



Nava Messas Waxman, PhD candidate

Shared View (2022)
Immersive screendance installation: multi channel projection, moving image, objects, and sound

MFA/PhD Student Handbook 2023 – 2024

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN **Visual Art**

Graduate Program in Visual Art
AMPD | School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design



Welcome Message from Prof. Nina Levitt Graduate Program Director

It is my pleasure to welcome new students and returning students in our Graduate Program in Visual Art at York University. My colleagues and I are looking forward to engaging with you about your practice and many facets of contemporary art. Your involvement in the graduate program will be intense, productive, and rewarding.

The MFA & PhD programs offer candidates the context in which to develop a well-articulated and informed body of work and to enhance their theoretical knowledge. In addition, lasting friendships and professional connections are forged in this diverse and tightly knit artistic community. Some of you will have an opportunity to teach in our undergraduate program—great experience if you are considering a career in academia.

Graduates of our programs have an established history of contributing to the contemporary Canadian art scene. Our students are recipients of numerous awards including the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Canadian Graduate Scholarship, the CIBC Fine Arts Graduate Award, and the Samuel Sarick Purchase Award. A significant number of alumni continue to achieve national and international success as artists, curators, and educators.

Working closely with our studio and art history faculty who serve on your supervisory committees, you will be engaging with, reflecting upon, and enriching your practice-based research. Our programs are part of a vibrant intellectual culture within the larger university that can lead to unique and creative dialogue between disciplines. I encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful academic community by reaching out to faculty in our department, other AMPD departments and the wider York community for studio visits and/or to join your committee (2nd year MFA and PhDs).

The Graduate Seminar, Methods in Practice-Based Research, two theory courses and the annual Goldfarb Summer Institute form the core of the first year curriculum. The intensive Summer Institute in 2023, *Border Forms: Redrawing Lines* was taught by VAAH faculty Tammer El-Sheikh and Natasha Bissonnauth. In addition, some students can take courses in the joint MBA / MFA program, drawing upon combined resources of the Schulich School of Business and the Visual Art Graduate Program.

Throughout the year, there will be many guest lectures and studio visits with artists and curators from the local art community and beyond. While continuing your art practice

and undertaking the required coursework, you can take advantage of your private studio, as well as area-specific facilities including Photography, Print Media, and Sculpture.

Many PhD Comprehensive and Dissertation exhibitions are held in our galleries on campus or off campus throughout the year and many MFA thesis exhibitions are held in our galleries or off campus during the month of April—an exciting finale to the MFA program!

This Handbook provides useful information pertaining to all aspects of your program. We will discuss the important milestones in your program during the first semester and send regular emails about deadlines and other opportunities including special events, scholarships and awards. In the meantime, please familiarize yourself with this Handbook and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Wishing you a great and productive year ahead!

Nina Levitt



Laura Grier, PhD candidate
Dene Gamer Gloves, 2023
Digital image

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Getting Started

This handbook provides essential information for all graduate level students in Visual Arts. It outlines the history and objectives of the MFA and PhD programs, enrollment, registration, supervision guidelines, and other useful information such as, scholarships, finances, contact information, etc. Its purpose is to facilitate a successful candidacy toward the MFA / PhD degrees.

Information provided in this handbook is supplementary to the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for 2023-2024 (hereafter designated as the FGS calendar). Every attempt has been made to make it as current as possible.

Program information can be found online at <http://www.yorku.ca/grads/>, look for Visual Arts MFA or PhD under "Programs." This links to the FGS calendar (program requirements pdf) as well as to the Visual Arts program website at <http://visual-arts.gradstudies.yorku.ca>

Before you can access York's online services, you MUST create a Passport York account. Your Passport York username and password authenticates you as a member of the York computing community. Login to <https://www.yorku.ca/uit/student-services/passwords-passport-york-access/> and select CURRENT STUDENTS. A Passport York account gives you access to a wide range of services. You can register, add/drop courses, view grades on-line, print receipts for tax purposes, etc. After you have created your Passport York account, proceed to creating a York e-mail address.

To activate your YU e-mail account go to <https://yuoffice.yorku.ca/> Follow the instructions for Office 365. Once created, future correspondence from the program will be sent via your York e-mail account.

After TA assignments are allocated, PhD Candidates will also be required to create a separate "staff" Passport York account in order to access class lists, grade books, etc. An employee number from York University HR department is required. This will be provided by the GPA in late Sept. Additional information is available on the CUPE 3903 site — <https://3903.cupe.ca/employee-ppy/>

If you encounter difficulties, contact the computing Help Desk, there is a live chat available during daytime hours from the computing website. The University Information Technology (UIT) Help Desk is the liaison between York University's central IT services and its users. It is the initial point of contact point for reporting technical problems, seeking solutions, and making routine requests for services. The principal purpose of the Help Desk is to provide quick resolution to inquiries related to IT services.

How to request access to this service?

By e-mail: write to helpdesk@yorku.ca

By phone: call 416-736-5800 (voicemail available outside of business hours).

By visiting the customer service counter: [William Small Centre - Computing Commons](#).

*In the summer, new students will be directed to return the NEW STUDENT INFORMATION form and a VOID personal cheque or a Direct deposit/account information bank form (PhD's only) to Dawn Burns, the Graduate Program Assistant (dburns@yorku.ca) in order to process September payroll by direct deposit. Failure to do so will result in processing delays. In the event your address, or any other information requested is unknown, please indicate this on the form and send once available. Please do not delay in submitting the form.



