

## **MA IN ART HISTORICAL RESEARCH**

### **Faculty of Geography and History**

#### **General information:**

Title: **MA in Art Historical Research**

Branch of knowledge: Arts and Humanities

Number of ECTS credits: 60

Modality: Distance learning

Teaching language: Spanish

Non-native English speakers who have a B2 certificate in English can choose to take a number of courses in this language, and this will be reflected in their MA academic transcript.

#### **DESCRIPTION AND AIMS**

This MA offers students the opportunity to begin undertaking research on the History of Art, which is considered as a discipline consisting of a complex network of spaces and confluences that requires a systematic comprehension of its principal methods, approaches and concerns. It seeks to equip students with a critical awareness that will enable them to increase their access to a broad range of professional opportunities in and beyond Spain.

The study programme is designed to be transversal, and it offers a wide range of optional courses, which enables students to undertake its research training in relation to their interests, and with a view to pursuing their training and/or professional career in two priority spheres: the completion of a doctoral thesis, or a professional career related to the specialized knowledge of History of Art and Cultural Heritage.

The study programme begins with a methodological training module, which is intended to address the diverse critical trends and theories that have shaped the discipline, in addition to providing training on new research techniques. This is followed by a module devoted to the introduction to research, which is intended to provide a deeper engagement with specific themes linked to the specialized research required for the History of Art, and this is organized in the form of six research pathways. These two modules enable the student to go on to apply their acquired knowledge to an introductory phase of research, the MA dissertation, which is the focus of the third module.

#### **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

Firstly, this MA provides a foundation for pursuing an academic career in teaching and research, for which a special emphasis is given to digital media; in this regard this course is an indispensable preliminary step to undertaking the research and writing of a doctoral thesis. It enables students to begin analysing textual and visual sources, to start thinking critically about historiographical debates and to develop their own research specialization. A secondary career facet of this MA is that it can provide a valuable bridge towards other professional career paths in the spheres of education and heritage – with regard to both heritage management and conservation (in museums, art galleries and cultural institutions, commercial galleries and auction houses, etc., all of which require a specialized professional profile).

The UNED's [Centro de Orientación, Información y Empleo \(COIE, Centre for Career Guidance and Information\)](#) offers students support during their academic career at the UNED and while they pursue their career goals once their studies have finished.

## ALUMNI

On successfully completing the MA, its alumni are qualified to undertake the UNED's "doctoral programme on History and the History of Art and Territory", or any of the accredited Spanish doctoral study programmes as regulated by RD 99/2011.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements for accredited Spanish MA courses (art. 16 RD 1393/2007 and RD 861/2010)

1. To apply for an accredited Spanish MA course, it is necessary to have a degree from an accredited Spanish University, or another higher education institution that pertains to a state that forms part of the European Higher Education Area, and this latter degree must entitle access to MA courses.
2. Graduates of education systems from outside the European Higher Education Area can likewise apply for this course without needing to have their degrees formally approved, so long as a prior confirmation is provided by their university, which testifies to the applicant's level of training being equivalent to an accredited Spanish university degree, and that in the country that issues their degree this level of training entitles access to postgraduate studies. Access by the second route will in no case require the formal approval of an applicant's prior degree, nor the acknowledgement of any other criteria related to their eligibility to study on an MA course.

### Applicant profile:

The MA in Art Historical Research is primarily aimed at art historians, whereby the recommended applicant profile is either those who hold a degree in the History of Art, or else graduates whose degree included a specialized History of Art component. The MA is likewise open to applicants who hold degrees in the following subjects: Geography and History, History, Humanities, or Philosophy who can demonstrate that at least 15% of their degree included History of Art courses. In the event that an applicant is unable to comply with this requirement, they will have to study the complimentary study units set out in the box below. Architecture and Fine Arts graduates are required to study the **complimentary study units** set out in the box below:

**1. Those who have a degree in the History of Art, or whose degree included a specialized History of Art component:**

Students with this profile are not required to study any complimentary study units.

