

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA)

Our programs take you on an exploration of the visual arts, with a special emphasis on contemporary creation. Both programs include compulsory practical and theoretical courses that encourage both creation and reflection. The Department provides photography and media art labs as well as painting, drawing and sculpture studios. In the heart of Ottawa, you also have access to a wealth of artistic venues such as the National Gallery and the Ottawa Art Gallery. In addition, you train under the guidance of nationally and internationally recognized artists, curators, art historians and theorists. While maintaining its focus on traditional disciplines (drawing, painting, sculpture and photography), the Department also helps you discover the use of new media and technologies in the visual arts.

The Department of Visual Arts also offers a Major and a Minor in Art History.

This program is offered in English and in French.

Program Requirements

Requirements for this program have been modified. Please consult the 2023-2024 calendars (<http://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/archives/>) for the previous requirements.

This program cannot be combined with the Major in Visual Arts nor the Major or Minor in Art History.

This program leads to the Master of Fine Arts program (MFA).

Basic Skills

ENG 1100	Workshop in Essay Writing	3 Units
3 course units from:		3 Units
PHI 1101	Reasoning and Critical Thinking	
PHI 1301	Philosophy: Ideas and Arguments	
3 course units from:		3 Units
AHL 1100	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹	
AHL 1900	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹	
ENG 1120	Selected Topics in Literature and Composition	
3 course units from:		3 Units
AHL 1100	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹	
AHL 1900	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹	
PHI 1102	Moral Reasoning	
PHI 1103	Fundamental Philosophical Questions	
PHI 1104	Great Philosophers	
PHI 1302	Philosophy: Themes and Texts	
Total:		12 Units

Compulsory courses at the 1000 level

ART 1311	Introduction to Painting	3 Units
ART 1321	Introduction to Sculpture	3 Units

ART 1331	Introduction to Analog Photography	3 Units
ART 1341	Art, Time and the Technological Imagination	3 Units
ART 1360	Histories of Art I ²	3 Units
ART 1361	Histories of Art II ²	3 Units

Compulsory courses at the 2000 level

ART 2170	19th Century Art: 1789-1900	3 Units
ART 2171	Modern Art: 1900-1945	3 Units

Compulsory courses at the 3000 level

ART 3180	Art After Modernism: 1945-1978	3 Units
ART 3181	Postmodernism and Art: 1978-2000	3 Units

Compulsory courses at the 4000 level

ART 4986	Intensive Studio Practice	6 Units
ART 4987	Professional Practices in Art	3 Units
ART 4989	From Studio to Exhibition	3 Units

Optional courses

18 optional studio course units in visual arts (ART)	18 Units
6 optional studio course units in visual arts (ART) at the 3000 level	6 Units
6 optional course units in art history (ART) ^{3,4}	6 Units

Elective courses

36 elective course units	36 Units
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Total: 108 Units

The electives may be replaced by a combination of a Minor, Option(s) (http://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/programs/#filter=filter_19&filter_170&filter_27), and/or elective units.

Note(s)

- ¹ This course has variable topics. Students may take this course twice.
- ² The introductory survey courses, ART 1360 and ART 1361, are required for all undergraduates in the Department of Visual Arts (Bachelor of Fine Arts; Major in Visual Arts; Major and Minor in Art History), and are prerequisites for all compulsory 3000-level courses, so should therefore be taken in first year to ensure graduation on time.
- ³ Other courses may be selected in consultation with the Department.
- ⁴ The course AMT 3105 can count towards this requirement.

List of Optional Courses - Studio

ART 1900	Drawing from Life: Fundamentals	3 Units
ART 2191	Special Topics	3 Units
ART 2913	Painting and Image I: Materiality and Process	3 Units
ART 2914	Painting and Image II: Motif and Metaphor	3 Units
ART 2915	Painting and Context I: Observation and Process	3 Units
ART 2916	Painting and Context II: Space and Site	3 Units
ART 2923	Sculpture in Transformation: Materiality and Process	3 Units
ART 2925	Elements of Contemporary Sculpture	3 Units
ART 2926	Sculpture and Concept	3 Units
ART 2928	Sculpture and the Body	3 Units
ART 2932	Digital Photography Workshop I	3 Units
ART 2934	Large Format Photography	3 Units
ART 2935	Mise en scène: Lighting on Location and in the Studio	3 Units

This is a copy of the 2025-2026 catalog.

ART 2940	Play: Art and Making Games	3 Units
ART 2941	Non-Standard: Creative Uses of Light and Sound	3 Units
ART 2942	Lively Spaces and Objects: Fundamentals of Interactivity	3 Units
ART 2943	Synthetic Art: Computer Generated Sound and Image	3 Units
ART 2951	Drawing I: Materiality and Process	3 Units
ART 2952	Drawing: Animals, Humans and other living forms	3 Units
ART 3916	Painting and Source I: Issues of Representation	3 Units
ART 3917	Painting and Source II: Narrative and Series	3 Units
ART 3926	Sculpture and Installation	3 Units
ART 3927	Relational Sculpture	3 Units
ART 3933	Photography and Contemporary Context	3 Units
ART 3934	Hybrid Photographic Methods, Analog-digital	3 Units
ART 3935	Special Topics in Photography	3 Units
ART 3944	The New Commons: Art Outside the Gallery	3 Units
ART 3945	Frames-Per-Second: Art and the Moving Image	3 Units
ART 3952	Analytical Drawing and Graphic Design	3 Units
ART 3953	Drawing IV: Expressivity	3 Units

List of optional courses - History of Art

ART 1360	Histories of Art I	3 Units
ART 1361	Histories of Art II	3 Units
ART 2170	19th Century Art: 1789-1900	3 Units
ART 2171	Modern Art: 1900-1945	3 Units
ART 3116	Art and New Technologies	3 Units
ART 3117	Art and Gender	3 Units
ART 3118	Art, Globalization and Cultural Hybridities	3 Units
ART 3180	Art After Modernism: 1945-1978	3 Units
ART 3181	Postmodernism and Art: 1978-2000	3 Units
ART 3334	Canadian Art and Cultural Identities	3 Units
ART 3344	Museum Studies and Artistic Practices	3 Units
ART 3354	Indigenous Arts	3 Units
ART 3364	Histories and Theories of Photography	3 Units
ART 4115	Special Topics in Art History	3 Units
ART 4118	Special Topics in Contemporary Art	3 Units
ART 4119	Curating for Contemporary Art	3 Units
ART 4161	Special Topics in Arts, Heritage and Policy	3 Units
ART 4355	Research Seminar in Art History	3 Units
ART 4900	Apprenticeship	3 Units
ART 4910	Venice: Intensive Field Course on Global Contemporary Art	3 Units
ART 4915	Special Topics in Art History	3 Units
ART 4955	Research Seminar in Art History	3 Units
ART 4956	Directed Research I	3 Units
ART 4957	Directed Research II	3 Units
ART 4961	Special Topics in Arts, Heritage and Policy	3 Units