

**Department of History of Art & Architecture Graduate
Admissions Information and Requirements
(Revised April 30, 2025)**

Applications and requirements for admission to the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences can be found via:

<https://www.bu.edu/cas/admissions/>

The following pertains to information and requirements particular to the Department of History of Art & Architecture.

Application deadlines for Graduate Admission, MA program

Graduate Program Admission	Application Deadline
Spring 2026 (no financial aid)	October 15, 2025
Fall 2026	January 14, 2026

Financial aid

There is no separate application for financial aid. International applicants are eligible for financial aid.

Type of Financial Aid	Eligibility	Tuition and Credit Requirements
Tuition scholarships	MA candidacy	<p>A limited number of merit-based tuition scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to students entering the MA program. Given satisfactory academic progress, the aid package is renewed in the second year of study. Financial aid is not awarded solely for the second year of study.</p> <p>Tuition for four courses (16 credits) during the academic year 2024-25: \$33,328 plus fees. Tuition is determined by credit; it generally increases each year. The MA degree requires completion of eight courses (32 credits). Although a full course load in the MA program is eight credits per semester, this is considered part-time by the university. Students enrolled in the MA program can request to receive full-time certification at eight credits per semester. For cost per credit (part-time) and fee schedule, see https://www.bu.edu/reg/registration/tuition-fees/</p>

Course load

The typical course load for MA candidates is two courses (eight credits) per semester. MA students registering for fewer than three courses may submit a request for full-time certification. Please see the official GRS registration policy. <http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/policies/registration/>.

Museum Studies Certificate

The Museum Studies Certificate program does not have a separate application. The Department of History of Art & Architecture offers the option of pursuing the Certificate solely to its graduate degree candidates; the Certificate is generally sought solely by master's students. Completion of the MA with the Museum Studies Certificate requires nine components, including a graduate-level internship. The internship can be taken either for or without credit. For more information please see:

<https://www.bu.edu/haa/academics/graduate-program/museum-studies/>

Application Components

Writing sample

Submission of a writing sample is required. A college research paper or thesis is acceptable. If you are unable to upload your writing sample to the application, please send it as an email attachment to grsmams@bu.edu after you have submitted the application. Please include in the email your name, your Boston University ID number, and the department to which you have submitted the application.

CV

All applicants upload a CV to the application.

Letters of recommendation

Two letters of recommendation are required of applicants to the MA program. Recommendations from academic and/or curatorial professionals carry the most weight.

Personal Statement (required)

This is a summary of educational background, interests, and career goals.

Personal Background Statement (optional)

The purpose of the statement is to identify candidates who have acquired unique perspective and experience outside of academia.

Interview

An interview is not required. If you wish to discuss the program, please contact Professor Jonathan Ribner, Director of Graduate Admissions jribner@bu.edu.

GRE

The GRE is not required; scores will not be considered by the Admissions Committee.

Deferral of Admission

Questions regarding deferral of admission to the MA program should be directed to the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences: grsmams@bu.edu.