Museum Studies, MA

The ability to present information in a tangible, real-world environment is a critical part of the preservation and proliferation of human culture. This program equips you with the knowledge and skills to connect visually, intellectually and emotionally with visitors in a museum, gallery or other cultural or professional setting.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Museum Studies
The MA program in museum studies examines how museums produce and reflect culture and examines the role museums play worldwide.

Students develop theoretical questions and applied skills that engage the functions, practices and critical analyses of museums. They also gain practical experience while being encouraged to challenge preconceived notions about museums and the way museums affect and are affected by societies and cultures. Designed to be use-inspired, socially embedded and transcultural, the program ensures that students understand the meaning and significance of museums in contemporary society and prepares them for diverse museum careers.

At a Glance

- College/School: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a portfolio
Required Core (3 credit hours)
ASB 579 Critical Issues in Museum Studies (3)

Electives and Research (18)
ASB 592 Research (6)
other electives and research (12)

Other Requirements (9)
ASB 500 Research Methods (3) or ASB 572 Museum Collection Management (3)
ASB 584 Internship (6) OR ASB 584 Internship (3) and ASB 580 Practicum (3)

Culminating Experience (0 credit hours)
portfolio (0)

Additional Curriculum Information
For a complete list of approved elective and research courses, students should contact the school.

Internship (ASB 584) and Practicum (ASB 580) must be approved by their supervisory committees, usually in a museum setting or museum quality collection or archive related to their chosen area of study: anthropology, art history, theory and criticism or public history.

Other courses may be substituted for ASB 500 as an equivalent course with academic unit approval.

On completion of the internship, students must submit a journal or portfolio about the internship and skills acquired.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution. Suitable backgrounds for admission include disciplines related to museum studies, anthropology, history or art (fine art or art history).

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00="A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00="A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement outlining educational and professional goals
4. current curriculum vitae or resume  
5. GRE scores  
6. three letters of recommendation  
7. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**  
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

**Career Opportunities**

The demand in the job market is for people with the skill set to analyze a broad range of data on human thought and human behavior. There is a growing need for researchers and analysts with keen thinking skills who can manage, evaluate and interpret large amounts of data.

Some career opportunities include:

- acting as legal advocates in international cases  
- analyzing and proposing policies  
- conducting postgraduate academic research  
- consulting for private and public organizations  
- directing nonprofit organizations  
- directing programs in the private or public sector

**Contact Information**

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Admission Deadlines