



A GUIDE TO STUDYING ART HISTORY ABROAD

There is nothing quite like the subject of art and how it can tell a story about a country, a culture, and its people. To study art history is to study what it means to be human, and the ways in which a culture defines itself. From the study of art history abroad, comes a style of strategic thinking and understanding that can be applied to a variety of higher education degrees or career paths.

WHY STUDY ART HISTORY ABROAD?

Venus de Milo. Tutankhamen's Golden Death Mask. The Winged Victory of Samothrace. The Sistine Chapel. Mona Lisa. It's incredible and historic works of art like these, and many more, that showcase why studying art history abroad can be the experience of a lifetime. The ability to absorb and see these masterpieces firsthand transforms the study of art into an even more enriching and unforgettable experience. To truly study art history, one must go beyond the pages of a textbook and out into the world where knowledge about art must begin with living it first.

LOCATIONS

Fortunately for art history students, there are numerous destinations to seek out international opportunities for hands-on learning. Narrowing down options will depend on the style, time period, and form of art you want to learn at a deeper level. For students seeking experience to better understand ancient art forms, destinations throughout **India** and **Japan** can be ideal places to study art history abroad. Moving further west, locations like **Greece** and **Italy** are the perfect jumping off point to delve into Greek and Roman art, where classroom learning is complemented by easy access to iconic landmarks and a plethora of well-preserved artifacts. For those interested in indigenous cultures, studying art history abroad in destinations throughout **South America** boast grand sculptures, architecture, and mosaics to become familiar with.

COURSES & PROGRAMS

For students who are looking to start with the basics, such as an Introduction to Art History or a survey of a specific time period of art, there are numerous options available in destinations around the world. These types of courses are especially helpful for students who are hoping to build a foundation of knowledge that can be applied to upper level studies, such as Art History Methodology or Contemporary Art Theory. The structure of these art history courses will vary from one program to the next, as well as from country to country. The most important thing to note about studying art history abroad, is the chance it provides to transform textbook learning to seeing and experiencing art firsthand. Studying art history abroad will typically include a component of visiting and observing artifacts and landmarks you learn about in the classroom. No matter where you might choose to study art history abroad, you're sure to be surrounded by a destination's art culture, in one way or another.

BENEFITS & CHALLENGES

If your ultimate goal is to apply your study abroad experience to an art history degree or career path, studying art history abroad will help your resume stand out all the more to employers. As noted earlier, this field of study is more than just about the art - it offers a deeper glimpse into how a country and

culture sees itself, and how it has been preserved by the passing of time. The strategic thinking and global perspective that comes out of studying art history can be the most rewarding benefits study abroad students can hope for.

Whichever form or expression of art you may be interested in studying abroad, most art history courses will include a close analysis of visual materials, which will allow art history students to better understand the methods and intellectual structures behind the study of art. Most importantly, studying art history abroad will allow for understanding art a visual language, while fostering an ability to translate this into oral and written expression.

SJU SEMSTER ABROAD PROGRAMS

Please note the list of programs and courses are only listed as a guide and does not guarantee automatic approval of courses counting for SJU academic credit. You will work with both your Academic Advisor and Study Abroad Advisor to determine the program and courses to best meet your needs. All courses **must be approved** by the appropriate SJU Department Chair or Associate Dean prior to studying abroad.

- **American University of Rome**
 - *Sample Courses: Urban Rome, Roman Baroque Art, Arts of Antiquity, Van Gogh to Warhol, Art of Theory*
- **Florence University of the Arts**
 - *Sample Courses: Symbols & Symbolism in Western Art, the Medici Family: A Dynasty, Intro to Renaissance Art in Florence*
- **Saint Louis University in Madrid, Spain**
 - *Sample Courses: Ancient Art Survey, Art from Michelangelo to Goya, History of Spanish Art, Modern Art in Spain and France, Jewish and Muslim Art in Spain*
- **Sophia University in Tokyo, Madrid**
 - *Sample Courses: Myths & Legends in Indian Art History, Intro to Japanese Art, Survey of Asian Art*
- **IES: Paris – French Studies**
 - *Sample Courses: History of French Art, History of Art & Architecture in Paris, Paris Museums*

In addition to Art History Major/Minor courses, you may also be able to take some of SJU's GEP courses while abroad, including but not limited to: Art/Lit, Social Science, Religious Difference & Philosophical Anthropology.

Can't find a program or university on our approved list that appeals to you? You can always petition to attend another study abroad program of your choosing with more information can be found on our [website](#).

NEXT STEPS

- Meet with the Study Abroad Advisor** | Learn about your options
- Meet with your Academic Advisor** | Discuss course selection
- Apply for a passport** | <http://travel.state.gov/passport>
- Apply to study abroad!** | Applications are due to the CIP office by: March 1st for the Fall semester abroad, and October 1st for the Spring semester abroad