

Art History, PhD

Admission

Application materials should be uploaded onto a student's admissions profile (see instructions below under "Application Procedures"). All applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College and the School of Art and Art History.

The deadline to submit materials to the Office of Graduate Admissions is Dec. 15 for the art history program; admission is for the following fall.

School of Art and Art History Requirements

Prospective graduate students must meet the School of Art and Art History's admission requirements for the specific degree program they plan to enter. They must submit application materials to the university's Office of Graduate Admissions and to the specific program they wish to enter. Program-specific application requirements and deadline dates are listed below.

All applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

Applicants must hold an MA in art history or a related graduate degree and be able to demonstrate proficiency in French or German. Proficiency in a second non-English language relevant to the student's research area is required by the end of the third semester of PhD work.

Applicants whose first or official language is not English and whose previous academic degrees were not earned at an English-language institution must score at least 100 (internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). All applicants must have a minimum TOEFL iBT speaking score of 26 and a listening score of 25. An application is not reviewed if scores are lower than the requirements specify. As an alternative to the TOEFL, applicants may take the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). They must have a total score of 7.0, with no subscore less than 6.0. In addition, all IELTS test takers, regardless of score, are required to take an on-campus English Proficiency Evaluation. The Duolingo English Test (DET) with a score of at least 105 also is accepted.

All students for whom English is not a first language and who have first-time appointments as teaching assistants (TAs) are required to take a test to assess their effectiveness in speaking English before they are assigned assistantship responsibilities. No applicant is considered for an appointment without an iBT speaking score of 26 and a listening score of 25. The English Speaking Proficiency Assessment (ESPA) is the test the University of Iowa uses to assess students' oral language and listening skills. The English Language Performance Test (ELPT) is a supplement to the SPA test and is designed to measure the ability to communicate in English in a classroom context in one's field of study. The ELPT is given to students who have scored 50 or 55 on the SPA, and to TAs who teach a world language that have scored 45. To learn more about the SPA and ELPT, visit the English as a Second Language Program website.

Application Procedures

Prospective students may apply online through the Office of Admissions website. After submitting an application, applicants will receive email instructions on how to access their admissions profile on MyUI. Applicants then upload the required supplemental documents through a secure portal.

Required documents include transcripts from all colleges and universities an applicant has attended, contact information for three individuals (able to assess applicants' potential for graduate study) designated to provide letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, and the Supplemental Graduate Application Information form.

Art history applicants also should supply a research paper (preferably from an art history course) or thesis that demonstrates potential to undertake graduate-level research in art history, and a personal statement of 1,000 words describing their intellectual development, academic interests, and career goals. The statement must name the University of Iowa faculty member under whose guidance the applicant hopes to work and indicate how that faculty member's area of expertise, or how the art history program, is especially suited to the applicant's interests and goals.

Students who completed an MA at the University of Iowa and who wish to apply to the PhD program in art history must make a formal application for a change of status through the graduate program coordinator. Applications are evaluated in the context of the entire applicant pool.

Applicants should consult the Art History Graduate Bulletin on the School of Art and Art History website. No separate application is necessary for scholarships or teaching/research assistantships for applicants.

The Office of Graduate Admissions notifies all applicants by mail of admission decisions.