

ART HISTORIES, ECOLOGIES, INDUSTRIES

Explore how art shapes, and is shaped by, the world around us. The Art Histories, Ecologies, Industries major at Franklin examines the social, ecological, and industrial contexts of artistic production while preparing students for both graduate studies and careers in the creative and cultural sectors.

LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

FRANKLIN SWITZERLAND
U.S. UNIVERSITY & SWISS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

MAJOR OVERVIEW

This interdisciplinary major investigates contemporary art through three interconnected lenses: Art Histories, Art Ecologies, and Art Industries. You will study diverse artistic narratives, examine the relationship between art and its social and environmental contexts, and develop the professional skills needed to thrive in cultural and creative industries. With flexible electives and integrated coursework, the program empowers you to craft a personalized focus at the intersection of history, ecology, and industry.

YOUR DEGREE

A 120-CREDIT DEGREE DESIGNED AROUND YOUR INTERESTS

To earn a Bachelor's degree at Franklin, students must complete 120 credits across university-wide core requirements, major requirements, and elective courses. The curriculum combines a shared liberal arts foundation with specialized study in your chosen major, giving you both breadth and depth throughout your undergraduate experience.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Courses and academic experiences shared by all Franklin students, designed to build essential skills and knowledge across disciplines.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses specific to your chosen major, including foundational, required, and elective courses within the discipline

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES

Courses selected from across Franklin's curriculum to explore additional interests and complement your major.

Shared by all Franklin students

66 CREDITS

CORE REQUIREMENTS	WHAT IT DEVELOPS
First-Year Seminar, 3 credits	Introduces students to Franklin's liberal arts approach and develops critical thinking, academic research, and communication skills.
Academic Travel, 12 credits	Connects classroom learning with experiential study across different cultural and geographic contexts.
Academic Writing, 12 credits	Develops written and oral communication skills for academic and professional contexts.
Global Responsibility, 18 credits	Examines intercultural competencies, international engagement, and social responsibility.
Modern Language, 15 credits	Builds language skills and cultural literacy, with a focus on Swiss languages.
Quantitative Literacy, 6 credits	Develops the ability to interpret, analyze, and communicate numerical information and data.

Please note: in some cases, courses may fulfill both a Core Requirement and a Major Requirement.

ART HISTORIES, ECOLOGIES, INDUSTRIES REQUIREMENTS — 42 CREDITS

REQUIRED COURSES — 15 credits

AHT 102	Introduction to Art Histories, Ecologies, Industries I: Antiquity to Early Renaissance
AHT 103	Introduction to Art Histories, Ecologies, Industries II: High Renaissance to Contemporary Art
AHT 270	Theories and Methods of Art Histories, Ecologies, Industries
AHT 320	Anthropologies of Art
VCA 212	Design Thinking for Academic and Entrepreneurial Minds

MAJOR ELECTIVES — 12 credits

Four of the following - at least one course at the 300-level

AHT 208T	Art now!
AHT 211	Collecting Art and Art Law
AHT 213	Art and Ideas: Exploring Vision
AHT 216	Introduction to the History of Photography
AHT 218T	Harbor Cities: Architecture, Vision, and Experience
AHT 219	Art of Curating
AHT 222T	Design Studies
AHT 226T	Gardens and Art (Rome)
AHT 230T	Art, Politics, Landscape: Ireland
AHT 257T	Architecture: History, Theory, Ecology, Design
AHT 262T	The Biennial: Signature Exhibition of a Global Art World?
AHT 263T	Art and Food
AHT 280	Contemporary Art: From the New York School to the Present
AHT 285T	Technology in Art, Visual Communication, and Fashion
AHT 322	Art and Ecology
AHT 327	Activist Art
AHT 334	Artists in Film
AHT 338	The City and Its Representation in the 20th Century
AHT 350	Museums and Art Galleries: Theory, History and Practice
AHT 357	Art Market Studies: From Renaissance Commissions to Online Auctions
AHT 361	Art and Trauma Studies: The Visual Culture of Disaster
AHT 371	Topics in Art Histories, Ecologies, Industries
VCA 200	Creative Publishing

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES — 6 credits

Choose a track

ART HISTORIES

Three of the following courses

CLCS 200	Gender and Sexuality in a Global Context
CLCS 206T	Reading Film on Location: Visual Storytelling, Creative Industry
CLCS 238T	Reading the Postcolonial City: Berlin and Hamburg
CLCS 241	Forbidden Acts: Queer Studies and Performance
CLCS 251T	Reading Moroccan Culture
CLCS 253T	On Refugees: Representations, Politics and Realities of Forced
CLCS 330	Migration: Greece
CLCS 350	The Politics of Mobility: Exile and Immigration
CLCS 360	Culture and Human Rights
FRE 324	Critical Race Studies in a Global Context
FRE 376	Postcolonial Franco-Maghrebi Literature: Exile, Margins,
GER 374	and Re-Territorialization
HIS 243	French Cinema: The New Wave
HIS 245	Strangers in Paradise?: Historical and Cultural Texts on Immigration into Switzerland
HIS 330	Worlds of Islam
HIS 345	Worlds of Judaism
ITA 373	East Asia, 1900 to the Present
MUS 213	Propaganda: A Modern History
MUS 218	Italian Film and Society
POL 300	Classical Music in Film
PSY 220	Music and Politics: From the French Revolution to Communism

