MASTER’S: ART HISTORY

Presentation

The research-oriented Master’s programme in Art History includes theory-based, methodology-based and applied course units, whilst also placing emphasis on real research practice. The programme of study draws primarily on the research output of the teaching staff and university lecturer-researchers from the three teams who contribute to this programme of study.

Objectives

Université Bordeaux Montaigne is the only university in the Greater Southwest region to offer a Master’s level programme of study that is wholly dedicated to the study of art history. It thus sits alongside other programmes on the national scale and is novel in the comprehensive training it offers in all aspects of research, spanning from Classical Antiquity to the contemporary period. Knowing how to lead bibliographic, archival and iconographical research; how to present the findings of this research, both in writing and orally; how to synthesise and conduct critical analysis of this documentary evidence whilst accounting for changes and developments within the discipline itself: these are indispensable skills, both for researchers and for those students who seek to direct their studies towards culture-oriented professions.

Joint degree establishments and partnerships
Training content

Two years of study: Master 1 (M1) and Master 2 (M2)
The first year of this two-year programme is made up of a single subject pathway, within which each student chooses the unique configuration of his or her course of study. This is thanks to the choice of specialised-seminar units on one of the four key periods of art history. In the second year of this two-year programme of study, each student will select and specialise in one of these four key periods.

Master 1: First year of two-year Master’s programme

In Master 1 the single subject pathway is made up of four course units, which look in greater detail at the four key periods of art history. This constitutes an essential complement to the foundation of skills and knowledge that students acquired during their undergraduate Licence degree. Each student must choose three subject options within this course unit. In addition to these three subject options there is a fourth research pathway, which focuses on one of these four key periods. It is within this research pathway, which aims at the progressive choice of a specialism, that students will commit to and see through their dissertation project. Course evaluation is weighted so as to reflect the importance of real research practice and the experience of producing a dissertation. Language teaching is provided in the form of an art-history course unit led entirely in English by two teachers - an art historian and an English speaker. This programme’s particular added value lies in its openness to research, which is developed via a seminar unit to be chosen among those offered by the Montaigne Humanities Doctoral School.

Master 2: Second year of two-year Master’s programme

Master 2 comprises four subject pathways: Classical Antiquity, Medieval period, Early Modern period and Contemporary period. Each subject pathway follows the same structure. The common core curriculum forms a part of all four of the pathways and offers insight into professions related to research and culture. This is through course units on the history of cultural politics (these units are merged with the Master’s programme in Museums and Heritage), and also a central focus on research. Furthermore, there is a cross-disciplinary seminar unit on a theme chosen collectively by the teaching staff on this programme. Each year, students are invited to present their work at a colloquium-style seminar (with call for papers, selection and presentation).

Dissertation

The dissertation is students’ first full and concrete research project and is a fundamental part of this Master’s programme of study.

Admissions
Find information regarding enrolment procedures and the supporting documents to be provided, according to your profile and your level of studies:

* Independent Stay
* Exchange Programme

**Career pathways**

The different subject pathways developed within this programme offer an excellent training in art-history research skills, which may lead either to further research-based study via a doctorate or to employment opportunities in the world of museums and cultural institutions. A third option may be to prepare for the many different competitive examinations for entry into French public service, particularly those related to the cultural sector.