

DEPARTMENT of FINE ARTS and ART HISTORY

MA Art History & Curating 2026-27

The policies and requirements are in the Graduate Course Catalogue, [available online](#), in particular the “General University Academic Information”, “Faculty of Arts Sciences” and the chapter on our program. The Graduate Course Catalogue should be read carefully and is the final word on these and other matters.

In their first term, students must complete the zero-credit Responsible Conduct of Research course. It is an online course operated by CITI group.

RCRA 300 Responsible Conduct of Research in the Humanities (0 cr.)

Students can take a maximum 12 credits per term (6 credits in the summer). Six credits is the minimum to be considered a ‘full-time’ student. There is no minimum credit ‘under-load’ in graduate programs.

Pass is C+ (70) for master’s students.

MA in Art History and Curating Requirements

All art history courses are three credits each. The MA requires thirty credits in total.

12 credits of art history requirements

AHIS 301 Practices of Art History (3 cr.)

AHIS 302 Critical Art History (3 cr.)

AHIS 311 Contemporary Art and Theory (3 cr.)

AHIS 325 Curating: Practicum (3 cr.)

12 credits of electives, 6 of which may be outside the department.

0 credits of AHIS 395A/B Comprehensive Exam (0 cr.)

6 credits AHIS 399 Graduate Thesis & Exhibition (6 cr.)

Students must choose either:

1. Specialisation in Art History: Students must submit a research-based argumentative art history or theory-based thesis for graduation.

OR

2. Specialisation in Curating: students must submit a curatorial research paper and present a curatorial project usually with art institutions or art spaces in Lebanon.

Course Progress

To complete the MA in two years students should take two terms of three courses (9 credits) and one term of two courses (6 credits), completing the course work in three terms. A fourth term would then be for the thesis (AHIS 395 and 399). However, most students only ever register in two courses a term and thus take two-and-a-half to three years to complete the taught courses.

In the third or fourth term, as the course work is being completed, students should choose a topic and select a Thesis Committee. You should ask relevant faculty to join your committee. You should get their informal agreement before moving on to the next stage.

The Thesis Committee:

- consists of a Thesis Advisor and at least two Readers;
- is chaired by the Thesis Advisor;
- at least three members must be professorial rank; and
- at least two members should be from FAAH. The remaining members can be external to the department.

1. Thesis Proposal

Using the online petition system, students must submit a Thesis Proposal for Approval (see deadlines). Guidelines are provided for the Thesis Proposal and are available on the [MA Program's webpage](#). This Thesis Proposal must be approved by the Thesis Committee, the chairperson of FAAH and the Graduate Studies Committee. See 'General University Academic Information' of the Graduate Courses Catalogue.

2. AHIS 395A/B Comprehensive Exam (0 cr.)

Students can join AHIS 395 Comprehensive Exam simultaneously with AHIS 399 Thesis. The Thesis Committee administers the comprehensive exam. The precise nature of the Exam is decided by the Thesis Committee. Conventionally, it has consisted of a substantial draft of the thesis submitted to the committee. Sometimes a draft defence is held. It is assessed as Pass (P), Progress (PR), or No-Pass (NP). Two no-pass attempts result in dismissal from the MA program. A Pass in this course is required before the Thesis Defence can occur.

3. AHIS 399 Graduate Thesis & Exhibition (6 cr.)

This is a non-taught, research-only course during which students are expected to write their thesis or present an exhibition. The thesis can roll over into additional terms without further payment up to three times (four in total). Students must continuously renew registration, unexcused absences mean students will have to pay again. Students can apply for a leave of absence if a break is required. The University has a published [Thesis Guidelines](#) to which the thesis must adhere. Art History theses should be around 30,000 words (absolute maximum 40,000), Curatorial Theses include organising an exhibition and submitting a thesis (around 15,000 words, absolute maximum 20,000).

4. The Defence

The Defence is a public presentation of the research with questions, it is chaired by the Thesis Advisor. The student should provide a finished thesis to the committee at least two weeks prior to the defence. The thesis defence should be announced at least two weeks in advance. After the defence the committee will decide on a Pass (P) or Non-Pass (NP) grade and inform the student immediately. It must occur before a strict deadline. The student must then submit the thesis to the library before a strict deadline, usually ten days after the Defence deadline.

Deadlines

Deadlines vary each term depending on the target graduation date at the end of each term. A schedule of deadlines can be found at: AUB Graduate Council > Thesis Deadlines > Master's: <https://www.aub.edu.lb/graduatecouncil/Pages/thesisdeadlines.aspx>.

The important deadlines are

- Submission and Approval of the Thesis Proposal
- Thesis Defence
- Completion of Thesis Submission Process to Library

FELLOWSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS & STUDY ABROAD

Graduate Fellowship & Assistantship Program (GFAP)

Colloquially called the “GA”. GAs are awarded by the Dean’s Office, primarily determined by grades and availability. It covers partial or full tuition. GAs will be assigned duties in the department (up to 8 hrs per week) by the co-ordinator of the MA program. The university’s GFAP policy document can be found, with other Policy & Procedures documents, [here](#). Full-time status, ‘Good Standing’ (grades are 80 or above, GPA 3.2), and continuous registration are required to maintain the Fellowship.

Work Study Program (WSP)

Students with no or partial coverage in the GFAP may apply to work in the WSP. Policy and application deadlines are found [here](#). Successful applicants are likely to be assigned duties outside the department.

AHIS 390 Internship (0 credits)

If you are working or volunteering at an art gallery it can appear on your transcript as an Internship. It requires you undertake a minimum of 40 hours of work and the consent of the program director.

Study Abroad & Exchange Programs

AUB’s Office of International Programs offers opportunities to study abroad for one or two terms. Please check out their offerings [here](#). The MA Art History & Curating program at AUB has exchange agreements with the following institutions:

California Institute of the Arts (‘CalArts’, Santa Clarita, LA County, Calif.)

MA Aesthetics and Politics at the California Institute of Arts (‘CalArts’). One AUB student a term may take courses and conduct research at CalArts that count towards their masters at AUB. Please contact your program co-ordinator if you are interested in this opportunity.

Leuphana Universität Lüneburg (Lower Saxony, Germany)

We have an exchange agreement with Leuphana, that allows students to study there for one term as part of their AUB Masters degree. Please contact your program co-ordinator if you are interested in this opportunity.