ART ECOLOGIES

Three of the following courses

BIO 310	Ecology
CLCS 250	Ecocritical Approaches to Film
CLCS 320	Culture, Class, Cuisine: Questions of Taste
CLCS 331	Narrative Ecologies: The Uses of Environmental Humanities
CLCS 372	Tales of Catastrophe
COM 235T	Pizza, Spaghetti and Other Stories: Food Journalism and Culture
ENV 200	Understanding Environmental Issues

ENV 210	Natural Disasters, Catastrophes, and the Environment
ENV 240	Environment and Health
ENV 372	Sustainability Science
PSY 315	Environmental Psychology
SJS 100	Sustainability and Social Justice: Ethics, Equality, and Environments

ART INDUSTRIES

Three of the following courses

BUS 108	Arts, Luxury, and Experiences
BUS 135	International Business
BUS 136	Marketing in a Global Context
BUS 235T	Corporate Social Responsibility
BUS 251	Sustainable Luxury Management
BUS 274	Brand Management
BUS 383	Digital Marketing and Web Analytics
COM 201	Fundamentals of Media Studies and Criticism
COM 225T	Technologized Bodies: Mobile ICTs in the City
COM 230T	Communication, Fashion, and the Formation of Taste (Italy)
COM 295	Media Consumption, Fashion, and Identity
COM 330	The Digital Innovation and Media Strategies for a New Consumer Culture
FAS 100	Introduction to Fashion Studies
MUS 216	A History of Opera: From Orpheus to West Side Story
STA 107	Introduction to Digital Photography
STA 117	Introduction to Digital Video Production
STA 200	Computer Graphics in Advertising
STA 207	Intermediate Digital Photography
STA 217	Intermediate Digital Video Production
STA 300	Computer Graphics in Advertising, Advanced
STA 307	Advanced Digital Photography
STA 317	Advanced Digital Video Production

SENIOR SEMINAR — 3 credits

AHT 495	Senior Seminar in Art Histories, Ecologies, Industries

CAPSTONE COURSE — 3 credits

AHT 497	Art Histories, Ecologies, Industries Senior Project
AHT 498	Art Histories, Ecologies, Industries Internship
AHT 499	Art Histories, Ecologies, Industries Thesis

*The remaining credits required to complete the degree are fulfilled through additional **interdisciplinary electives,** allowing students to explore courses across Franklin's academic offerings.*

CLICK HERE TO **LEARN MORE** ABOUT THE MAJOR

3-YEAR OPTION

This major is also available as a three-year accelerated bachelor's degree for students who qualify for advanced standing based on their high school academic credentials. Students admitted with 30 U.S. credits of advanced standing receive a head start on their university studies, allowing them to complete their degree in three years.

GET TO KNOW OUR FACULTY



JOHANNA FASSL
Professor and Program Director, Art History and Visual Communication



GABRIEL GEE
Professor, Art History and Visual Communication

ACADEMIC TRAVEL

EXPERIENCE THE PLACES YOU STUDY

Academic Travel courses allow students to learn beyond the classroom by exploring real-world environments alongside knowledgeable and passionate professors, turning travel destinations into immersive, living classrooms.

EXPLORE SOME MAJOR-RELATED ACADEMIC TRAVELS



AHT 222T DESIGN STUDIES
Examine the histories and meanings behind iconic designs from architecture to fashion, and discover how objects become cultural symbols. Develop your own design prototype through a creative, interdisciplinary design-thinking process.

AHT 226T GARDENS AND ART - ITALY
Uncover the history and artistry of gardens as reflections of culture, philosophy, and the natural world. Study design traditions and contemporary interpretations through immersive visits to historic and modern gardens in Rome.

AHT 257T ARCHITECTURE: HISTORY, THEORY, ECOLOGY, DESIGN
Learn more about the history and cultural impact of architecture, from antiquity to contemporary urban design. Students examine architectural styles, materials, theories, and sustainable practices, while considering how the built environment shapes society, human experience, and the natural world.



AHT 263T ART AND FOOD
Explore the connections between art and food, from historical representations to contemporary practices that use food as material and subject. Students examine food's social, cultural, and environmental dimensions through artistic perspectives, with visits and workshops during the Academic Travel component in France.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ACADEMIC TRAVEL AND EXPLORE OUR COURSES

WHY CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

Dual Accreditation
United States (MSCHE) & Switzerland (Swiss Accreditation Council)

Residential Campus
with 6 residence halls

350+ Students representing
55+ Countries
8K+ Alumni Community

Academic Travel
once a Semester for Experiential Learning

19 Majors
1 Master
(Master of Arts in Sustainability and Transformation)

Language
Programs fully taught in English

Small Class Sizes
with 16 students on average; 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio

Career-Ready Graduates
75% of Franklin students secure full-time employment within 6 months of graduating; 95% within 12 months.



HOW TO APPLY

1. **Online Application**
   Apply online through our **website** or **Common App.**
2. **Academic Transcripts**
   Submit at least 3 years of High School transcripts.
3. **Personal Statement**
   Share what motivates you, the experiences that have shaped you, and the goals you hope to achieve.
4. **Recommendation Letter**
   The recommendation letter can come from a teacher, counselor, or other staff member who is well acquainted with your academic profile.
5. **English Proficiency (if required)**
   If your studies were not in English, submit a TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo.
6. **WELCOME TO FRANKLIN**

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Write to our counselors at **admissions@fus.edu** or visit **www.fus.edu**