



# SAM FOX SCHOOL OF DESIGN & VISUAL ARTS

Graduate School of Art

## **Instruction sheet for online application + financial aid for graduate study** MFA IN ILLUSTRATION & VISUAL CULTURE

All candidates must submit an application as outlined below. **All parts of the application are due by February 3, 2020.**

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 (300-600 words, PDF or text)** that pertains to the applicant's work and educational experience. The statement should include a modest personal history and focus on the prospective student's interests and connections to illustration and/or visual culture. The statement should also identify any additional disciplinary-specific interests and/or any historical and contemporary influences the applicant may have. Please make sure your name is at the top of this document.
- 4. Official transcripts.** Upload a digital copy (PDF format) of transcript(s) from post-secondary academic or art studies. When submitting digital academic records from multiple schools, please organize them into a single PDF file. 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 who plan to enroll. Full instructions for submitting official hard-copy documents will be provided in late spring or early summer.  
  
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).** Provide in PDF format.
- 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 letters of recommendation.** 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. Writing sample** (PDF format). Provide a writing sample that demonstrates your ability to clearly express your ideas. The sample can be narrative or expository. The length of submissions can be variable. Content is more important than word count. Examples include: an undergraduate paper, a personal essay, a poem, a short story, an article or published review, or any other piece of writing that demonstrates your ability to construct clear ideas and/or narratives in text form.

**9. Visual Materials/Portfolio.** Applicants must submit 12-20 images or samples of their work, including illustrations, prints, artist's books, collage images, drawings, sketchbook pages, comics, GIFs, videos and/or samples of time-based media that best represent your work and visual voice. Variety is encouraged; a single mode or style of work is not necessarily preferred or required. The work presented should be current and should also showcase your future potential as an image maker.

***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.
- 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 (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 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 Illustration & Visual Culture program at Washington University is \$43,750 per year. Additional fees include a \$50 graduate student activity fee, a \$500 health and wellness fee, and a course/material fee (total amount varies, but the annual average is estimated to be \$200-\$300).

**An application for financial aid will have no effect on the admission decision.** The Graduate School of Art strives to provide 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 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](https://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/node/4179).

### MFA Scholarships

Applicants must submit a financial aid application to be considered for available scholarships. All students accepted for admission to the MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture 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](https://graduateschool.wustl.edu/olin-fellowship)) and the **Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program** ([pages.wustl.edu/cgfp](https://pages.wustl.edu/cgfp)), as well as the **McDonnell International Scholars Academy** ([global.wustl.edu/mcdonnell-academy](https://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.

### 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](https://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:

John Hendrix, Chair, MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture

Phone: 314.935.8402

Fax: 314.935.6462

[jhendrix@wustl.edu](mailto:jhendrix@wustl.edu)

[www.mfaivc.samfoxschool.wustl.edu](http://www.mfaivc.samfoxschool.wustl.edu)

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 Brookings Drive, St. Louis MO 63130.*