

## Program in Museum Studies

The Master of Arts Degree in Museum Studies

**M**useums are among the most dynamic institutions in our society, and they are among the most exciting places to work. The NYU Program in Museum Studies has been training museum professionals for more than three decades, combining innovative courses in the theory and practice of museum work with intimate involvement in the New York museum world. At NYU you will study with outstanding interdisciplinary scholars and museum professionals, and some of the world's great museums will be your classroom.

### REQUIRED COURSES

History and Theory of Museums  
Museum Collections and Exhibitions  
Museum Management  
Internship  
Research Seminar

### ELECTIVES

Topics in Museum Studies:

- The Challenge of Installation Art
- Exhibition History
- Museums and the Law
- Heritage and Memory in History Museums
- Anthropology in and of Museums
- Cultural Property, Rights and Museums
- Blockbusters and Building Booms
- Curating as Collaboration
- Exhibiting Latin American Art in the U.S., 1931-present
- Creating a Memorial Museum
- Museums and Political Conflict

Museums and Contemporary Art  
Exhibition Planning and Design  
Museums and Interactive Technologies  
Museum Conservation and Contemporary Culture  
Museum Education  
Historic Houses, Cultural Landscapes and the Politics of Preservation

### M.A. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Satisfactory completion of 32 points and a grade of B or better in Internship.

All required courses and at least two electives taken within the NYU Program in Museum Studies

A master's thesis approved by two readers

### SUMMARY OF ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

B.A. degree (or foreign credentials equivalent to the U.S. bachelor's degree)

GPA of 3.0 or better

GRE General Test

TOEFL score of 600 (paper based), 250 (computer based), or 100 (Internet based) or better for international applicants

Three letters of recommendation

Statement of purpose

Official undergraduate transcripts

Resume

# FAQs

## Why pursue an M.A. degree in museum studies at New York University?

As museums the world over become more professionalized, an M.A. degree in museum studies is increasingly effective in helping graduates obtain that all-important first museum job. Through courses in fundraising, museum management, object conservation, and museum education, students acquire practical training for a range of career options in many kinds of museums. In more theoretical courses, students situate contemporary museums socially and historically and acquire conceptual tools necessary to engage the challenges facing museums in this new century. Our required internship provides the practical experience and connections in the museum world that are invaluable as you embark on a museum career.

## What are the strengths of the program?

The Program in Museum Studies unites a rich curriculum, an outstanding faculty, ongoing contact with the New York museum world, and a diverse student body. The museum studies curriculum provides students with a grounding in the history and theory of museums, the creation and management of collections and exhibitions, and general museum management. Through electives and a personally selected internship, students tailor their education to fit the kind of museum and the area of museum work in which they seek a career. In addition, students may pursue the study of museums from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, in courses offered by scholars from many departments in the Graduate School of Arts and Science. A large number of international students interested in many types of museums and museum work create an enriching and highly diverse student group.

## What special resources offer students an enriched experience?

Pursuing an M.A. degree in museum studies at New York University offers access to the unparalleled variety and quality of New York City's museums, cultural institutions, and art galleries. In addition to the opportunity to spend personal time in many of the world's greatest museums, class visits and presentations by museum staff members are essential parts of the curriculum. New York University also offers outstanding opportunities to pursue connections between museums and other academic fields through interdisciplinary conferences, panel discussions, and speakers series, a number of which are cosponsored by the Program in Museum Studies.

## HOW TO APPLY

The Graduate School strongly prefers that applicants apply online at <http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/online>. It is recommended that applications be submitted by February 15th for fall admission and by November 1 for spring admission.

## FACULTY

### PROGRAM FACULTY

**Bruce Altshuler**, Director, Program in Museum Studies; Adjunct Professor, Fine Arts. Ph.D. 1977 (philosophy), M.A. 1974 (philosophy), Harvard; B.A. 1971 (philosophy), Princeton. Research interests: history of exhibitions; museum history and theory; modern and contemporary art.

**Miriam Basilio**, Assistant Professor (a joint appointment in the Program in Museum Studies and the Department of Art History). Ph.D. 2002 (art history), Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; M.A. 1995 (art history), IFA, NYU; M.A. (liberal studies), NYU; Advanced Certificate 1991 (museum studies), NYU; B.A. 1989 (political science), Boston College. Research interests: art, propaganda, cultural property and national identity in Spain, modern Spanish and Latin American art, and the reception of Latin American art in the United States.

