEA. Plus, many modules offer seminars at the John Rylands Library, giving students the opportunity to study the Special Collections materials.

## **European Fieldtrip**

In second year, students enjoy an all-expenses paid 5-day fieldtrip to a European city, such as to Paris, Rome or Vienna. The trip combines guided tours and talks with supervised independent research, and culminates in an extended essay on your return to Manchester.



Amsterdam 2023 fieldtrip



## **Lady Chorley Travel Bursary**

Students can apply for a travel bursary to support their dissertation research, which can be used to visit galleries, conduct interviews or work in archives, in the UK or overseas.

Tatiana, the winner of the Henry Moore Foundation's prize for the best undergraduate dissertation (2023) on sculpture, used the grant to see the British Museum's African collection, including archives not on display:

"After signing a quick form outlining the importance of my trip, I was granted the funds I needed. I could not recommend the grant enough to students interested in physically seeing the art that they will spend many months researching."



# HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS



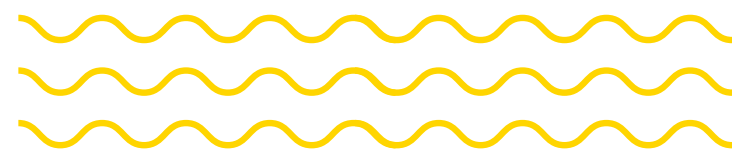
is Kacey.

Click to watch Kacey, a 2025 History of Art and English Literature graduate, discuss her experience at Manchester!

Explore our humanities blog here to find out more about life as a student at Manchester



# AFTER YOUR DEGREE: CAREERS

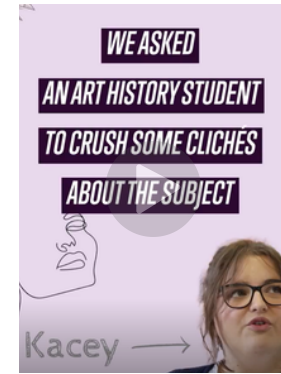


## Employability

Did you know the creative economy accounts for **one in 11 jobs** across the UK and employs 700,000 more people than the financial services industry?

*(Creative Industries Federation)*

Click [here](#) to listen to one of our graduates tackle a myth about the employability of art history



## Career Pathways

An art history degree at Manchester provides **valuable transferable skills and experiences** that prepares students for **careers in and outside of the art world**.

Our graduates gain **visual literacy skills** uniquely developed in an art history degree, as well as **critical thinking** and the ability to develop a **convincing argument**.

Some of our recent graduates have gone into...

GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums)

Fashion

Advertising

Media

Education

Business Management

Publishing

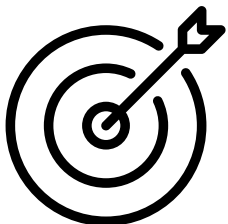
Journalism

Law

Banking

Public Relations

## Our Careers Service



**We are the most targeted university by the UK's leading graduate employers**

*(The Graduate Market 2026 study conducted by High Fliers)*

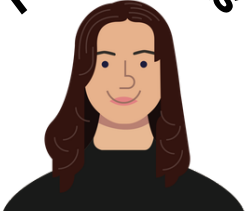
You'll have access to dedicated, subject-specific support from our Careers Service throughout your studies and for up to two years after graduation.

# AFTER YOUR DEGREE: ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Explore more art history graduate profiles here!



Molly Lewis



**MA student at the Courtauld Institute of Art and Archive Assistant in the Courtauld Gallery**

The knowledge gained at Manchester gave me the confidence to talk to the public about the collection in my role at Sir John Soane's Museum. I later worked for the National Trust for Scotland, where I was responsible for the daily maintenance, conservation, and research of the collection at one of their historic houses.

**Online Publications Editor at the Museums Association**

My degree sparked an interest in learning, art and social history, which I have never lost. I can't emphasise enough how important curiosity is for an art historian and a journalist. Before my current role, I worked as a personal finance journalist, further developing my strong writing and analytical skills.

Rebecca Atkinson



Edward Gates



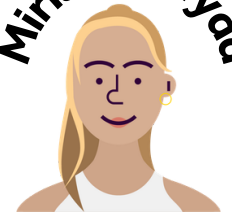
**Director of the Fort George Museum, Croatia**

My role is to source the material for our standing collection as well as summer exhibitions. Previously I worked for a specialist cultural travel company, composing itineraries for clients, as well as working as a guide in Istanbul and Greece, teaching the subjects of Byzantine art and architecture.

**Assistant Curator at the Science Museum in London**

The course's partnerships with Manchester Art Gallery and The Whitworth, and an extraordinary trip to Paris, meant that I got to see precious artworks very close up with the aid of passionate lecturers and expert curators. Networks I built on the course in Manchester's close knit and welcoming cultural institutions have been the foundation stones of my current career.

Miriam Dafydd





Contact [ug-ahvs@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ug-ahvs@manchester.ac.uk)



Explore more on our website



Read our History of Art blog

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