ART HISTORY AND VISUAL CULTURE
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY 2014 ENTRY
### Key information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BA Single Honours</th>
<th>UCAS CODE</th>
<th>TYPICAL OFFER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art History and Visual Culture</td>
<td>VW31</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History and Visual Culture with Study Abroad</td>
<td>VW32</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BA Combined Honours</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art History and Classical Studies</td>
<td>QV83</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History and Classical Studies with Study Abroad</td>
<td>QV84</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History and English</td>
<td>QV33</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History and English with Study Abroad</td>
<td>QV34</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History and History</td>
<td>VV31</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History and History with Study Abroad</td>
<td>VV32</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History and Modern Languages</td>
<td>VR39</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama and Visual Culture</td>
<td>WW42</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama and Visual Culture with Study Abroad</td>
<td>WW24</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English and Visual Culture</td>
<td>WQ23</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English and Visual Culture with Study Abroad</td>
<td>WQF3</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Visual Culture</td>
<td>WV21</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Visual Culture with Study Abroad</td>
<td>WV12</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Languages and Visual Culture</td>
<td>WR29</td>
<td>AAA; IB: 36-34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STREATHAM CAMPUS, EXETER**  
**Website:** www.exeter.ac.uk/arthistory  
**Email:** hums-ugadmissions@exeter.ac.uk  
**Phone:** +44 (0)1392 724228
Art History and Visual Culture at the University of Exeter is an exciting area of study which explores both the history of art and more recent ideas of the visual – extending the analysis of visual forms from the traditional through to areas of modern cultural activity.

The degrees offer a thorough grounding in the principles and history of art, giving you an awareness of the ways painting, sculpture and architecture, as well as photography and other modern media, can be considered in relation to their cultural and historical contexts. They also develop the skills required in the analysis of visual works, promoting an understanding of the importance of all visual artefacts for understanding cultural activity more broadly.

Our Art History and Visual Culture programme builds on the University’s strong links in these areas, supported by our fine art and heritage collections, a sculpture walk and one of Britain’s largest public collections of books, prints, artefacts and ephemera relating to the history of cinema. The degrees will particularly appeal if you have an interest in the history of art, contemporary arts practices, cinema, literature, cultural history, philosophy, sociology, or modern languages.

You will learn how to interpret visual images in order to understand contemporary and past societies and how these images engage with the belief systems to which a society adheres. For example, you might explore the social status of the artist in Renaissance Italy, the Impressionists’ paintings of modern life, or the idea of ‘virtual war’.

During your first year, you’ll develop your understanding of the ways in which painting, sculpture, architecture and modern media can be analysed in relation to their cultural and historical context. You’ll also develop analytical and descriptive skills which you’ll put to use in your second and final year to develop your understanding of art and visual culture in a variety of contexts and media.

During your second and third years, you can follow your interests through a wide range of optional modules; you can choose to look in detail at the way art history works, explore modern media or focus on art and visual culture within a specific society or time period. You can also explore practical aspects of gallery and museum curation and management.

Our lecturers are at the cutting edge of art historical and visual culture research. Key staff specialise in the history of art and architecture, from the Renaissance to the present, the history, theory and practice of museums and collections, aspects of performance, installation and video arts, and visual culture from antiquity to the present day. You can find out more about our collections, events and the involvement of our students and staff in art and culture at www.exeter.ac.uk/about/vision/arts

Why study Art History and Visual Culture at Exeter?

Wide variety of techniques and approaches to learning, including opportunities for study ‘in the field’ at galleries and museums
Varied programme allowing the study of a range of fine arts and contemporary visual forms
Fine art, heritage and film collections on site
Opportunity to study abroad
Flexibility to customise your degree around your own interests
Designed to develop a broad range of highly desirable transferable skills, but with specialist knowledge and professional experience
Degree programmes

As well as our Single Honours degree in Art History and Visual Culture, we offer Combined Honours degrees in Visual Culture with Drama, English, History or Modern Languages, and in Art History with Classical Studies, English, History or Modern Languages. If you choose Combined Honours, you will study half of your degree in one of these discipline areas, and the other half in Visual Culture or Art History.

