

Graduate School of Art

**Instruction sheet for online application + financial aid for graduate study**

MFA IN VISUAL ART

All candidates must submit an application as outlined below. **All parts of the application are due by February 3, 2020.** Please note: Candidates cannot apply for spring enrollment.

The following application materials may be submitted over time; however, all materials, with the exception of the letters of recommendation, must be received by the application deadline. This includes the online application materials (found at [samfoxschool.wustl.edu/admissions/graduate](http://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/admissions/graduate)), hard-copy materials (transcripts and test scores), and financial aid (optional). **No applicant will be offered admission into the program until all required items have been received by the Graduate School of Art.**

**ONLINE APPLICATION MATERIALS**

The Graduate School of Art **does not** require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) for admission to the program.

- 1. A non-refundable \$40 application fee**, paid online by credit card.
- 2. Personal and academic information.**
- 3. Concise written statement of objectives for graduate study (500-750 words)** that pertains to the applicant's work. The statement should include only a minimal amount of personal history and focus primarily on the applicant's material and conceptual interests and proposed area of study. The statement should also identify any additional disciplinary-specific and interdisciplinary interests the applicant may have.
- 4. Official transcripts.** Upload a digital copy (PDF format) of transcripts from all post-secondary academic and art studies. When submitting digital academic records from multiple schools, please organize those records into a single PDF file. At a later stage in our process, applicants who are admitted and plan to enroll must arrange for us to receive official, hard-copy transcripts by no later than August 1. At that time, only official transcripts sent to us directly from the schools attended will be allowed.  
  
Special instructions for students who have attended a Chinese university: The degree must be verified—in English—by the China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center. The degree confirmation should include verification of the English versions of final transcripts and degree certificates. All verification reports must be sent to us directly by the CDGDC to be considered official.
- 5. Curriculum vitae (CV).**
- 6. Test for English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic module score is required if the applicant's native language is not English.** See International Applicants section (Page 2) for guidelines.
- 7. Three recommendation letters.** Applicants must have three letters of recommendation written by professors, instructors, or professionals with whom they have recently worked or studied. These letters are required, and will be submitted through the online application. Please note that, along with other contact information, the applicant will need to provide an accurate e-mail address for each recommender.
- 8. Visual Materials/Portfolio.** Applicants must submit 20 images or samples of time-based media in a Mac OS format. Applicants should select work that does not look assignment-driven and that

demonstrates potential for accomplishment in further creative study. The work presented—regardless of media—should be the best examples of the applicant’s work.

#### **Specifications for submitted work:**

- Images (up to 5MB each): Each still image should be submitted in .jpg format, no larger than 800 pixels on the longest side and no larger than 72 dpi overall. Please contact us if you encounter any difficulties with the resolution of your images.
- Video (up to 250MB each): Must be in a Quicktime-compatible format, such as .mpeg or .mov. Each submission should be no longer than 5 minutes in length.
- Audio (up to 30MB each): Acceptable format: .mp3.
- PDFs (up to 10MB each).
- You may also link to media from YouTube, Vimeo, and SoundCloud.
- Do not use presentation programs such as PowerPoint for submission of any of your work.
- All digital files submitted should follow a naming convention that includes your last name and the first initial of your first name, such as: DoeJ\_GhostSeries\_Image1.jpg.
- Please enter details about each piece you submit, including title, size, medium, and year.

### **HARD-COPY APPLICATION MATERIALS**

Applicants who are submitting IELTS scores must arrange to have the testing service send a hard-copy version of the scores to our office. Our mailing address is listed on the final page of this instruction sheet.

### **INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS**

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.

In addition to entering your score online, the official scores must be submitted to our office by the testing agency. 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 TOEFL testing agency. Applicants who are submitting IELTS scores must arrange to have the testing service send a hard-copy version of the scores to our office; our mailing address is listed on the final page of this instruction sheet. It takes six weeks for your scores to be sent to us, so plan to take the test well in advance of the application deadline (February 5).

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 coursework. In addition, international students will be interviewed by phone prior to the issuance of an I-20 for a student visa. In select cases, students will be required to enroll in reading and comprehension classes recommended by the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS).

