

Visual Arts Admission

Overview:

- Many Different Programs
 - BFA: Spend about 75% of time in art, 25% in academics
 - BA: More traditional college, but still very focused
 - Dual Degree vs Double Major
 - Arts conservatories, arts programs within universities, dual degree programs, strong departments within more traditional colleges

Things to consider:

- Do they have a foundation year or do applicants apply directly to program of choice? Does that matter?
- What area of arts interests you the most? Does this school offer that program?
- What does their internship placement look like?
- What does their career placement look like?
- How updated are their facilities? Do they use the best technology?
- Think about their faculty – are they working professionals?
- Can you double major/study other disciplines?
- Usually around two arts recommendations are required (always one)
- Consider attending a summer program
 - Most arts schools have intensive programs – great way to build up a portfolio and be on campus

Portfolio and Application Overview:

- Many art schools have early scholarship deadlines and more merit aid than traditional colleges
- Portfolio: typically 12-20 pieces exhibiting a variety of media and themes
- Sometimes a sketchbook is required
- Range: assignment-based, self-directed, and/or collaborative
- Avoid work that copies photographs or pictures or follows a grid system
- Avoid work that is a direct replica of another artist's work
- Should include work from direct observation
- Should be work from within the past two years if possible
- Often a writing component to explain pieces or a theme
- Artist Statement is very important
- Most schools use SlideRoom for virtual portfolios
- Getting feedback on work is critical – attend Portfolio Day
- 'Home tests' are increasingly popular and very time-consuming

Resources:

- Peterson's College Guide to Visual Arts Majors
- NACAC Performing and Visual Arts Fairs (October/November)
- National Portfolio Day (October/November)

Strong Visual Arts Schools

RISD (dual degree with Brown)
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
Parsons School of Design
Pratt Institute
Maryland Institute College of Art
School of the Museum of Fine Arts (dual degree with Tufts University)
Art Institute of Boston (dual degree with Lesley University)
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Savannah College of Art and Design
Otis College of Art and Design
California Institute of the Arts
Fashion Institute of Technology
Cleveland Institute of Art
Kansas City Art Institute
Cooper Union
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (dual degree with University of Pennsylvania)
Cornish College of Art
Academy of Art University
Art Center College of Design
San Francisco Art Institute
Champlain College
Carnegie Mellon University
Washington University of St Louis
New York University
Boston University
Ithaca College

Abroad

Slade School of Art
Central St. Martins College of Art
Edinburgh College of Art
Chelsea College of Art and Design
Parsons Paris
Wimbledon College of Art
Glasgow School of Art