**2. Those who have a degree in Geography and History, History, Humanities or Philosophy:**

Their eligibility will be decided on by the Academic Commission for this MA on the basis of the number of credits obtained during their study of courses related to the History of Art. In these cases, to be eligible for admission to this MA, the student must have obtained at least 15% of their degree credits through the study of History of Art courses. In the event this requirement is not fulfilled, following prior consultation of the applicant's Degree Certification, as well as the presentation of their research interests, the Academic Commission will establish the complimentary study units that will have to be taken.

For each applicant, these complimentary study units will consist of 2-4 courses, and they will be decided on by the Academic Commission for this MA; they will be chosen from the list below. A selection of the following courses which form part of the UNED's degree in the History of Art, will have to be studied, and this will consist of 12-24 ECTS credits:

- Artistic Techniques and Media (6 ECTS)
- The historiographical construct of art (6 ECTS)
- Art and Power in the Early Modern Period (6 ECTS)
- Discourses on Contemporary Art (6 ECTS)
- The History of Art of the Late Middle Ages (6 ECTS)
- History of Antique Classical Art (6 ECTS)
- Art Historical Heritage and the Management of Cultural Heritage (6 ECTS)

### **3. Holders of degrees in Architecture and Fine Arts.**

With regard to building engineers (3 years), their degree does not make them eligible for access to a doctoral studies as it does not include the required 300 ECTS, as is stipulated in the regulation RD 1393/2007. For applicants with this profile, the required Complimentary Study Units will be established by the Academic Commission from those listed below, and they will be 2-4 courses or 12-24 ECTS credits.

Holders of a degree in Architecture and Fine Arts: as stipulated by the Academic Commission will have to study between 2-4 courses as a complimentary study unit from the following:

- Artistic Techniques and Media (6 ECTS)
- The historiographical construct of art (6 ECTS)
- Art and Power in the Early Modern Period (6 ECTS)
- Discourses on Contemporary Art (6 ECTS)
- The History of Art of the Late Middle Ages (6 ECTS)
- History of Antique Classical Art (6 ECTS)
- Art Historical Heritage and the Management of Cultural Heritage (6 ECTS)

### **Admission criteria:**

Those who wish to apply for this MA are required to present along with their pre-inscription their CV an academic transcript for their degree, in addition to a letter of application that sets out a research proposal with interests and subjects linked to one or more of the various lines of study pursued by the lecturers who teach on this MA.

Admission to this MA will require certification of the following levels of language abilities:

#### **a) Spanish-speaking students:**

A second language certified to level B1 (any official language of the EU, preferably English), which enables specialized academic texts to be read and understood.

#### **b) Non-Spanish-speaking students:**

Spanish certified to B2 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

A second language certified to level B1 (any official language of the EU, preferably English), which enables specialized academic texts to be read and understood.

c) Non-Anglophone students who wish to study any courses taught in English on this MA must hold the following certificate: English certified to B2 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

The acceptance of those who apply to study this MA will be decided on the basis of their submission of the required documentation, and it will be decided on in accordance with the scale set out below; a minimum qualification of 15 points is required:

*Admission assessment criteria:*

1. Average grade listed on the academic transcript for their degree (up to 5 points).
  - 1.1. Graduates in History of Art, or a degree that included a specialized History of Art component: up to 5 points.
  - 1.2. Graduates in Geography and History, History, Humanities or Philosophy: up to 4 points.
  - 1.3. Graduates in Architecture and Fine Arts: up to 3 points.
2. Relevance of the applicant's degree to their proposed line of research (up to 5 points)
  - 2.1. Graduates in the History of Art: up to 5 points.
  - 2.2. Other degrees: up to 3 points
3. Evaluation of the applicant's proposed research interests (up to 5 points).
4. Candidate interview (up to 5 points).

The aim of the interview is to clarify or discuss aspects of the applicant's training or CV, to obtain a more precise idea of their research interests and how these engage with the structure and content of the MA, and finally to discuss their educational and professional goals.

Once the documentation submitted by an applicant has been examined, those responsible for applicant admissions will undertake the organization of the interview phase; the interviews will be held by the lecturers who have the greatest affinity with the research interests set out by the student. The interview can be held either in person in the Department of History of Art at the UNED's Central Campus (Madrid), or else by videoconference.