**Victoria E. M. Cain**, Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow. Ph.D. 2007 (United States history), Columbia University; B.A. 1997 (history and literature), Harvard University. Research interests: Cultural and intellectual history of the 19th and 20th century United States, museum history and theory, history of exhibition and collecting, history of American art and visual culture, history of science and technology, landscape studies and public history.

**Haidy Geismar**, Assistant Professor (a joint appointment in the Program in Museum Studies and the Department of Anthropology). Ph.D. 2003 (anthropology), M.A. 1999 (anthropology of art), University College London; B.A. 1997 (archaeology and anthropology), University of Cambridge. Research interests: anthropology of material and visual culture, museum studies and Pacific anthropology.

**Hima B. Mallampati**, Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow. Ph.D. 2010 (classical art and archaeology), University of Michigan; J.D. 2001, Stanford; B.A. 1997 (art history and classics), University of Pennsylvania. Research interests: Art and cultural heritage law; nonprofit law; museum history; archaeological ethics; historiography of art history and archaeology; public archaeology; ancient art; public policy and heritage.

**Glenn Wharton**, Research Scholar. Ph.D. 2005 (conservation/archaeology), Institute of Archaeology, University College London; M.A. 1981 (art conservation), SUNY; B.A. 1977 (art history/combined social sciences), California (Santa Barbara). Research interests: conservation of museum collections and public art, with specialization in contemporary media, artists' rights, and public participation in the conservation process.

## Who teaches the courses?

Courses in the Program in Museum Studies are taught by both museum professionals and full-time New York University faculty. Museum professionals primarily teach courses that provide practical training for museum work. Classes dealing with more theoretical and historical analysis of museum issues and of various types of museums generally are offered by New York University faculty, both within the Program in Museum Studies and in other programs of the Graduate School of Arts and Science.

## Who are the students?

Our students come from many academic fields in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, with art history, anthropology, and history being strongly represented. While many students come to the Program in Museum Studies directly after completing their undergraduate studies, a significant number of students have been working or have attended other graduate programs, and some are accomplished professionals pursuing a career change. The program also attracts a significant number of international students from Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Approximately 40 students enter the program each year.

## Can I pursue this program as a part-time student?

Although many current students prefer full-time enrollment, the program can also be taken part time, provided that all course work, the internship, and the thesis are completed within a five-year period. In order to accommodate students working full-time, required courses are scheduled in the evening, although elective courses may meet in the afternoon. All courses meet once a week for three hours, except for Research Seminar, which meets for two hours. A complete list of courses is available online at [www.museumstudies.as.nyu.edu/object/museum.grad.required\\_elective](http://www.museumstudies.as.nyu.edu/object/museum.grad.required_elective).

## Does the program offer financial aid?

The Graduate School's Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) encourages students to apply for external grants and provides matching tuition points (from 50 to 100 percent) to eligible recipients of external awards from recognized, academic sources of funding outside NYU. For application and specific details about TIP eligibility criteria, please visit [www.gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.financialaid.gradfellowships](http://www.gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.financialaid.gradfellowships). New York University offers several loan programs to students. Information is available on the website at [www.nyu.edu/admissions/financial-aid-and-scholarships.html](http://www.nyu.edu/admissions/financial-aid-and-scholarships.html) or at the Office of Financial Aid, 212-998-4444. Many international students enter the program with a Fulbright fellowship ([www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org)).

## AFFILIATED ADJUNCT FACULTY

**William B. Crow**, Adjunct Assistant Professor; Museum Educator for Schools and Teacher Programs, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

**Ruth K. Beesch**, Adjunct Associate Professor; Deputy Director for Programs, The Jewish Museum, New York.

**Jeffrey D. Feldman**, Adjunct Assistant Professor; independent consultant and writer.

**Rosanna Flouty**, Adjunct Assistant Professor; Public Programs Manager, BMW Guggenheim Lab, New York.

**Ileen S. Gallagher**, Adjunct Assistant Professor; Principal, ISG Productions, New York.

**Josephine Gear**, Adjunct Associate Professor; independent curator and writer.

**Bruce Lineker**, Adjunct Assistant Professor; Former Chief Development Officer, Columbia University School of the Arts, New York.

**Deborah F. Schwartz**, Adjunct Professor; President, The Brooklyn Historical Society, New York.

**Amy S. Weisser**, Adjunct Assistant Professor; Director of Exhibition Development, Memorial Museum, National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center, New York.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.museumstudies.as.nyu.edu](http://www.museumstudies.as.nyu.edu)  
[museum.studies@nyu.edu](mailto:museum.studies@nyu.edu)  
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