Admission Procedures

Eligibility

Washington University encourages and gives full consideration to all applicants for admission, financial aid, and employment. The university does not discriminate in access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, veteran status, disability or genetic information.

Admissions

From October until January 15, the application instructions for the upcoming fall semester are available on our Graduate Admissions webpage. Please note, candidates cannot apply for spring enrollment.

Admissions decisions are based on the applicant's portfolio, academic records, statement of objectives, and references. Applicants may be admitted to the MFA program upon completion of the BFA degree or equivalent academic preparation. Specific requirements include a grade point average above 3.0 and good writing skills. We strongly suggest entering the program with a minimum of 9 credit hours of art history. No applicant will be considered for admission until all required items have been received by the Graduate School of Art.

International Student Admissions

Applicants for whom English is not the native language must submit a score report for one of the tests below in order to obtain admission to the MFA program:

1. Test for English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 90 on the internet-based test, 577 on the paper-based test, or 233 on the computer-based test.
2. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic module with a minimum score of 7.5.

To ensure that official TOEFL and IELTS score reports arrive as needed, please use our institution code (6929) and department code (15) when making arrangements with the testing agency. It takes six weeks for scores to be sent to us, so applicants should plan to take the test well in advance of the application deadline (January 15).

The TOEFL and IELTS scores and written essay do not in and of themselves presume adequate qualification for study. Functional English and familiarity with additional art-related terminology are required upon entrance in order to pass course work. In addition, international students will be interviewed by phone prior to the issuance of an I-20 for a student visa.

International students will receive specific instructions regarding the necessary financial documentation for visa purposes when admission letters are issued.

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