International students will receive specific instructions regarding the necessary financial documentation for visa purposes when admission letters are issued. For questions regarding non-immigrant student visas, contact Cris Baldwin, assistant dean and registrar, at 314.935.4761 or [crisbaldwin@wustl.edu](mailto:crisbaldwin@wustl.edu).

### **FINANCIAL AID**

In the 2019-2020 academic year, full-time tuition in the MFA in Visual Art program at Washington University is \$43,750 per year. Additional fees include a \$400 annual studio fee, a \$50 graduate student activity fee, and

a \$500 health and wellness fee.

**An application for financial aid will have no effect on the admission decision.** The Graduate School of Art provides financial aid to all accepted applicants. Financial aid packages most often consist of a combination of fellowships or scholarships, teaching and/or technical assistantships, and loan assistance. Fellowship, scholarship, and assistantship awards are based on artistic merit, academic excellence, and financial need. Federal loan assistance for eligible U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents is awarded based on financial need.

Admissions and awards of financial aid are for the specific academic year, but accepted applicants may request deferment of admission for up to one year. Fellowship, scholarship, and assistantship awards are renewable for the second year of study. You must reapply for loan assistance each year. For additional information about financial aid, visit the Sam Fox School website, [samfoxschool.wustl.edu/node/4179](http://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/node/4179).

### **MFA in Visual Art Scholarships**

Applicants must submit a financial aid application to be considered for available scholarships. All students accepted for admission to the MFA in Visual Art program who have applied for financial aid are automatically considered for several full-tuition fellowships and scholarships, as well as partial-tuition remission art scholarships. Scholarships are awarded by the Admissions Committee, and awards are based on separate considerations of academic excellence and financial need.

### **University-Wide Scholarships**

Some University-wide fellowships and scholarships open to applicants to the MFA program require separate applications. These opportunities include the **Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Fellowship** ([graduateschool.wustl.edu/olin-fellowship](http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/olin-fellowship)) and the **Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program** ([pages.wustl.edu/cgfp](http://pages.wustl.edu/cgfp)), as well as the **McDonnell International Scholars Academy** ([global.wustl.edu/mcdonnell-academy](http://global.wustl.edu/mcdonnell-academy)), whose funding is intended for graduates of select universities outside the United States. Please visit the appropriate websites for further information and to determine whether you might qualify to pursue any of these funding opportunities.

### **Teaching Assistantships**

Every student admitted into the MFA in Visual Art program receives two teaching assistantships during the second year of study. In addition, a select number of students are also offered assistantships during the first year of study, based on the strength and quality of their applications. Teaching assistants in the Sam Fox School generally work about 10 hours a week and earn up to \$2,000 a semester. Students are paid on a biweekly schedule for work completed. In addition to teaching assistantships offered in the Sam Fox School, a limited number of assistantships are also offered for compensation through other programs at WashU.

### **Federal Student Loans**

U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents are eligible to borrow loans through the Federal Student Aid program. Applicants must submit the federal government's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which can be completed online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). **Applicants must submit this form by February 15 in order to be eligible to receive student loans.** When completing the FAFSA, please include Washington University's code (002520) in Step 6 of the form to ensure financial data will be received as needed.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

All inquiries pertaining to the curriculum and admissions should be directed to:

Patricia Olynyk, Chair, MFA in Visual Art  
Phone: 314.935.8423  
Fax: 314.935.6462  
[olynyk@wustl.edu](mailto:olynyk@wustl.edu)  
[samfoxschool.wustl.edu/programs/mfa-va](http://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/programs/mfa-va)

All questions about financial aid should be directed to:

Todd Farr, Financial Aid Awards Associate  
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts  
Phone: 314.935.3642  
Fax: 314.935.6462  
[tfarr@wustl.edu](mailto:tfarr@wustl.edu)

Mailing Address:

Graduate School of Art  
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Campus Box 1031  
Bixby Hall, Suite 1  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, Missouri 63130-4899

*Washington University encourages and gives full consideration to all applications for admission, financial aid, and employment. The University does not discriminate in access to, or treatment in 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. Applicants with a prior criminal history will not be automatically disqualified from consideration for admission. Inquiries about compliance should be addressed to the University's Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Washington University, Campus Box 1184, One Brooking Drive, St. Louis MO 63130.*