



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

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

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. Unofficial transcript.** Please upload a PDF copy of your unofficial college transcript(s). If more than one school has been attended, please consolidate all transcripts into one document to upload. 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.
- 5. Curriculum Vitae (CV).** Provide in PDF format.
- 6. Other documents (optional).** You are welcome to attach additional documents, including professional reviews or articles about your work, 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. Writing sample** (PDF format only). Please provide a sample of expository writing. Expository writing is intended to describe, explain, or analyze a given subject in textual form. There is no requirement for length, but it should be enough to demonstrate your ability to express your ideas clearly. Content is more important than extensive word count. Examples of writing samples could include: an undergraduate paper in art history, a critical literary analysis, a personal essay in material culture study (film, comics, illustration, objects), an article or published review, or any other piece of writing that demonstrates your ability to construct and defend an argument, position, or idea.

10. Visual Materials/Portfolio. Submit 12-20 images or samples of your 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 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 5 minutes in length.
- Audio (up to 30MB each): Acceptable format: .mp3.
- PDFs (up to 10MB each).
- 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.

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.

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 and writing sample 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.

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 Illustration & Visual Culture program.

FINANCIAL AID

In the 2020-2021 academic year, full-time tuition in the MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture program at Washington University is \$45,018 per year. Additional fees include a \$50 graduate student activity fee, a \$524 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 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.

MFA In Illustration & Visual Culture 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.

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: Illustration & Visual Culture, Visual Art, 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.

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) and the **Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program** (graduateschool.wustl.edu/cgfp), as well as the **McDonnell International Scholars Academy** (mcdonnell.wustl.edu), whose funding is intended for graduates of select universities outside the United States. We urge you to visit these websites to determine whether you qualify to pursue any of these funding opportunities.

Teaching Assistantships

Students are awarded teaching assistantships based on the strength of their applications and portfolios. Teaching assistantships are limited in number for both first-year and second-year MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture candidates; notification of this award will be included in any scholarship offer.

Teaching assistants in the Sam Fox School typically 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. **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
jhendrix@wustl.edu
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

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.