MA in Cultural, Intellectual and Visual History

warburg.sas.ac.uk
This 12-month full-time or 24-month part-time programme aims to:

- Give students a deep and systematic understanding of the current methodological and theoretical approaches to examining the cultural, intellectual, and visual history of Western Europe
- Enable mastery over the key elements of the history of philosophy, science, literature, the arts, and visual culture, rooted in the Renaissance and the early modern period but embracing material from the Middle Ages to the advent of modernity
- Provide the advanced methodological skills required to enable the reading, understanding, and critical analysis of primary source materials
- Develop the skills necessary to conduct research in these areas, particularly skills in Renaissance Latin
- Enable students to undertake a significant piece of research in art history and Renaissance culture, including: designing research questions, selecting appropriate advanced methodological approaches while critically evaluating their effectiveness, and undertaking their own analysis of the evidence and generating their own arguments

About the degree

The MA in Cultural, Intellectual and Visual History introduces students to the interaction of ideas, images, and social history. It gives students the skills to study the survival and transmission of culture across time and space, with an emphasis on the afterlife of antiquity. All of our graduates are awarded a University of London degree.

Why study with us?

As a student at the Warburg Institute, you will have access to some of the best resources for the study of cultural, intellectual, and visual history in London. Unparalleled staff contact hours are combined with access to the Institute’s collections, including the Warburg Library with its unique cataloguing system specifically designed to aid research, and which is classified as one of the “20 Libraries that Changed the World”.*

Through the Institute’s research projects, fellowship programmes and events, and its informal collegiate atmosphere, students have extensive opportunities for networking with an international community of scholars, which significantly enriches the learning experience and can provide ideal connections for your future career.

Studying in Bloomsbury at the centre of an academic and cultural hub, students also benefit from visits and training sessions at neighbouring institutions including the British Museum, the Wellcome Trust, and the British Library, and further afield the V&A and Science Museum. London is regularly named the best university city in the world for its welcoming attitude, diversity, and vibrant student-friendly culture.

The Warburg has inspired my curiosity no end and the course gives me such freedom to explore my own interests.

Lauren Steele, 2018–19

* oedb.org/librarian/25-libraries-that-changed-the-world

Investing in your future

Many Warburg alumni have gone on to pursue PhD study at the Institute or other universities and cultural institutions across the globe, including the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; the Bayerische Akademie; the National Library, Argentina; and the Universities of Cambridge, Copenhagen, Notre Dame (US), Padua, UCL, La Sapienza (Rome), Warwick, York, and Yeshiva (New York). Read more about Warburg alumni: warburg.blogs.sas.ac.uk.

The community of academics at the Institute is inclusive and supportive, creating an environment in which all students are encouraged to develop their knowledge and interests in interdisciplinary directions.

Anna Speyart, 2018–19
Teaching, learning, and assessment

Modules are taught by academics at the Warburg Institute. While the temporal and conceptual anchor of the MA is the Renaissance, its overall scope stretches from the medieval era to modernity. It emphasises the history of philosophy, ethics, religion, and politics along with the cultural, intellectual, and visual dimensions of civilisations, both drawing on and foregrounding the interdisciplinary strengths of the Institute.

All students take three core modules and two option modules. The core module on Language and Palaeographical Studies includes training at all levels in a range of languages, which will include Latin (compulsory) and another European language, as well as palaeography training in one chosen language. Finally, you will have the opportunity to conduct an independent research project through the dissertation, which is completed in the summer term under the guidance of a supervisor from the Warburg.

The programme is supported by an unassessed Methods and Techniques of Scholarship module that will introduce you to the nuts and bolts of scholarly work in late medieval and early modern cultural history (broadly conceived). It will prepare you to undertake original research in this field. The second term will particularly focus on guiding you through the process of choosing and researching a dissertation topic.

The course is examined as follows:
1. Reviving the Past: 4,000-word essay
2. Art History and Renaissance Culture: Image to Action: 4,000-word essay
3. Language and Palaeographical Studies: examinations in palaeography and languages
4. Two option modules: 4,000-word essays
5. Dissertation: 20,000 words

Structure

Core modules: terms 1 and 2
- Reviving the Past
- Art History and Renaissance Culture: Image to Action
- Language and Palaeographical Studies
- Methods and Techniques of Scholarship (unassessed)

Option modules: term 2 (two to be chosen)
- Cosmological Images: Representing the Universe
- Mapping Worlds: Medieval to Modern
- Renaissance Painting and the Workshop Tradition
- Italian Mural Painting and Visual Culture
- Renaissance Political Thought from Erasmus to Campanella

Additional modules may be offered, depending on both student numbers (a minimum of four students required per option) and teaching staff availability; see warburg.sas.ac.uk/studying for full details.