Both Art History and Visual Culture can also be studied with other subjects as part of the Flexible Combined Honours scheme. This allows you to combine different subjects from across the University and reflect them within your degree title.

For up-to-date details of all our programmes and modules, please see www.exeter.ac.uk/arthistory

How your degree is structured

The degrees are divided into core and optional modules, giving you the flexibility to structure your studies according to your interests. Individual modules are worth 15 or 30 credits each, and full-time undergraduates will take 120 credits in each year. Within Art History and Visual Culture, in addition to core modules, you can choose from an extensive range of options. For up-to-date details of all our programmes and modules, please visit www.exeter.ac.uk/arthistory

Single Honours

BA Art History and Visual Culture

Art History and Visual Culture provides an excellent grounding in both traditional fine arts and contemporary visual forms. Through the flexible structure of the degree, you will study painting, sculpture, illustration and architecture alongside film, video, performance and digital art. First-year modules introduce you to the breadth of the concerns of both Art History and Visual Culture, encouraging you to consider how different analytic approaches change the way we think about art and other visual forms of culture. During your second and third years you will be able to follow your own personal interests through a wide range of optional modules. For instance, you can choose to study key movements, practices and ideas in art within a specific society or time period right up to the present day. In addition, you will also have the opportunity to spend either a full year or half a year studying at one of our international partner institutions.

Year 1 Four core modules will offer you a solid foundation in the methodologies and skills involved in art history and visual culture: Introduction to the History of Art; Inside the Art Museum; Introducing Visual Culture; and Visual Media.

It is possible to take modules outside of Art History and Visual Culture, instead of one of the above modules. You can choose from a range of modules offered within the College of Humanities, according to your particular interests. For example, you might want to explore new French cinema, deepen your understanding of arts criticism, or look at the genesis of modern society.

Year 2 In this year, you will study two further core modules: Debates and Contestations in Art History and Contemporary Visual Practices. You will also build on your learning and skills developed in the previous year through a range of option choice. These can include: Intimate Spaces of the French Enlightenment; Theories and Histories of Photography; Primitivism and Modern Art; Spectacular Attractions: Cinema and Sensation; a field work module, or the career-focused Humanities in the Workplace.

Year 3 In the final year of your degree, you will have the opportunity to focus your studies on particular areas of individual interest. The year provides a further range of methodological and period-based options, such as: Arts Management; Contemporary French Visual Culture; History in Material Form: Exhibitions in Germany and Austria Today; Images of Total War; Theology, Art and Politics; Techniques of Suspended Judgment: On Post-war Architecture, Urbanism and Art.

You will also produce a dedicated dissertation in the areas of Art History and/or Visual Culture, giving you a chance to study a favourite subject in real depth.

Combined Honours degrees

BA Drama, English, History or Modern Languages and Visual Culture

BA Art History and Classical Studies, English, History or Modern Languages

Visual Culture can also be studied with Drama, English, History or Modern Languages, while Art History can be studied with Classical Studies, English, History or Modern Languages. The programmes enable you to divide your time equally between the two related subject areas. You will study half of your modules from Art History or Visual Culture and the other half from the second subject.

Full details of Classical Studies modules can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/classics

Full details of Drama modules can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/drama

Full details of English modules can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/english

Full details of History modules can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/history

Full details of Modern Languages modules can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/languages
Learning and teaching

You will be taught by internationally respected staff who are leading researchers in their specialisms. We use a wide variety of techniques and approaches to help you learn and get the most out of your degree. Our teaching methods make full use of seminars, lectures, study groups and web-based learning, along with relevant work ‘in the field’ at galleries and museums, and through our galleries and collections on campus. We integrate the latest approaches with traditional learning and teaching to give you a varied and challenging programme. During core modules you will learn through individual practical and curatorial work, project work, team work and a research project, all of which are designed to help you develop key skills for success through your degree and into your future career.

