By pursuing the MPhil in History of Art at Cambridge, you will be joining one of the world’s best research Departments in the field. The research we do is internationally renowned. It covers a rich variety of topics and periods, from medieval art and architecture to the Renaissance, the early modern period, and 19th- and 20th-century art.

Our staff are all engaged in international and interdisciplinary research projects, often in collaboration with other universities, museums and galleries in Europe and the United States.

We have close ties with other leading research centres including Columbia University and the Courtauld Institute of Art. The MPhil is a self-driven research degree. Our students are supported to formulate their own research questions, and they work closely with supervisors who are leading experts in their field. Students also benefit from feedback and appraisal from lecturers and peers across the Department.

In contrast to many other one-year MPhil courses in the UK, our students embark directly on advanced research, developing and pursuing their own lines of inquiry. This means our MPhil is an intense and intellectually demanding research experience, and our MPhil graduates leave Cambridge as more mature scholars, skilled researchers and refined writers.

Cambridge offers students unrivalled access to art and architecture.

Collections in Cambridge are among the most important in the UK, with several million objects concentrated within a single square mile.

Founded 200 years ago, the Fitzwilliam Museum is considered the finest small museum in Europe, while Kettle’s Yard, which has just undergone a major renovation, provides a dynamic centre for the study of modern art.

Graduate student life at Cambridge is equally rich. The Department’s recently refurbished Graduate Centre provides convivial work and social spaces. Its library houses one of the strongest collections in the discipline outside London, including rare books and outstanding holdings in the Department’s areas of research expertise.

The benefits of a Cambridge degree extend far beyond thesis submission. The MPhil’s emphasis on independent research means our graduates are ideally placed for PhD study, whether at Cambridge or another top-ranking university, as well as embarking on rewarding professional careers in prestigious galleries and museums throughout the world.

“During my MPhil, I learned how to navigate different research institutions and resources by carrying out archival research at Chatsworth, the V&A, and Christie’s. As I learned, provenance and collection research is an important part of curatorial work at a museum. From my MPhil, I also came to The Frick with an understanding of how to create an argument and pursue different lines of enquiry, which allowed me to provide valuable support to the curators on their publications.”

Eloise Owens
Curatorial Assistant at The Frick Collection in New York City

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