

Graduate School of Art

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

MFA IN VISUAL ART

All candidates must submit an **online application** as outlined below. **All parts of the application are due by February 5, 2021.** 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. **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**

NOTE: 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. Statement of objectives.** Provide a concise statement (no more than 500 words, PDF) that gives a sense of you, your work, and your objectives for graduate study. We are looking for information as it relates to your creative work. The statement should primarily focus on your conceptual and material interests and proposed area(s) of study, including any discipline-specific or cross disciplinary interests and historical precedents you may recognize. The statement should also identify your goals for graduate study and the contributions you hope to make at Washington University. Title the document with your name.
- 4. Unofficial transcript.** Upload a PDF copy of your unofficial college transcript(s). If more than one school was attended, consolidate all transcripts chronologically into one PDF. Note that official hard-copy transcripts or similar records related to your degree completion will be requested at a later date from those who are admitted and plan to enroll. Full instructions about the submission of official hard-copy documents will be provided then.
- 5. Curriculum Vitae (CV).** Attach a PDF copy of your Curriculum Vitae (CV). Include your phone number, email, address, and website (if relevant).
- 6. Other documents (optional).** You are welcome to attach other documents, including professional publications or articles, through the online application. Upload PDFs only.
- 7. English language scores (if the applicant's native language is not English).** For fall 2021 admission, applicants for whom English is not your native language must submit a score report for the Test for English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)—including the TOEFL ITP Plus for China and TOEFL iBT Home Edition—International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic module, or Duolingo test. See the International Applicants section for full details.
- 8. References.** Each applicant must provide names, titles, and email addresses for 3 references. You should get reference letter consents from professors, instructors, or professionals with whom you have recently worked or studied. Let them know they will receive an email request from Slideroom once you have applied; they will have up to 7 days beyond our application deadline to submit their reference.
- 9. Visual Materials/Portfolio.** Submit 20 images or samples of time-based media in a Mac OS format. Select your strongest and best work. Your work samples should demonstrate your potential for accomplishment in the study of visual art at the graduate level. Work samples should be uploaded in reverse chronological order with newest work first.

Provide 20 items, which can include:

- **Images** (up to 5MB each): Each still image should be in .jpg format, no longer than 1200 pixels on the longest side and no larger than 72 dpi overall.
- **Video** (up to 250MB each): Must be in a Quicktime-compatible format: .mpeg, .mov. Each submission should be no longer than 3 minutes in length.
- **Audio** file (up to 30MB each): .mp3 files. Each submission should be no longer than 3 minutes in length.

Do not use presentation programs such as PowerPoint.

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.

For each work submitted include title, date, size, medium. If the medium is mixed, name all materials specifically. Do NOT use this area to explain what the work means.

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

As noted in Item 7, applicants for whom English is not your native language must submit a score report for one of the tests below in order to obtain admission to the MFA program:

- **Test for English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**—including the TOEFL ITP Plus for China and TOEFL iBT Home Edition for academic year 2021-2022. The minimum acceptable scores are 90 on the TOEFL and TOEFL iBT Home Edition, and 600 (with Vericant video) on the TOEFL ITP Plus for China.
- **International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic module** with a minimum composite score of 6.5.
- Due to the complications of testing during the pandemic, a minimum score of 115 on the **Duolingo test** will also be accepted for academic year 2021-2022.

### To ensure that we receive your official test score results:

- TOEFL test takers must use our institution code (6929) and department code (15) when making arrangements with the testing agency for score reporting.
- IELTS score results must be delivered to us electronically via the IELTS Results Service e-Delivery system. Be sure to use the name of our E-Delivery Account: Washington University in St. Louis, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.
- Duolingo test takers must individually email their test results as a PDF attachment to [whitwam@wustl.edu](mailto:whitwam@wustl.edu).

It takes six weeks for scores to arrive, so plan to take the test well in advance of the application deadline (February 5).

An exception to the English language score requirement may be made for applicants who have studied in the United States or another English-speaking country for a minimum of three years toward a baccalaureate degree or higher. The TOEFL, IELTS, and Duolingo tests 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. International students will be interviewed prior to the issuance of an I-20 for a student visa. In select cases, students will be tested upon arrival and may be required to enroll in reading and comprehension classes.

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 Melissa Whitwam-Watson, Graduate School of Art programs coordinator, at 314.935.8423 or [whitwam@wustl.edu](mailto:whitwam@wustl.edu).

In summer 2021, matriculating students will receive a request for official transcripts from all post-secondary study to be sent to us directly from their previous college or university. Transcripts must include the degree(s) awarded and date(s) of conferral, as applicable. Students who attended a Chinese university must also have their transcript and qualification certificate verified (in English) by the China Higher

Education Student Information and Career Center (CHESICC).

Please note: If you have graduated from a university in the United States, you may still be required to submit a TOEFL score. As institutions vary in their language requirements, the Graduate School of Art does not automatically grant TOEFL waivers. In addition, all international students will be interviewed by the Chair of the MFA in Visual Art program.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

In the 2020-2021 academic year, full-time tuition in the MFA in Visual Art program at Washington University is \$45,018 per year. Additional fees include a \$250 annual studio fee, a \$50 graduate student activity fee, and a \$524 health and wellness fee.

**An application for financial aid will have no effect on the admission decision.** The Graduate School of Art strives to provide financial aid to as many applicants as possible. 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 and academic merit, as well as 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 consult with the MFA chair to determine if they are eligible to defer for a 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 artistic and academic excellence and in addition to financial need.

Scholarships awarded by the School include the Sam Fox Ambassadors Graduate Fellowship. Through this program, the School awards 10 full-tuition scholarships each year to outstanding candidates across all of its graduate programs: Visual Art, Illustration & Visual Culture, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and & Urban Design. For additional information about the Ambassadors program and other scholarships, visit the Sam Fox School website, [samfoxschool.wustl.edu/node/4179](http://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/node/4179).

## **University-Wide Scholarships**

While the Sam Fox School offers generous financial aid, there are additional University-wide fellowships and scholarships available that 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** ([graduateschool.wustl.edu/cgfp](http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/cgfp)), as well as the **McDonnell International Scholars Academy** ([mcdonnell.wustl.edu](http://mcdonnell.wustl.edu)), 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/Technical Assistantships**

Teaching and/or technical assistantships are awarded to all second-year MFA in Visual Art students who are in good academic standing. In addition, a select number of first-year students are awarded assistantships based on the strength and quality of their applications. Teaching assistants gain valuable pedagogical experience while assisting faculty teaching a range of courses in the Sam Fox School. Technical assistants

work alongside faculty and/staff and contribute to key areas of the School such as the Des Lee Gallery, Island Press, and the Collaborative Technology Center. Teaching and technical assistants 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.

### **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**

General inquiries about admissions and our program should be directed to:

Taylor Yocom, Graduate Recruitment Specialist  
Phone: 314.935.2740  
[taylorcom@wustl.edu](mailto:taylorcom@wustl.edu)

Inquiries specific to the curriculum should be directed to:

Lisa Bulawsky, Professor and Chair, MFA in Visual Art Program  
Phone: 314.935.6571  
[lbulawsk@wustl.edu](mailto:lbulawsk@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)

*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.*