The interview will evaluate the following aspects:

  - 4.1. The applicant's interest and motivation for undertaking the MA: up to 2.5 points.
  - 4.2. The relevance of the applicant's personal goals (professional, educational, etc.) for undertaking the studies and training provided by this MA: up to 2.5 points.
5. Other merits (up to 5 points)
  - 5.1. Languages: up to 1.5 points.
  - 5.2. Professional experience related to the areas of knowledge encompassed by the MA: up to 1.5 points.
  - 5.3. Participation in the organization, management and dissemination of activities linked to the History of Art and Artistic and Cultural Heritage: up to 2 points.

## STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

TYPE OF COURSE	ECTS	TOTAL ECTS
<b>Compulsory</b>	16	
<b>Optional (*)</b>	30	
<b>MA dissertation</b>	14	
		60

(\*) 22 optional courses are offered. There is a choice of 5 courses (6 ECTS each) corresponding to one of the 6 research pathways set out in the study programme.

### Information on the study programme:

- **MODULE I: RESEARCH TRAINING: [16 ECTS]**

The content of this module is distributed over three compulsory courses.

Its principal aim is to equip students with the methodological knowledge and skills required to begin undertaking research on the History of Art. With regard to this goal, the content of these three courses, which are taught in the first trimester, create a space for reflection on the diverse methodologies and critical theories relevant to the History of Art. Students are trained to use basic tools and techniques in order to undertake rigorous academic research on the History of Art. The use of contemporary research strategies and methods developed in the sphere of the Digital Humanities are also addressed in this foundation module.

- **MODULE II: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH: [30 ECTS].**

The content of this module is distributed over 6 research pathways and 22 optional trimester courses (6 ECTS each).

The content of this module consists of 22 optional trimester courses (6 ECTS each), which are distributed over 6 research pathways linked to key subject areas that configure the contemporary research agenda for the History of Art. The aim of this module is to initiate the students' specialized research training, which will enable them to undertake future research in their chosen field. Each of the research pathways, aside from their specialization, are intended to provide a specific line of training on essential questions concerning the discipline, such as the importance of the image and its publics, the dissemination and use of images over the course of history, or the contexts of artistic production.

The student will be required to study 30 ECTS (5 courses) over the course of this module. To do so, they will have to select the courses assigned to one of the proposed research pathways, which will enable them to acquire the competences associated with this pathway, and thus enable them to develop their own personal line of research, which will lead to and conclude with the writing of the MA dissertation.

- **MODULE III: MA dissertation: [14 ECTS].**

This module, which leads into the writing of the MA dissertation, is intended to introduce students to undertaking research tasks through the application of a range of academic methodologies that are specific to the field of the History of Art. The module will be undertaken during the final phase of the MA and it will consist of the completion of an original piece of introductory research, which will draw on the theoretical knowledge and tools learnt in the previous modules. The completion of the MA dissertation will be linked to one of the research pathways offered on an annual basis, each of which are related to the principal contemporary fields of research in the History of Art. Each student will have to affiliate themselves to one of these research pathways prior to beginning work on their MA dissertation. It is important that students decide on their study plan in such a way that their selected line of research is coherent with the research pathway they want to specialize in.

## Training schedule




The study programme for this MA is intended to be studied over one academic year, although there is the possibility of taking this course on a part-time basis which will enable students to decide on a broader time frame for their studies.

As a rule, and in order to guarantee students' mastery of the methodological and instrumental foundations that underpin research on the History of Art, students will have to study the courses that make up the compulsory core module, prior to completing the total number of optional credits and their MA dissertation.

PROPOSED TRAINING SCHEDULE (60 ECTS/1 year)			
TRIMESTER 1	ECTS	TRIMESTER 2	ECTS
3 compulsory courses (16 ECTS) + 2 optional courses (12 ECTS)	28	3 optional courses (18 ECTS) + MA diss.: [14 ECTS]	32









The MA offers 7 optional courses that are taught in Spanish and English, and these are programmed as part of the six introductory research pathways. Likewise, a similar percentage of MA Diss. lines of research are offered each year that provide the option of being taken in Spanish or English. Students can choose the language in which they wish to study these optional units. However, they will have to meet the established criteria regarding their knowledge of the language as established in the admission criteria.

