What competencies do art history and visual studies students gain?

Art History and Visual Studies

Program-specific competencies

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience. UVic students in the History in Art program develop the following program-specific competencies.

Art-historical awareness

Develops awareness of global artistic, aesthetic and visual traditions with a focus on Classical and European traditions before the modern period; Islamic and Asian traditions; art of the Americas, modern art and architecture

- Critically evaluates art-historical artifacts including painting, sculpture, architecture and text
- Describes techniques used by artists throughout history, in western and non-western cultures
- Develops an understanding of the relationships among art-historical artifacts

Art-historical method

Employs a systematic method of enquiry in order to understand and interpret art-historical artifacts

- Understands and employs the research methods, tools and resources as well as the theoretical and historiographical perspectives that inform current art-historical studies
- Understands how the study of history involves interpretation of the past based on current perspectives
- Re-evaluates existing understandings of the past as new information and new interpretations of old information arise

Historical, social and cultural perspective

Understands art-historical artifacts in their historical, social and cultural contexts

- Identifies the historical, social and cultural context in which art is produced
- Understands how historical, cultural and social contexts impact the production and interpretation of art
- Recognizes how differing social and cultural perspectives of the past and the present influence the interpretation of art
- Demonstrates intellectual curiosity to explore historical, social and cultural perspectives
- Reflects on issues such as nationalism, imperialism, militarism, politics, religion, ethnicity, race, gender and class in the context of the production of art

UVic Co-op and Career worked with the Art History and Visual Studies Department to develop this competency document.

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