In the first year you’ll receive 10 contact hours per week with staff; both in teaching time and with your personal tutor. You’re also expected to invest a lot of time in independent study; this involves individual study and contact with your study-group (for example, in preparation for seminars). The exact amount of time spent working independently varies from module to module; for details of the individual modules, please check the undergraduate section of our website at www.exeter.ac.uk/arthistory

We believe in firsthand exposure to works of art and other visual artefacts as an important ingredient of study. You will profit from engagement with the museums and galleries of the region, in addition to field trips to collections in London and elsewhere. Opportunities also exist to develop expertise in curation through the University’s Bill Douglas Centre, one of Britain’s largest public collections of books, prints, artefacts and ephemera relating to the history of cinema.

Research-inspired teaching

Teaching that is inspired by research ensures that lectures are up-to-date and relevant: you will benefit from access to the latest thinking, equipment and resources. All staff teach third-year options which are linked to a broad range of their own interests. These include topics in art history, architecture, film and visual media, art and technology, curation, archiving and exhibition, mixed and virtual realities, performance art, and visual culture in the UK and abroad.

Academic support

All students have a personal tutor who is available for advice and support throughout your studies. There are also a number of services on campus where you can get advice and information, including the Students’ Guild Advice Unit. You can find further information about all the services in the University’s undergraduate prospectus or online at www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate

Study abroad

Studying for your degree at Exeter offers you the exciting possibility of spending up to one year abroad. Last year almost 500 Exeter students studied at one of our partner universities, which are in more than 40 countries around the world. You could learn a new language and experience different cultures, become more self-confident and widen your circle of friends. You could get the chance to specialise in areas that are not available at Exeter, and when it comes to a career, your skills and knowledge of another country will prove invaluable to many employers. This of course applies equally to overseas students coming to study abroad at Exeter.

Assessment

Assessment methods vary between modules, but generally include coursework, project work, written exams and various forms of presentation. Please see the individual module descriptions on our website for further details.

You must pass your first year assessment in order to progress to the second year, but the results do not count towards your degree classification. For three-year programmes, the assessments in the second and third years contribute to your final degree classification. For four-year programmes the assessments in the second, third and fourth years all contribute to your final degree classification.

For full details of the assessment criteria for each module, check the undergraduate section of our website at www.exeter.ac.uk/arthistory

Careers

Art History and Visual Culture produces students with a broad range of highly desirable transferable skills, but also with attractive specialist knowledge and professional experience. You will benefit from productive engagement with collections, institutions and art groups in the area, in tandem with interaction with the wider arts community in the South West and beyond.

Staff at our Employability and Graduate Development service have a wealth of expertise and can help you plan your future irrespective of whether you are firmly committed to a particular career or undecided about which path to follow. They run a comprehensive programme of events, including five annual Careers Fairs, individual guidance interviews, psychometric testing, employer presentations, skills events, practice job interviews with employers and guidance on preparing your CV and making applications.

Many students from the department take part in the Exeter Award and the Exeter Leaders Award. These schemes encourage you to participate in employability related workshops, skills events, volunteering and employment which will contribute to your career decision-making skills and success in the employment market.

Graduates will be able to use the skills they develop in a range of sectors, including:

- Heritage
- Museums/galleries
- Arts administration
- Consultancy
- Market research
- Civil Service
- Education
- Teaching
- New media industries
- Journalism and publishing
- Research
- Charities
- Advertising
- Public relations

For further information about what the Employability Service offers at Exeter visit www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/employability
Entry requirements and applying

You can find a summary of our typical entry requirements on the inside front cover of this brochure. The full and most up-to-date information about current requirements can be located on the undergraduate website at www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/art and we strongly advise that you check this before attending an open day or making your application. Some programmes require prior study of specific subjects and may also have minimum grade requirements at GCSE or equivalent, particularly in English Language and/or Mathematics.

We make every effort to ensure that the entry requirements are as up-to-date as possible in our printed literature. However, since this is printed in advance of the start of the admissions cycle, in some cases our entry requirements and offers will change. If you are an international student you should consult our general and subject specific entry requirements information for A levels and the International Baccalaureate, but the University also recognises a wide range of international qualifications.

