



University of
BRISTOL

Undergraduate study

History of Art



Key highlights



Research opportunities

Studying art history at Bristol, you will get the chance to undertake a substantial piece of independent research each year, as well as writing an original dissertation in your final year.



Industry links

Bristol is famous for its rich cultural heritage. We work with local partners Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, M Shed, the Royal West of England Academy and Bath's Holburne Museum, and national collaborators including the Tate Galleries, National Museum Wales, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.



Global perspective

Gain international experience by spending a semester studying history of art abroad in your second year. Alternatively, you can choose a four-year degree with a modern language and spend your third year abroad.

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study

Why study history of art at Bristol?

Art history provides a way of understanding the past and considering its relationship to the present. At Bristol you will explore visual culture through painting, sculpture and drawing as well as photography, film, multimedia and architecture.

Our courses focus on, but are not exclusive to, western art and architecture. We offer an interdisciplinary approach, exploring relationships between art and music, art and writing, the visual culture of sport and more. Over the course of your degree you can choose to contextualise your studies by taking options beyond the department.

The first year provides a solid foundation in visual and textual analysis and interpretation through the study of medieval, early modern, modern and contemporary art history, as well as a research-oriented, small-group seminar class.

In the following years you will choose from a variety of broader thematic lecture- and seminar-based units, as well as further research-oriented units. There are also opportunities to gain hands-on curatorial experience and skills. The culmination of your studies is a substantial piece of original research in the form of a dissertation.

As well as written exams and the dissertation, assessments include essays, visual analysis, digital presentations, individual and group projects – which may include virtual and physical exhibitions.

Sample units may include

- Sculpture and the Body
- Modern Art in the USA 1900-1939
- Art and Music
- Race and Place
- Art and Environmental Awareness
- Art of the Northern Renaissance.

Find out more

Entry requirements, course structure and units
bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-arthistory

'I like how you are encouraged to do your own research from an early stage. Throughout my degree, we increasingly looked at really interesting forms of culture, such as film, photography and cartoons.'

Emily (BA History of Art)



Minutes from the University campus you'll find the historic RWA and Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. Visit cutting-edge exhibitions at Spike Island, Arnolfini and the Martin Parr Foundation for contemporary work, or explore our graffiti culture at annual street art festival, UpFest.



Recent graduates have found employment with Sotheby's, Christie's, the Guggenheim in Venice, Phaidon Press, the National Portrait Gallery, the Holburne in Bath and the V&A.



Bristol is one of Europe's top cultural and creative cities. It has also been named the UK's most artistic city – based on the quantity of galleries, museums, gigs, theatres and street art.*

*European Commission, 2019; Premier Inn, 2019.



Units draw directly on the interests of our research-active staff, with particular specialisms in Transnational Modernisms and Mediterranean Visual Cultures. The department hosts regular research seminars, lunchtime lectures and curatorial projects.

Courses

BA History of Art

BA History of Art and French / German / Italian / Portuguese / Russian / Spanish

Connect with the Department of History of Art

 @UoBrisArtHist

Photography

Nick Smith, Paul Box

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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study for the latest updates. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.