## Study programme:







PART I. COMPULSORY COURSES		
FIRST SEMESTER COURSES	TYPE	ECTS/LANGUAGE
Methodology, Historiography and Critical Theory	COMP	6 
Academic Research on Art History	COMP	6 
Art History and Digital Humanities	COMP	4 

PART II. RESEARCH PATHWAYS	
•	<b>Path 1.</b> Cultural spaces in the History of Art (30 ECTS)
•	<b>Path 2.</b> Artistic transfer and the politics of reception (36 ECTS)
•	<b>Path 3.</b> Power and representation in the Early Modern Period (42 ECTS)
•	<b>Path 4.</b> Narratives of power and contemporary artistic discourse (36 ECTS)
•	<b>Path 5.</b> Debates and policies concerning the protection of cultural and artistic heritage (30 ECTS)
•	<b>Path 6.</b> Art, consumption and material culture (30 ECTS)

**Study programme according to research pathways:**







PATH 1. CULTURAL SPACES IN THE HISTORY OF ART (30 ECTS)			
FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language	FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language
Spaces of knowledge and thought in the classical world	6  	Public property and spaces in the Early Modern city	6 
Border societies and conflict territories in the Middle Ages	6  	Architecture and urbanism: the contemporary city as a model for social and political construction	6 
Performing space and the spectacle of power in the Early Modern Age	6  		

This pathway consists of five optional courses with a shared nexus: the concern for the intellectual, physical and geographical spaces that have mediated the creation of art works, and the roles played by artists and patrons from antiquity up until the modern era. Special attention is devoted to the analysis of how these spaces have conditioned artistic processes over the course of time, and how political theories have influenced the concepts of architectural and urban space. Essentially, this training pathway engages with the spatial turn that has shaped the History of Art and the Humanities more broadly, and which enables us to speak of the new cartographies of the History of Art; these are interpreted as spaces and places, both physical and intellectual, within which art works are created.









PATH 2. ARTISTIC TRANSFER AND THE POLITICS OF RECEPTION (36 ECTS)			
FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language	FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language
Anthropology and the image	6 	A cultural history of Objects	6 
Images and artistic transfer in Ancient Art	6 	Artistic discourses on otherness in the Middle and Early Modern Ages: Christians and Muslims in the Mediterranean	6 
Border societies and conflict territories in the Middle Ages	6 	Elites and artistic transfer in the Early Modern Age	6 

This pathway consists of six optional courses that analyse a variety of distinctive processes of physical (and conceptual) mobility related to objects, people and ideas over the course of history. An emphasis is placed on their capacity to generate or transform the production of artworks. This research pathway is centred around the concept of cultural transfer, which was coined by French and German historians, such as Michel Espagne, Serge Gruzinski and Michael Werner (*transfert culturel*), and which has since been widely taken up by Anglophone scholars. Drawing on this concept, analysis is undertaken of the processes of artistic interaction between cultures and society over the course of the History of Art. Special attention is paid to the study of how objects and artworks have been influenced by the politics governing their emission, dissemination, reception and reinterpretation over the centuries. This pathway also addresses the symbolic mechanisms through which a range of human groups and structures are established and sustained.








PATH 3. POWER AND REPRESENTATION IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD (42 ECTS)			
FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language	FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language
Anthropology and the image	6 	A cultural history of objects	6 
Performing space and the spectacle of power in the Early Modern Age	6 	Elites and artistic transfer in the Early Modern Age	6
Luxury consumption and sumptuary laws in the Early Modern Age	6 	Women's artistic and cultural strategies in the Early Modern Age	6 
		Public property and spaces in the Early Modern city	6 







