

MUSEUM STUDIES, MASTER OF ARTS

MA in Museum Studies (<https://advanced.jhu.edu/academics/graduate/ma-museum-studies/>)

To prepare current and future museum professionals to be the visionary leaders of museums in contemporary society, Johns Hopkins University offers an innovative Master of Arts in Museum Studies program. The format of the program itself—offered almost fully online—looks to the future. As an online program, we can offer the expertise of highly regarded professors and museum professionals from around the world, innovative virtual field trips, and global resources from a wide array of museums brought together in new and exciting ways. An international student body provides diverse perspectives and experiences in a dynamic online learning environment.

Museums are more relevant today than ever before. They are responsible for cultural stewardship and serve as a gathering place for communities; a space for reflection, interaction, participation, and learning (onsite and online); and act as an agent of social change. New demands and challenges are emerging in every aspect of the museum landscape. Innovations in information and communication technologies are being integrated into the core strategies of the museum. Museums are increasing in number, expanding in size, and attracting more diverse audiences every day. The museums of the 21st century need leaders with the knowledge and skills to face these challenges and who possess a vision for the future.

This program aims to provide a perspective on the theory and practice of museums in a changing technological, social, and political environment for current and future museum professionals. It emphasizes the role of technology as a pervasive aspect in today's museum; examines new models of education, exhibition, and business strategies; and explores the role of the museum in a global society and as an agent of social change.

We welcome students interested in all types of museums, including history, technology, science, art, special topic or themed museums, historic sites, national parks, and zoos, and those interested in collections and exhibitions for corporations, government agencies, and private organizations.

Admissions Criteria for all Advanced Academic Programs (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/advanced-academic-programs/enrollment-services/admission/>)

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the materials and credentials required for all programs, the Master of Arts in Museum Studies also requires:

- **Resume**
- **Statement of Purpose:** This 750-word statement should describe how your academic and professional experiences have led to your decision to pursue a career in the museum field and how this

museum studies degree will help you succeed in your goals in the museum profession. If you have worked for a museum in any capacity, please incorporate your experience into your statement. Your statement will be reviewed for content, organization, and writing style.

- **Recommendations:** Two letters of recommendation that verify professional and/or academic accomplishment.

Program Requirements

Students must take a total of ten courses:

- One required core course
- Four customizable core courses
- Five elective courses

Code	Title	Credits
Core Course - Required:		3
AS.460.610	Two-Week Onsite Seminar ¹	
Core Courses - Customizable		12
Select one of the following:		
AS.460.601	Exploring Museum Professions	
AS.460.602	Museums in the Digital Age	
Select three of the following:		
AS.460.604	Introduction to Museum Education	
AS.460.606	Exhibition Strategies	
AS.460.608	The Business of Museums	
AS.460.611	History & Philosophy of Museums	
AS.460.621	Museum Evaluation and Audience Research	
AS.460.666	Collection Management	
Electives		15
Select five of the following:		
AS.460.615	Museums and Community Engagement	
AS.460.618	Museum Controversies: Ethical Issues in Museums	
AS.460.619	Museums, Race, and Inclusion	
AS.460.620	Accessibility in the Museum	
AS.460.622	Evaluation Projects and Practice	
AS.460.628	Architecture of Museums	
AS.460.630	Exhibition Design, Construction, and Documentation	
AS.460.632	Practice of Public History	
AS.460.633	Conservation-Restoration: A 21st Century Approach	
AS.460.635	Curatorship: Principles and Practices	
AS.460.636	Living Collections	
AS.460.637	Curating Online Exhibitions and Experiences	
AS.460.638	Preservation of Analog and Digital Photographs	
AS.460.639	Material Culture and the Modern Museum	
AS.460.640	Educational Programming for Museum Audiences	
AS.460.649	Shaping Reality: Immersive Technologies in the Museum	
AS.460.655	Expanding Roles of Museum Marketing and Communications	
AS.460.657	Fundamentals of Museum Fundraising	

AS.460.663	Social Media Strategies for Museums
AS.460.665	Introduction to Archives
AS.460.667	Collection Management Systems
AS.460.668	Cataloging Museum Collections: History, Standards, and Applications
AS.460.670	Digital Preservation
AS.460.671	Foundations of Digital Curation
AS.460.672	Managing Digital Information in Museums and Archives
AS.460.673	Digital Curation Certificate Internship
AS.460.674	Research/Capstone in Digital Curation
AS.460.675	Leadership of Museums
AS.460.683	Project Management in Museums
AS.460.684	Museum Finance and the Economy
AS.460.685	Private Collectors, Collections, and Museums
AS.460.686	Culturally Specific Museums
AS.460.687	Provenance Research: Connecting Histories
AS.460.690	Science, Society, and the Museum
AS.460.691	Innovation and the Modern Museum
AS.460.750	Museum Internship
AS.460.752	Museums in a Changing Time: Virtual Seminar
AS.460.755	Museum Projects

Total Credits **30**

1 Waiver Option: Students unable to participate in the onsite seminar must enroll in the virtual seminar option (AS.460.752 Museums in a Changing Time: Virtual Seminar) to fulfill related components of the MA degree requirement. This course is offered during the 15-week fall and spring semesters. Students may also request a waiver to substitute the Cultural Heritage Management Seminar (AS.465.708) for the Museum Studies seminar .

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Master of Arts in Museum Studies program should be able to:

- Understand the roles and responsibilities of museums and museum practitioners in changing times.
- Develop practical skills in museum work, including communication, collaboration, and planning.
- Generate solutions to current challenges facing museums.
- Analyze museum practices, theories, and methodologies through the lens of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion.
- Analyze the intersection of museum practice and technology.