

Art History

UCAS Code: Combined Honours only (please see website for details)

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Creative Campus | 2025/2026

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

As the UK city with more museums and galleries than any other outside of London, alongside the country's largest contemporary art biennial, Liverpool will provide a vibrant cultural backdrop for your studies. Utilising Hope's exclusive partnership with Tate, and visiting speakers from the creative industries, students gain a wide-ranging understanding of theoretical perspectives in Art History and how these are expressed through the workings of cultural organisations. Through our cultural partnerships and collaborations, students will be offered privileged access to important collections in Liverpool and experts working in the field.

Encompassing the study of visual and material artefacts, museum and gallery practices and the production and circulation of meaning around art and design. This degree provides a systematic understanding of art and design practices and theories with a strong emphasis on critical thinking.

In your second and third years, you will also take 'Professional Practice for Art History'. These courses take in exhibition planning and design, curatorial practices and educational activities. These components address pathways into the creative industries and address the range of roles today's cultural organisations demand – equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary to secure future professional opportunities.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2025/2026 are £9,535 for full-time undergraduate courses.

As well as tuition fees, there is an additional cost of approximately £300 to cover the cost of the optional field trips each year.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



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Art History Curriculum

Year One

Themes and Issues in Art History

You are introduced to key events, styles and movements in the history of art and design, starting in Antiquity and ending with modern/postmodern art in the late 20th century. Thematic topics will draw together cross-disciplinary content relating to diverse aspects of historical art and design practices. For example, a key theme will be the human body and its idealisation. Lectures will address how this aesthetic concept was put into practice through sculpture, painting, architecture, pottery, fashion, graphic design etc. Each block will also contain a key reading and a site visit.

Art History: Close Up Lecture

The 'Close Up' programme extends the lecture series through provision of in-depth investigation of particular aspects and issues, via a range of enquiry methods.

Historic and Contemporary Practices in Art History

The content of this topic will be structured to maximise connections across other topics of study, e.g. attitudes to the human body in 20th/21st century art and design as a parallel strand to historical idealisations of the body. The programme will also include guest lectures from practitioners from within and outside the institution.

Year Two

Special Topics in Art History

Topics will include relevant approaches from the fields of Art and Design, examples include Art and Environment, Gender and Sexuality in Visual Culture, Propaganda in Art, Design and Visual Culture, and Key Concepts in Twentieth Century Photography.

Professional Practice for Art History

You will be introduced to more advanced aspects of exhibition planning, project management and fundraising. The practical components will take place in the seminar and are largely self-directed.

The assessment of this element, a Learning Portfolio, will focus on the preparatory stage of the exhibition planning.

Special Study Preparation

The Special Study provides you with the opportunity to prepare for your thesis that you will undertake in your third year.

Year Three

Advanced Museum and Gallery Studies

The lecture series begins by tackling a number provoking questions such as: What do museum and galleries do? Who are they for? How are they housed? And where are they located? You are encouraged to reflect on their own responses to these questions and to engage with museological theories that may support or challenge their argument.

As the lecture series progresses, we move on to critically examine the powerful role played by museums and galleries in presenting art and design to the public. These sessions analyse several contemporary case studies including: the collection display; the blockbuster exhibition; the biennial; and the digital museum. You are encouraged to consider how museums and galleries contribute and respond to changes in wider society.

Throughout the year, we will be joined by a number of leading professionals who share their first-hand knowledge and experience of working at some of the most high-profile museums and galleries in Liverpool and the Northwest. These exciting guest lectures provide students with expert insight into the wide range of professionals and creative practices that take place in today's museums and galleries, for example conservation, curating, exhibition design, education, installation, marketing, branding and fundraising.

Aesthetics

The study of aesthetics offers insight into the reasons why artists and designers make what they do, and what viewers

experience when they look at art and design. The seminars each focus on a key aesthetic concept. Through study of these concepts, students will be introduced to a range of writers and philosophers of art, design and wider culture.

Professional Practice

This topic will focus on advanced professional transferable skills and consider your future potential career goals by focusing on issues such as job searching, applications, training development and overall language and presentation skills.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Studying this degree consists of lectures, where all students are taught together, seminars of smaller groups, group tutorials, site visits, professional practice elements, special study preparation and a special study.

For the Art History part of your Combined Honours degree, there will be approximately 6 teaching hours per week in your first year, which reduces to approximately 5 teaching hours in your second and third years. As well as teaching hours, you will be expected to spend a number of hours working independently each week, as well as working in groups to prepare for any group assessments you may have.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Assessment methods vary but include learning portfolios, essays, a textual analysis, exams, project work and a special study.

You will be given written feedback on your assessments, and you will have the opportunity to discuss this with your tutor in more detail.



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