

History of Art, Design, and Visual Culture (HADVC) Master's Thesis program

Students must declare whether they intend to follow the course-based or thesis-based MA program in their graduate program applications. Students wishing to change their programs midstream must obtain the approval of the HADVC Graduate Advisor.

In addition to satisfying the general requirements of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (FGPS), students in the thesis-based MA program must complete the following:

- 1) *18 credit weights of courses approved by the HADVC Graduate Advisor
- 2) A language other than English, demonstrated through either a language exam or coursework
- 3) *12 of the *18 credit weights must be taken from History of Art, Design, and Visual Culture seminar offerings at the 500- and 600-levels
- 4) Up to *6 of the *18 required credits may be taken outside the Department, subject to the approval of the HADVC Graduate Advisor.

First Year

The HADVC Graduate Advisor is the supervisor of all first-year thesis-based MA students.

In the first year of the program students typically take *18 approved course credits (i.e., 6 one-term courses), including *12 credit weights from the 500- and 600-level course offerings in the History of Art, Design, and Visual Culture (at least *3 of these course credits must be taken at the 600 level). Up to *6 units of course weight may be taken outside of the Art & Design Department, subject to the approval of the HADVC Graduate Advisor.

Students are required to pass a translation test in a language other than English, normally one of direct relevance to their thesis research, before proceeding to write the thesis. They may instead elect to take an approved language reading course or approved equivalent, achieving a minimum grade of B-.

Second Year

Students enter the second year of the program only after satisfactory completion of all the requirements in first year. During the second year, students work intensively with one or more professors in the program to develop their thesis projects. Students prepare, present, and defend a thesis on a topic approved by the Department. A thesis should demonstrate, through a substantial original project, the student's proficient use of methods associated with topical area(s) in which the Primary Advisor is able to provide supervision.

Thesis Preparation

Students should refer to the FGPS website for thesis preparation guidelines. Students must complete and include a correctly formatted title page in their theses.

Oral Examination

Upon completion of the Master's thesis, each student must take a comprehensive oral examination. The thesis must be of sufficient quality that it merits the degree of Master of Art in the judgment of the examining committee.

Registration Process

Registration is the responsibility of the student. When registering for courses outside the department, the student may need to go to the department offering the course to request consent for registration.

Courses Extra to the Degree

Students may wish to take courses that are not necessary to or an integral part of their graduate program. Courses extra to the degree must be designated and approved by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (FGPS) at the time of registration in the courses. The FGPS does not include these courses when calculating the student's GPA for continuation in the graduate program or for convocation.

If students do not declare a course as extra to degree when registering and then fail (earning a grade of C+ or lower), the course must be repeated or an alternate course taken for credit. To register, students complete a "Course Extra to Degree" form. The Art & Design Department Director of Graduate Programs approves the form and submits it to the FGPS.

Ethics Training

The Ethics + Academic Citizenship Requirement will provide foundational ethics education for all graduate students. It will ensure you have equal access to information about academic integrity, gain insights into the benefits and responsibilities of academic citizenship, and are equipped to conduct yourself in ways that uphold the values of the University of Alberta. The Ethics and Academic Citizenship Requirement is tailored for Master's and doctoral students and is designed to set you on a path for success in your program. The requirement covers topics such as academic integrity, research and workplace ethics, Indigenizing and decolonizing the academy, equity, diversity, and inclusivity, health and academic productivity, and ethical principles in university teaching.

The Ethics + Academic Citizenship Requirement consists of two zero-credit, self-paced online courses: INT D 710: Ethics and Academic Citizenship (for both Masters and doctoral students) and INT D 720: Advanced Ethics and Academic Citizenship (for doctoral students). Beginning Fall 2021, completion of these courses will fulfill the Ethics and Academic Citizenship Requirement.

Professional Development Requirement

Graduate students must undertake a minimum of eight hours of professional development over the course of their degree as required by the FGPS.

There are two components. Students cannot graduate without meeting both.

- 1) Master's students must complete an "Individual Development Plan & Professional Development Completion Form" in the first 12 months of their program.
- 2) A minimum of eight hours of professional development activities inspired by individual career plans.

For more information on this requirement and ways of meeting it, please visit this website:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/professional-development/professional-development-requirement/index.html>

The Art & Design Department offers proseminars that are organized by the Department Director of Graduate Programs. Attendance is optional, though highly encouraged. Many of these proseminars may be counted toward the required 8 hours of Professional Development activities. Topics include constructing a CV and short biography, writing a successful grant application, how to get your first publication, exhibition, conference paper accepted, and presenting your research and creative work to new audiences.

For more information about graduate study at the University of Alberta, please view the Graduate Program Manual.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/about/graduate-program-manual/index.html>