This pathway, which consists of 7 courses, explores the connections between power and the processes of artistic creation representation in the early modern age. John Kenneth Galbraith (1984) argued that culture was one of the basic pillars of the exercise of power (conditioned power). Subsequently, Joseph Nye (2004) coined the term Soft Power to refer to the power of persuasion exercised by cultural resources and international relationships. Concepts such as these, which have since been widely disseminated, provide a foundation for the courses that make up this pathway to analyse the different processes of interaction between power and representation, and this ranges from the context of the court to the specific sphere of the nobility (including its female component). Attention is also paid to the mechanisms that govern the rise to power of social groups that use their habits of consumption as a sign of social distinction. In this context, and through the perspective these courses explore on the relationship between the visual arts and power, they engage in a survey of the social, cultural and political elements that contributed to the development of a range of visual discourses, which in turn exercised an influence over artistic creation and representation during the early modern period.

PATH 4. NARRATIVES OF POWER AND CONTEMPORARY ARTISTIC DISCOURSE (36 ECTS)			
FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language	FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language
Anthropology and the image	6 	Art and politics in the era of totalitarianism and the Cold War	6  
Policies of the gaze in Contemporary Art	6 	Architecture and urbanism: the contemporary city as a model for social and political construction	6 
Image techniques and visual culture in Contemporary Art	6 	Art and Gender: history, theory and methodology	6  

The 6 optional courses that make up this pathway offer a complete panorama of modern art and architecture and offer new perspectives that enable relationships to be established to ideological, political, social, and gender concerns. The study of images is undertaken with regard to the circumstances that shaped their production, use and archiving, and for this purpose new interdisciplinary methodologies are deployed. Given the political upheaval entailed in the modern period analysis is undertaken of the complex relationships between art and power in an international context. In conjunction with this concern issues such as propaganda, exile and activism are also considered. Furthermore, special attention is devoted to feminist critique and theory, and students are equipped with a core methodology to address questions of gender in historical research.

PATH 5. DEBATES AND POLICIES CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE (30 ECTS)			
FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language	FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language
Theory and documentation of Cultural Heritage	6 	Monumental cities and historic urban landscapes	6 
Industrial Heritage	6 	Heritage Conservation and Restoration	6 
		Museums, Research and Art History	6 

Through these five courses, this research pathway addresses the construction of the past and the relationship that is established with it through artistic and architectural heritage; it likewise addresses the role of the art historian in the processes of heritage interpretation and management, above all, with regard to questions of value linked to conservation. Through theoretical discussion, consideration of heritage guidelines and the analysis of case studies, this pathway seeks to prepare students for the critical study, identification and use of documentary sources (with particular regard to museums and collections, which are key points of reference for research). In addition, industrial heritage provides a key example to study the ever-broadening concept of heritage. Changes of use and restoration initiatives reveal the dynamics that underpin the historical process of disappearance-conservation, which opens up a debate that becomes still more complex when centred on historical city spaces, where the equilibrium between past and present demands engagement with new paradigms and the introduction of new management tools.

PATH 6. ART, CONSUMPTION AND MATERIAL CULTURE (36 ECTS)			
FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language	FIRST SEMESTER	ECTS/Language
Anthropology and the image	6 	Museums, Research and Art History	6 
Luxury consumption and sumptuary laws in the Early Modern Age	6 	A cultural history of objects	6 
Painting, collecting and the art market	6 	Women's artistic and cultural strategies in the Early Modern Age	6 

This pathway, which consists of 6 courses, engages with the growing historiographical importance given to the production, reception, consumption and interpretation of objects as a foundation for cultural and artistic narratives with social and political implications from the classical world to the modern era. In this context, the course addresses key issues such as collecting and the art market, the consumption of luxury objects (and this also engages with the perspective of gender) and the engagement of museological institutions in art historical debates. By addressing these areas, students are introduced to a range of themes that underscore the need to consider the relationship between the spectator and the artwork, and thereby it addresses the growing importance that has increasingly been given to cultural narratives in the performative processes of art when considering this key relationship in the context of the History of Art.

MODULE III: MA DISSERTATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MA Dissertation 14 ECTS</li> </ul>	

**More information is available from:**

Postgraduate Office (MA and doctoral programmes) at the  
 UNED's Faculty of Geography and History  
 Paseo del Senda del Rey, 7- 28040 Madrid  
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