

VISUAL CULTURES FUTURE CAREERS

Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths: Some future career paths

The Department of Visual Cultures offers the opportunity to study modern and contemporary art history and visual culture from theoretical and philosophical perspectives. You will consider the impact art has had on our lives and will develop your critical and analytical skills. In terms of future employment, the skills you learn will be transferable to a variety of industries.

What do Goldsmiths Visual Cultures graduates do?

In 2013-14, 70% of Goldsmiths Visual Cultures graduates were in full- or part-time work, or combining work and study. Most of the remainder (18.2%) were in further study, on courses such as¹:

- **CELTA**
(Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults)
- **MSc** Psychology of Fashion
- **MA** Philosophy and Contemporary Critical Theory

More information on postgraduate courses in the Department of Visual Cultures can be found at: www.gold.ac.uk/visual-cultures/ma-mres

In 2013-14, graduate-level careers of Goldsmiths Visual Cultures graduates included¹:

- Company Director
- Brand Representative
- Marketing Officer
- Learning Department Programme Administrator
- Studio Assistant

Employers included¹:

- Pivo Art and Research
- Dowling Jones Design (photographer)
- Star Jewellers
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- Datadoodles (information visualisation company)

¹Source: *Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education*
This data is collected six months after graduation and shows where graduates start their careers.

“My studies helped me to approach projects creatively and analytically, and I feel lucky to learn from the specialist tutors, a combination which I feel is very unique and special to Goldsmiths.

My role mainly entails working with Charles Saatchi on his books and newspaper columns, including researching topics and images, and contributing to their creative conception and design. I also use an advanced program to assist with and facilitate the curation of new exhibitions, and am involved in the running of other projects, such as the New Sensations Prize for art graduates.

My studies helped me to approach projects creatively and analytically. Since graduating, the research and open-mindedness I developed at university has definitely helped in my career, as I'm mainly researching and having to think creatively and quickly every day, although totally differently to essay writing. Also being immersed in everything going on in South-East London, from the friends I made to opportunities to get involved with local art projects, prepared me for the busy and vibrant art world.”

*Kat, Editorial Director at Saatchi Gallery
Graduated from BA History of Art in 2011*

What skills will I gain?

Studying Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths will enable you to develop a variety of skills that can be applied to a broad range of industries:

- analysing and interpreting information
- using critical judgement to form opinions
- formulating strong arguments
- presenting information in a coherent and balanced way
- developing excellent listening skills and oral and written communication skills
- working independently
- planning and organising

What kinds of graduate employers might be interested in me?

Lots of different sectors will be interested in your skills and knowledge. Here are some ideas to get you started, but you can relate your degree to many more areas.

Education

You may work as a teacher delivering the national curriculum to school students or as an education officer within a museum or gallery. As an education officer you will develop, deliver and evaluate programmes and events for classes. These programmes are often designed to engage with those who don't normally frequent museums or galleries.

Journalism and Publishing

As a journalist you will be responsible for investigating, gathering and reporting on news and current affairs. You might choose to use your knowledge of visual culture practice to write arts-related features for print and online media. Working in publishing you will be involved with the production of a range of materials including books, journals, magazines and newspapers.

Museums, Galleries and Heritage

As a graduate you may choose to work within a museum, gallery or heritage centre. In the role of curator or exhibition manager you will acquire, care for, develop and display a collection of artwork or artefacts in order to inform, educate and entertain the public. Your job may also involve planning and organising logistics related to events, buildings, artists and personnel.

Where can I find further information?

On the Prospects website, the 'What can I do with my degree?' section is a useful starting point. Here you can access detailed information about careers relating to visual cultures.

www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm

Education

UCAS Teacher Training -

www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training

Get Into Teaching (Department for Education) -

getintoteaching.education.gov.uk

Engage (for gallery, art and education professionals) -

www.engage.org

Association for Heritage Interpretation -

www.ahi.org.uk

Heritage, Museums and Galleries

Association of Art Historians - www.aah.org.uk

Museum Jobs - www.museumjobs.com/uk

International Council of Museums - www.icom.museum

Journalism and Publishing

Creative Skillset (publishing) -

www.creativeskillset.org/publishing

Campaign (advertising and media magazine) -

www.campaignlive.co.uk

Press Gazette (journalism news) -

www.pressgazette.co.uk

The Society of Young Publishers -

www.thesyp.org.uk

Creative Choices (Creative & Cultural Skills) -

www.creative-choices.co.uk

Goldsmiths Careers Service

The Careers Service has a full programme of events - you can find out more at www.gold.ac.uk/careers

From the moment you arrive at Goldsmiths you can use us to help you plan your future - pop in and book an appointment with a careers consultant.

<http://learn.gold.ac.uk> (search 'Goldsmiths Careers Service')

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