VISUAL ARTS ADMINISTRATION (MA)

Department Website (https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/art/)

**NYSED:** 77749  **HEGIS:** 1099.00  **CIP:** 50.9999

**Program Description**

Established in 1971, the MA Program in Visual Arts Administration was the first in the nation to focus specifically on management careers in the visual arts, in both traditional and alternative contexts. Taking into account the cultural and economic impact of the visual arts, nationally and internationally, as well as the challenges facing the arts today, the program prepares students to become leaders in a broad range of arts organizations.

The Visual Arts Administration MA Program addresses the whole art ecology, including the cultural environment in which art and arts organizations operate, the role of the artist in society; how artwork is documented, presented and interpreted, the structure and management of organizations that display artwork — both nonprofit and for-profit — and the role of art theorists, critics, curators, and collectors. The program curriculum also considers how education in arts organizations expands knowledge and builds audiences, the increasing role of art in urban development and public spaces, and new approaches and tools for encouraging access and participation. Students acquire the theoretical and practical tools for fundraising, financial management, marketing, and knowledge of new media and technology in the visual arts. The program offers primary areas of study in nonprofit (arts management) and for-profit (arts markets); students are required to choose one track or the other in their first semester. Secondary areas of study include a wide range of electives pertaining to a variety of issues in the visual arts arena.

Since its beginnings, the program has had an extensive international outlook. The curriculum fosters a global perspective within course syllabi, readings and discussions, and through several study-abroad options. In London, students analyze the exhibition and display of art in material culture through a dynamic curriculum that blends classroom sessions and site visits. In the Netherlands and Berlin, Performing Arts Administration and Visual Arts Administration students compare and contrast the management of cultural institutions in the United States and Europe, with an emphasis on cultural policy, cultural diplomacy, funding mechanisms, globalism and mobility, cultural identity, and diversity, among other issues.

Faculty expertise, internships in the field, alumni experience and success, and a strong international applicant pool ensure that students are provided with the optimal resources of an advanced professional program set in the context of a major urban cultural center.

**Career Opportunities**

Both the internship program and the master’s thesis provide critical opportunities for graduate students to develop relationships with art organizations in New York, nationally, and internationally. The program includes a series of supervised internships. Students have gained placement in museums, alternative spaces, public art agencies, galleries, auction houses, and consultancies, and work with program advisers and the department’s internship coordinator in planning this important component of their educational experience. Organizations providing internship and research opportunities locally have included the Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, JPMorgan Chase Bank Collection, Jewish Museum, Asia Society, Sotheby’s, Christie’s, Whitney Museum of American Art, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and Pace-Wildenstein Gallery. A more complete listing of the organizations where graduate students have secured national and international internships may be found on the program’s webpage, steinhardt.nyu.edu/art/admin (http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/art/admin/).

In addition, the program serves as an active information center for advocacy issues and for career opportunities. The program works closely with its Visual Arts Administration alumni to provide special events and to facilitate mentoring and career opportunities. Graduates hold positions in a broad cross section of museums, cultural institutions, foundations, galleries, auction houses, and advisory services throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.

**Study Abroad**

An international study-abroad seminar provides graduate students, alumni of arts administration programs, and arts management professionals with a unique opportunity to observe exciting changes in the visual and performing arts in a broad range of European venues. Students explore current cultural and social issues affecting international arts practices in both nonprofit and for-profit institutions.

The Visual Arts Administration program sponsors several student-run clubs which hold events and seminars throughout the year: ACE — Advocates for Cultural Engagement, other content — The Curatorial Collective, and The Art and Finance Society.

**Admissions**

Admission to graduate programs in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development requires the following minimum components:

- Résumé/CV
- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- Proficiency in English

See NYU Steinhardt’s Graduate Admissions website (https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/admissions/how-apply/graduate-students/) for additional information on school-wide admission. Some programs may require additional components for admissions.

See How To Apply (https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/degree/ma-visual-arts-administration/how-apply/) for admission requirements and instructions specific to this program.