You can find further information about academic and English language entry requirements at www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/ international

For information on the application, decision, offer and confirmation process, please visit www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applications

Module details

For up-to-date details of all our programmes and modules, please check www.exeter.ac.uk/arthistory

Year 1 Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Name</th>
<th>Art History and Visual Culture</th>
<th>Drama, English, History or Modern Languages</th>
<th>Visual Culture</th>
<th>Classical Studies, English, History or Modern Languages and Art History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual Media</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introducing Visual Culture</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside the Art Museum</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the History of Art</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 2 Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Name</th>
<th>Art History and Visual Culture</th>
<th>Drama, English, History or Modern Languages</th>
<th>Visual Culture</th>
<th>Classical Studies, English, History or Modern Languages and Art History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primitivism and Modern Art</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debates and Contestations in Art History</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities in the Workplace</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Visual Practices</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectacular Attractions: Cinema and Sensation</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theories and Histories of Photography</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Spaces of the French Enlightenment</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 3 Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Name</th>
<th>Art History and Visual Culture</th>
<th>Drama, English, History or Modern Languages</th>
<th>Visual Culture</th>
<th>Classical Studies, English, History or Modern Languages and Art History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary French Visual Culture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History in Material Form: Exhibitions in Germany and Austria Today</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Images of Total War</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology, Art and Politics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Techniques of Suspended Judgment: On Post-war Architecture, Urbanism and Art</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Art History and Visual Culture modules

Please note that availability of all modules is subject to timetabling constraints and that not all modules are available every year. For a full list and details of the individual modules, please check the undergraduate section of our website at [www.exeter.ac.uk/arthistory](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/arthistory)

### Year 1

**Visual Media**

In this core module you will be introduced to the ways in which different media construct contrasting visual worlds. Media may include painting, sculpture, installation, photography, film, video art, television, digital media, social networking, virtual and mixed reality. The module will help you develop the critical tools to understand these various media in different historical periods.

**Introducing Visual Culture**

You’ll be introduced to Visual Culture as an area of study, the visual artefacts it analyses and the approaches it uses. The module shows how to make sense of the ways human societies have used visual means to articulate their beliefs and identities through history.

**Inside the Art Museum**

We’ll introduce you to the history and development of the spaces art is shown in, whether these are permanent collections or temporary exhibitions. You will explore aspects of museology, focusing especially on how the design and arrangement of these spaces reflect assumptions about what art is considered to be, what experience is offered to the gallery visitor and what this says about changing understandings of the value of our exposure to art.

**Introduction to the History of Art**

This module introduces you to the history of art as an academic discipline and uses case studies from across history to demonstrate the different approaches typical of work in this field. These range from technical and formal analysis, to iconographic studies, social and political readings, including questions of gender and interpretations informed by archaeology, anthropology, psychoanalysis and critical theory.

### Year 2

**Primitivism and Modern Art**

This module explores western artists' fascination with the so-called 'primitive art' of non-western cultures. Museum display of these items is a significant part of the topic and we will make use of the internationally important world arts collections in Exeter's Royal Albert Memorial Museum.

**Debates and Contestations in Art History**

You’ll focus on a topic in the history of art where scholars have differed over the approach to be adopted in providing a satisfactory account of it. It takes one case study as a means of engaging with different methodologies and the consequential production of different histories.

**Humanities in the Workplace**

This module provides an opportunity for you to develop an understanding of a business or work environment through practical work placement(s) and to gain experience in the use of technologies and applications commonly used in organisations.

**Contemporary Visual Practices**

You’ll engage with current issues in visual culture and the links between past and contemporary works, and critical perspectives. You’ll be introduced to aspects of heritage culture, museum and gallery practices, site specific and site sympathetic art, and digital cultures.

### Year 3

**Spectacular Attractions: Cinema and Sensation**

In this module you’ll explore debates surrounding the concept of spectacle and make use of the massive collection of cinema and other media texts and artefacts preserved at the Bill Douglas Centre for the History of Cinema and Popular Culture at the University.

**Theories and Histories of Photography**

This module explores photography as a new way of showing the world, which not only challenges and overturns many established hierarchies in our understanding of art and aesthetics, but also in terms of knowing, seeing and being. We’ll introduce you to important writings and theories about photography, and relate them to historical and contemporary photographic practices.

**Arts Management**

This module explores the socio-economic and political landscape that shapes the UK’s creative industries. It introduces you to the contemporary world of arts policy, funding and development strategies. From this broad context, we focus on a series of practical skills and techniques, such as project management, elevator pitches, focus group creation and audience development, which will enable you to work towards developing your own creative industries project and business plan, with a view to creating your own performance brand on graduation.