Dissertation: term 3
- The opportunity to conduct an independent research project utilising the world-renowned resources at the Institute under the guidance of an academic from the Warburg.
The University of London experience

As part of the School of Advanced Study (SAS), University of London, Warburg students benefit from a collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment. SAS is a national research hub and the Institute enjoys close links with its other members, including the Institute of Classical Studies, the Institute of Historical Research, and the Institute of Modern Languages Research. Cross-institute collaboration is actively encouraged, making us an ideal location for interdisciplinary research.

Warburg students join a community of some 250 students in SAS. They are encouraged to participate in the wider activities of the University and are able to use the libraries of other colleges.

Funding opportunities

The School of Advanced Study and the Warburg Institute offer a number of funding options, including full scholarships and fee bursaries for both home/EU and international students. The institute also has an excellent record in securing external funding, and is happy to work with prospective students on funding applications. For details, please visit warburg.sas.ac.uk/studying.

Entry requirements

The normal minimum entrance requirement is a First or Upper Second Class Honours degree from a university in the UK or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard in any discipline in the humanities that is related to the course. In addition to a reading knowledge of one European language or Latin, applicants should have the desire to begin studying another. We will consider applications from candidates who do not meet the formal academic requirements but who offer alternative qualifications and/or relevant experience.

English is the language of instruction and applicants are required to demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency.

For more information on entry requirements, please visit sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/entry-requirements.

How to apply

Applications should be made online via the SAS website. For full details of the application process, please visit warburg.sas.ac.uk/studying.

Accommodation

Full-time students, and part-time students with disabilities, may apply for accommodation in one of the University of London’s award-winning intercollegiate Halls of Residence. Our Registry office will send you housing information after you have been offered a place. To learn more about accommodation options, please visit halls.london.ac.uk/our-accommodation.

Course summary

Degree structure

Full time (one year): Three core modules and two option modules chosen from a range of topics, plus a dissertation of 20,000 words.

Part time (two years): Year 1: one core module, one option module, one chosen language, and palaeography; Year 2: one core module, one option module, and the second chosen language.

Students will work on the dissertation over both summers, with one-to-one supervision during each summer.

Fees 2019–20 (subject to annual uplift)

Home and EU students: full time, £7,100 | part time, £4,260 Overseas students: full time, £15,860

Learn more

The Warburg Institute: warburg.sas.ac.uk/studying
School of Advanced Study: sas.ac.uk/study

Other programmes in Cultural, Intellectual and Visual History

Postgraduate Certificate
The PGCert gives students the opportunity to pursue a personal or professional interest in their chosen subject while gaining a postgraduate qualification. It is ideal for students who want to study at a postgraduate level but who do not want to commit to a full MA.

MRes Cultural, Intellectual and Visual History
This programme is ideal for students who wish to research and write on a complex, specialised area of history within the Institute’s field of study that interests them, while still having the support of taught modules to help develop the theoretical and methodological skills necessary for such a project.
The **Warburg Institute** is one of the world’s leading centres for studying the interaction of ideas, images, and society. It is dedicated to the survival and transmission of culture across time and space, with special emphasis on the afterlife of antiquity. Its open-stack Library, Photographic Collection, and Archive serve as an engine for interdisciplinary research, postgraduate teaching, and a prestigious events and publication programme.

The **School of Advanced Study** is the UK’s national centre for the support and promotion of research in the humanities. Located at the heart of the University of London in Bloomsbury, the School provides an unrivalled scholarly community in which to pursue postgraduate study and research. Students learn from leading specialists in their fields, hone their research skills in highly regarded training programmes, expand their knowledge through an extensive calendar of events, and become part of a worldwide network of humanities scholars. Funding opportunities include AHRC-sponsored London Arts and Humanities Partnership studentships, SAS studentships, and a number of subject-specific bursaries and awards.

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**School of Advanced Study**  
Senate House  
Malet Street  
London WC1E 7HU  
United Kingdom  

**E:** sas.enquiries@london.ac.uk  
**T:** +44 (0)20 7862 8835  
**sas.ac.uk**

**The Warburg Institute**  
University of London  
School of Advanced Study  
Woburn Square  
London WC1H 0AB  
United Kingdom  

**E:** warburg@sas.ac.uk  
**T:** +44 (0)207 862 8910  
**warburg.sas.ac.uk**

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Blog: [warburg.blogs.sas.ac.uk](http://warburg.blogs.sas.ac.uk)

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*Please note that tuition fees are subject to annual uplift. The University of London reserves the right to alter or withdraw courses and amend other details without prior notice.*

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**warburg.sas.ac.uk**

This information is available in other formats.  
Please write to: sas.info@sas.ac.uk.

Cover image: *Portrait of a Young Man*, Bronzino (Agnolo di Cosimo di Mariano), Metropolitan Museum of Art