**Program Requirements**

The program requires the completion of 51 credits, comprised of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARVA-GE 2028</td>
<td>Law and The Visual Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARVA-GE 2030</td>
<td>Environment Visual Arts Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARVA-GE 2109</td>
<td>Digital Technologies and the Art Organization</td>
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Business Courses
Select nine credits at Stern (COR1-GB courses) or Wagner (CORE-GP/ PADM-GP courses) as follows:

- COR1-GB 1302 Leadership in Organizations
- COR1-GB 1306 Financial Accounting and Reporting
- COR1-GB 2310 Marketing
- CORE-GP 1020 Management and Leadership
- CORE-GP 1021 Financial Management
- PADM-GP 2110 Strategic Management and Leadership

Primary Areas of Study
Select one of the following areas of study:

Arts Management
- ARVA-GE 2027 Interpreting Exhibitions
- ARVA-GE 2032 Development for The Visual Arts
- ARVA-GE 2133 Strategic Planning and Governance Visual Arts

Arts Market
- ARVA-GE 2016 Art Collecting
- ARVA-GE 2076 Visual Arts Markets
- ARVA-GE 2171 Appraisal & Valuation of Art

Internships
- ARVA-GE 2302 Internship in Visual Arts Administration 3

Thesis
- ARVA-GE 2301 Final Project in Visual Arts Administration 1
- ARVA-GE 2299 Research in Visual Arts Administration 2

Secondary Area of Study
Choose one of the following suggested areas of study or create your own secondary area of study:

Curatorial Studies
- ARVA-GE 2019 Exhibition Design
- ARVA-GE 2198 Collections and Exhibition Management
- ARVA-GE 2911 Curatorial Practice

Arts Advocacy/Art Education
- ARVA-GE 2021 Education in Art Museums
- ARVA-GE 2035 Arts Advocacy
- ARVA-GE 2112 Urban Development and The Visual Arts

Global Perspectives
- ARVA-GE 2027 Interpreting Exhibitions
- ARVA-GE 2215 Issues/Practices in Art Admin:European Contest

Electives
Select 9-18 credits from, but not limited to, the following courses, as well as courses offered throughout NYU:

- ARVA-GE 2024 Economics of The Visual Arts
- ARVA-GE 2118 Business & the Visual Arts
- ARVA-GE 2120 Contemporary Art and Community Partnerships
- ARVA-GE 2121
- ARVA-GE 2134 Cultural Branding in Arts Organizations
- ARVA-GE 2912 Aspects of the Art World
- ARVA-GE 2922
- ARVA-GE 2924 VAA Topics: Entrepreneurial Projects in the Arts
- ARVA-GE 2915 VAA Topics: Art Market, Analysis and Investment
- ART-GE 2002 Intro to The Galleries & Museums of New York
- ARTCR-GE 2141 History of Art Since 1945
- ARTCR-GE 2151 History of Contemporary Art and New Media
- ARTCR-GE 2235 Critical Pedagogy, Artists, and the Public Sphere
- ARTED-GE 2070 Race, Education and the Politics of Visual Representation
- MPAPA-GE 2225 Cultural Tourism in Arts

Total Credits 51

Additional Program Information
The course sequence is determined by advisement and tailored to the needs of each individual student. Courses are offered on a rotating basis so that part-time students can finish the program in three years.

Students take entry-level business courses at the NYU Leonard N. Stern School of Business and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and fulfill at least 3 credits of internships with a range of sponsors, including galleries, museums, and other arts organizations.

In addition to business and internship requirements, students in both areas of the program must complete a substantial, well-researched master’s thesis. Research focuses on a particular interest or issue in the visual arts administration field; this is a two-semester sequence that begins with an interactive seminar. Students complete the thesis during their last semester in the program.

The program offers two international study abroad opportunities. France and Germany: Visual Arts and Performing Arts Administration is offered in Paris and Berlin, and Exhibition and Display of Art and Material Culture is offered in London, England.

Sample Plan of Study

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Semester/Term</td>
<td>Environnement of Visual Arts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Appraisal</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Art Collecting</td>
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<td>Colloquium</td>
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<td>Intro to Galleries</td>
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<td>2nd Semester/Term</td>
<td>Law</td>
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<td>Business &amp; Visual Arts</td>
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<td>Visual Arts Markets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Colloquium</td>
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<td>3rd Semester/Term</td>
<td>London Study Abroad</td>
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<td>4th Semester/Term</td>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>Marketing</td>
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<td>Fashion Photography</td>
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<td>Exhibition Design</td>
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### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the creative process, how art and artists function in society.
2. Identify and evaluate how artwork is interpreted, presented, documented and archived.
3. Apply an expansive and inclusive world view of the field that values different global perspectives, identities, concerns and goals.
4. Analyze the economic, political and social environment in which artists and arts organizations operate, including legal, ethical and policy issues.
5. Critique and compare the structure, operations and management of organizations that present or produce artwork on various scales.
6. Outline strategies for marketing, audience development, outreach and community development in the arts.
7. Apply business skills in accounting, finance, organizational theory and management as well as arts-related media and technology.

### Policies

#### NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/).

#### Steinhardt Academic Policies

Additional academic policies can be found the Steinhardt academic policies page (https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/culture-education-human-development/academic-policies/).