

# POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN VISUAL STUDIES

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## Why choose us?

The Department of Visual Arts is part of a University with a strong commitment to develop research expertise across a broad spectrum of academic disciplines. This research infrastructure allows us to provide cutting edge knowledge and academic training. We are currently the only department in South Africa to offer undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in Visual Studies, which combine aspects of popular culture, cultural studies, visual culture studies, art history and media/communication studies. Visual studies at a post-graduate level will equip you with valuable skills for the competitive marketplace, and will also enrich your experience of the visual landscape around you. We are committed to developing your research skills, ad will encourage you to pursue topics of your own choice; our focus lies in fostering research that reflects critically on contemporary South African visual culture. Modes of tuition are selected to meet the specific needs of students, and e-teaching is combined, where appropriate, with lecture sessions, discussion classes, seminars, and guided self-study. You will be given individual supervision for your Honour's research paper, Master's dissertation and Doctoral thesis.





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#### **BA (Hons) Visual Studies**

The Honours course in Visual Studies is a one-year post-graduate degree. There are four compulsory modules and two elective modules. You may choose your own topic for your research paper. Possible areas for independent research may include South African cultural myths and icons, visual image and ideology, gender and visual culture, digital culture, social media and online identities. Please note that research topics are dependant on the supervisors available and their field of expertise.

#### Compulsory modules

KGK 751 Methods and teaching of research

VKK 755 Research

VKK 751 Key texts in visual culture

#### Elective modules

VKK 752 Cross-media visual and digital scholarship

VKK 753 Visual archiving and curating

#### Admission requirements

To be admitted to the Honours course in Visual Studies, you must have completed either a BA (Visual Studies) degree, or a BA degree with 3 years of Visual Cultures studies or Art History. An appropriate degree in subjects such as Communication, Journalism, Film and Media Studies, Cultural Studies, Popular Culture, Publishing or Multimedia can also be considered. A final year average mark in your third year modules of at least 65% for your first degree is required for admission to the Honours programme.

### **MA Visual Studies**

You are free to choose your own area of research for the MA in Visual Studies, and we recommend that you concentrate on an aspect of South African visual culture. You may choose to pursue a more historically-orientated topic, or you can focus on a contemporary issue that you would like to investigate in-depth. Please note that research topics are dependent on the supervisors available and their field of expertise. The MA in Visual Studies requires you to submit a dissertation on an approved topic. You will receive individual supervision during the course of your study.

#### Admission requirements - MA Visual Studies (cont)

To be admitted to the MA course in Visual Studies, you are required to have completed either a BA (Hons) Visual Studies degree, or a BA degree with four years of Visual Culture Studies, or an appropriate post-graduate degree in subjects such as Communication, Journalism, Film and Media Studies, Cultural Studies, Popular Culture, Publishing or Multimedia. You must have obtained at 65% in your previous degree to be admitted. Please submit a complete academic record and recent CV, and a written research proposal of the planned dissertation to the Departmental Research Committee.

#### **PhD Visual Studies**

For the Doctorate in Visual Studies you are required to submit a thesis on an approved topic that makes an original contribution to the field. You are required to deliver an oral defence of the thesis, and must also publish an academic journal article before the degree is awarded. Please note that research topics are dependent on the supervisors available and their field of expertise.

#### Admission requirements

To be admitted to the PhD in Visual Studies, you need an appropriate Master's degree and must have obtained at least 65% in it. Please submit a complete academic record and recent CV, and a written research proposal of the planned thesis to the Departmental Research Committee.

#### **Bursaries**

The University of Pretoria offers a variety of excellent bursaries for post-graduate students. To find out more about them, please consult the University of Pretoria bursary office at (012) 420-2846.

Visit our website www.up.ac.za/visualart/ under Postgraduate Studies for further information. You can apply online at www.up.ac.za/apply