**History in Material Form: Exhibitions in Germany and Austria Today**

You will learn critical methods that can be used in reading museum displays and learn how to understand the role of museum objects as signifiers and agents within national memory cultures. The syllabus focuses on three categories of object, each of which poses a different set of problems for curators wishing to preserve and display them: Jewish objects, National Socialist objects and objects of the German Democratic Republic.

**Theology, Art and Politics**

This module considers general issues such as the relation of theology and ethics and aesthetics in addition to more detailed readings about the work of particular painters. On completion you will have a good grasp of theological aesthetics and be able to make informed judgements on Western works of art.

**Techniques of Suspended Judgment: On Post-War Architecture, Urbanism and Art**

This module explores the technique and disposition of suspended judgment as a mode of engagement. Suspended judgment was a way to avoid prematurely isolating, selecting and systematising phenomenon, so that one might delay judgment, heighten sensitivity and learn from the existing environment. It was meant to foster a deeply ethical, open, and receptive engagement with the world.
Academic excellence

• The University of Exeter has been named as *The Sunday Times* University of the Year and is also ranked 7th in the UK in its University Guide 2013

• We are also in the top one per cent of universities in the world, and a regular fixture in the top 10 league tables in *The Guardian* and *The Times*

• University of Exeter students are among the most satisfied in the UK: we are ranked 6th in the UK in the National Student Survey 2012 amongst traditional universities and 3rd for the quality of our teaching

• Our teaching is inspired by our research, nearly 90 per cent of which was ranked as internationally recognised by the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise

• We attract the best qualified students in the country; we’re in the top 10 for the number of students graduating with a first or 2:1 and for entry standards (students achieving AAB at A level and above)

A vibrant community

• Our students are the most engaged in the country, smashing participation records in student elections for the last two years running

• The Students’ Guild offers an unrivalled selection of societies, from sport to culture to community volunteering groups – 8,000 students take part in 165 societies

• We are a top 10 UK university for sport and provide excellent facilities and support whether you want to compete at the highest level or just for fun

• We work with our students to continually improve the education on offer, via initiatives which put students at the heart of our decision making process

• We’re a truly international community, with students from over 130 countries and staff of 50 different nationalities

Ambition for the future

• We equip you with the skills employers need via business placements, study abroad schemes, volunteering opportunities, careers advice from successful alumni and much more

• Despite tough economic times, we’ve improved our employment record year-on-year: more than 90 per cent of students get a job or further study place within six months of graduating

• We’ve invested over £350 million in our three campuses, from new accommodation and research labs to state-of-the-art lecture theatres and library spaces

Explore the possibilities

Open Days
Come and visit our beautiful campuses. We hold Open Days twice a year in June and September.

Campus Tours
We run Campus Tours at the Streatham Campus each weekday during term time. You’ll be shown round by a current student, who’ll give you a first-hand account of what it’s like to live and study at Exeter.

For full details and to book your place, contact us on:
Website: www.exeter.ac.uk/opendays
Phone: +44 (0)1392 724043
Email: visitus@exeter.ac.uk

Offer-Holder Visit Days
Once you receive confirmation of an offer we’ll contact you with an invitation to visit us on an Offer-Holder Visit Day, which will give you the chance to find out more about your programme and department and decide whether to accept our offer. While this opportunity to visit includes a campus tour and formal introduction to the department, much emphasis is placed on a more informal period for questions and answers. A number of our current students also take part on these days, leading tours and giving you the opportunity to ask them what studying at Exeter is really like! Offer-Holder Visit Days take place during the period January to April.

www.exeter.ac.uk/arhistory

This document forms part of the University’s Undergraduate Prospectus. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in the Prospectus is correct at the time of going to print. The University will endeavour to deliver programmes and other services in accordance with the descriptions provided on the website and in this prospectus. The University reserves the right to make variations to programme content, entry requirements and methods of delivery and to discontinue, merge or combine programmes, both before and after a student’s admission to the University. Full terms and conditions can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applications/disclaimer