MA in ART HISTORY in ROME
John Cabot University’s Master of Arts (MA) in Art History fosters professional mastery of the materials and methods of art history with emphasis on first-hand research in the museums, monuments, and archaeological sites of Rome. The degree can be completed in approximately 15 months of full-time study.

The program has a dual focus: the visual cultures of Rome and the Mediterranean across time, from antiquity to the present; and the acquisition of technical skills for primary research. It also stimulates critical perspectives on the impact of Roman art worldwide.

John Cabot University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The MA is the first graduate degree program in art history based entirely in Rome offered by a US-accredited university.
Seminars and courses take place at John Cabot University’s campuses in the centrally located Trastevere district of Rome and in nearby Roman museums, churches, palaces, monuments, archaeological parks, archives, rare book libraries, restoration labs, study collections, artists’ workshops, public installations, and contemporary art galleries.

These venues of visual culture and documentation constitute the laboratory of the degree. Some courses involve travel to other parts of Italy—for example, to Assisi, Florence, or Naples.
Seminars and courses for the MA are taught by professors of art history from John Cabot University’s Department of Art History and Studio Art. Faculty members teaching for the MA come from diverse international backgrounds and hold PhDs and other advanced degrees in art history and archaeology from leading institutions, including the Courtauld Institute; the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University; Duke University; Boston University; and the Universities of Oxford, Chicago, Munich, Pennsylvania, Edinburgh, and North Carolina at Chapel Hill. All the professors have extensive experience in Rome, Italy, and art-historical inquiry.

Faculty research specializations span the chronological range from classical antiquity to the present, concentrating on subjects as diverse as Mannerist painting, ancient Roman portraiture, medieval manuscript illumination, Baroque architecture, nineteenth-century American art criticism, twentieth-century photography, and contemporary curatorial practices.
DEGREE PROGRAM

The MA is designed to be completed in approximately 15 months of full-time study. It unfolds in three phases: a Foundation Year of research seminars and coursework; a Master’s Exam, administered in June; and a Thesis Semester, with professional apprenticeship.

PHILOSOPHY AND METHOD

Inverting conventional practice, John Cabot University’s MA curriculum begins by scrutinizing material objects and built environments in person, rather than through photographs. With this point of departure, it cultivates visual-contextual analysis and skills for researching art and its history directly from the primary record while stimulating alternative perspectives on deeply rooted disciplinary habits.
DEGREE PROGRAM

FOUNDATION YEAR

During the Foundation Year, students complete 24 credit hours of graduate-level coursework:

• Six courses (18 credit hours) in the history of art and architecture, including at least three research seminars and one course on each of four periods: ancient; late antique/medieval; early modern; and modern-contemporary.

• Two methodological foundations courses (six credit hours): Practicum in Art-Historical Research and Problem-Solving; and Case Studies in Art-Historical Practice.

The Foundation Year also includes cultural events and language components. In the former, students review external lectures, conferences, and exhibitions; in the latter, they demonstrate reading knowledge of Italian, French, or German, as required for advanced art-historical research.
THE SUMMER TERM

A Master’s exam, administered in June, tests the basic image-repertoire, chronology, and methodologies of art history, with emphasis on Rome and related cultures. The remainder of the summer can be devoted to coursework, thesis research, research-related travel, internships, supplementary language training, or other professional or educational activities. Students may choose to take fewer courses during the Fall or Spring and complete coursework during the Summer sessions.

THE THESIS SEMESTER

The degree culminates in the completion of a Master’s thesis (six credit hours), typically based on a research project initiated during the Foundation Year in the context of a graduate research seminar or topics course.

The Thesis Colloquium (three credit hours) accompanies and structures the thesis-writing experience. Colloquium participants present and discuss their research in progress; invite prominent guest professors to speak and critique their work; and prepare and deliver public presentations of their theses. During or prior to the final semester, MA candidates also complete an art-historical apprenticeship (three credit hours). The apprenticeship may take the form of a teaching or research assistantship at John Cabot University or of an internship at a museum, research institute, historic library, school, gallery, or foundation.
### SAMPLE TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation Year</th>
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<th>Thesis Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester I</td>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td>Summer Term</td>
<td>Fall Semester II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Studies in Art-Historical Practice (3 credit hours)</td>
<td>Practicum in Art-Historical Research and Problem-Solving (3 credit hours)</td>
<td>MA exam (June)</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis (6 credit hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics Course (3 credit hours)</td>
<td>Research Seminar (3 credit hours)</td>
<td>Research Seminar or Topics Course (3 credit hours)</td>
<td>Thesis Colloquium (3 credit hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Seminar or Topics Course (3 credit hours)</td>
<td>Research Seminar or Topics Course (3 credit hours)</td>
<td>Topics Course, Apprenticeship, or Archaeological Field School (3 credit hours)</td>
<td>Professional Apprenticeship (3 credit hours), or Research Seminar or Topics Course if Apprenticeship was completed in summer</td>
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<td>Cultural events attendance</td>
<td>Cultural events attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian, French, or German reading comprehension test (Fall or Spring)</td>
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AFTER GRADUATION

The degree is designed to serve as:

• a foundation for art-historical careers in museums, galleries, schools, art consultancies, art publishing houses, and related entities;
• preparation for PhD (doctoral) level study in the history of art at other institutions;
• continuing education for teachers of art history, history, classical studies, and related subjects; and/or
• career enhancement for current and future professionals in areas where primary research skills and expertise in Roman visual culture offer creative advantages and possibilities for specialization. Examples include library and information science, cultural heritage management, historical fiction and script writing, scenography, art conservation, and game design.
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

• Completed application form
• $/€50 application fee
• CV/resume
• Personal statement of 600 words detailing your reasons for interest in the program
• Sample (10-15 pages) of your academic writing in English, with footnotes and bibliography
• Official transcripts of all post-secondary study undertaken to date, including at least 12 credit hours in art history. Transcripts not in English or Italian must be accompanied by a certified English translation
• Proof of completion of a Bachelor’s degree or the equivalent at an accredited university, if not attested in the official transcripts
• GRE scores - optional, but strongly recommended for applicants wishing to be considered for funding. Our GRE code is 7772
• Three letters of reference from professors evaluating your academic work and appropriateness for graduate study
• Evidence of English language proficiency in the form of an official letter from the institution at which you hold a Bachelor’s degree attesting that English was the principal language of instruction; or scores from IELTS, CAE, CPE, or PTE English proficiency tests

Send all materials to: graduateadmissions@johncabot.edu

ADMISSIONS

Applications are welcome from holders of a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university who have completed at least 12 semester credit hours in the history of art with a grade-point average of at least 3.0 (B) or the equivalent. Also highly recommended: at least six semester credit hours of Italian, French, or German language.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Application deadline</th>
<th>Decision notification date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Decision</td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Decision I</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>June 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Decision II</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>August 5</td>
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Available only to applicants who do not require a visa for study in Italy.
Tuition and fees for the full MA program will be:
• $21,000 for US citizens or permanent residents, or Canadian citizens
• €19,000 for citizens of countries other than the US or Canada

Financial Aid
Outstanding applicants will be considered for the following forms of financial assistance:
• Full Presidential Graduate Tuition Grants (1-2 merit-based awards per year)
• Partial Graduate Tuition Grants
• Regina A. Lee Scholarship

John Cabot University is authorized by the US Department of Education to administer Federal Direct Loans to US citizens and permanent residents enrolled as graduate students.