Rachael Grad, MFA2
After the Plague Party, 2022
Ink on paper, 36" x 94"

Members of the Visual Arts Graduate Program

Graduate Program Director (GPD) Room 251 GCFA

Nina Levitt
nlevitt@yorku.ca

Graduate Program Assistant (GPA) — 416.736.5533 | Room 255 GCFA

Dawn Burns
dburns@yorku.ca

Associate/Assistant Professors and Full Members

David Armstrong (Print Media)
darmstro@yorku.ca

Barbara Balfour (Print Media, Interdisciplinary, Theory)
bbalfour@yorku.ca (on sabbatical)

Marc Couroux (Sound, Video, Theory)
couroux@yorku.ca

Jessica Campbell (Drawing)
jcampb5@yorku.ca

Robyn Cumming (Photography)
rlc@yorku.ca

Michel Daigneault (Painting)
daigneau@yorku.ca

Janet Jones (Painting, Theory)
jjones@yorku.ca

Yam Lau (Painting, Drawing)
yamlau@yorku.ca

Marissa Largo (Print, New Media, Theory)
largo@yorku.ca

Nina Levitt (Photography, Installation)
nlevitt@yorku.ca

Archer Pechawis (Performance, Video)
pechaswis@yorku.ca

Brandon Vickerd (Sculpture)
bvickerd@yorku.ca

Graham Wakefield (Computational Arts)
grrrwaaa@yorku.ca

Holly Ward (Drawing, Sculpture)
hward@yorku.ca

Kevin Yates (Sculpture)
yates@yorku.ca

Emeritus

John Baturin (Photography)
baturin@yorku.ca

Michael Davey (Sculpture)
mdavey@yorku.ca

Katherine Knight (Photography)
kknight@yorku.ca

Nancy Nicol (Time-Based Art)
nnicol@yorku.ca

Nell Tenhaaf (Electronic, Digital Media)
tenhaaf@yorku.ca

Judith Schwarz (Sculpture)
jschwarz@yorku.ca

Yvonne Singer (Sculpture)
ysinger@yorku.ca

Associate Members of the Program

(can serve as in-program committee members)

John Greyson (Film)
filmgpd@yorku.ca

Mark David Hosale (Digital Media)
mdhosale@yorku.ca

Laura Levin (Film)
levin@yorku.ca

Michael Longford (Digital Media)
longford@yorku.ca

Janine Marchessault (Film)
jmarches@yorku.ca

Allyson Mitchell (Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies)
mail@allysonmitchell.com

David Cabianca (Design)
cabianca@yorku.ca

Graduate Students

Current Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

1st Year PhD

Shannon Garden-Smith
Sarah Mozafari

2nd Year PhD

Laura Grier
Nava Waxman

3rd Year PhD

Claire Greenshaw
Erica Stocking

4th Year PhD

Brendan Flanagan
Maegan Harbridge

5th Year PhD

John Ancheta
Annie Dunning
Ella Dawn McGeough

Current Master of Fine Arts (MFA)

INCOMING MFA1

Alessandra Abballe
Vladimir Kanic
Andria Keen
Jules Mills
Ananna Rafa
Paria Shahverdi
Zi Wang
Jasmine Yu

MFA 2

Sade Alexis
Torin Craig
Chanel DesRoches
Rachael Grad
Samantha Newton
Heather Rattray
Shannyn Reid
Veronica Spiljak



Ella Dawn McGeough, PhD candidate
dream-form_smoke and *site-form_foundation*, 2020
mixed media

MFA / PhD Introduction

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Degree in Visual Art: A Brief History

Launched in 1974, the York University MFA program in Visual Arts spans a history of over four decades. A number of important factors continue to define the program's strengths. These include an integration of theory and practice, openness to all media, up-to-date and advanced facilities, a supportive and well-established faculty, as well as opportunities for teaching and for exhibiting, financial support, and the program's close ties to the professional art community. All of this contributes to a rich and challenging learning experience for MFA students.

Aims and Objectives of the MFA Program

The overall aim of the MFA program is to provide graduate students the necessary challenges and opportunity to develop:

- A mature and critical studio practice that engages with contemporary art forms, practices, and ideas;
- A strong theoretical base in support of studio practice;
- A clear sense about future intentions and directions.

The MFA provides students with the necessary knowledge, experience, and opportunity for professional careers as practicing artists and/or educators. The program offers opportunities for:

- Dialogue with professional curators and practicing contemporary artists, critics and curators,
- Exhibitions;
- Teaching;
- Critical reflection and writing on practice.

On completion of the MFA, students should:

- Have developed a mature body of work that engages and contributes to contemporary practice on a professional level;
- Be able to articulate their ideas and intentions in both written and oral formats.
- Be able to research and practice independently.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in Visual Art at York: A Brief History

Inaugurated in 2008, York University's PhD in Visual Art is unique in Canada for its concentration on studio-based practice. It aims to place our graduates in the vanguard within their field, as exceptional artists and scholars. There is a growing trend toward PhD programs in visual arts with many successful established programs internationally, particularly in the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. The York PhD program is the first of its kind in Canada, in which all candidates are artists whose studio practice leads their research.

Aims and Objectives of PhD Program

The primary objective of the PhD in Visual Art is to provide opportunities for advanced independent research integrated within original studio practice, in all visual arts media. This four-year degree leads to both development as a professional artist and higher qualifications for university teaching positions. Participants in the program will develop new modes of artistic practice and research methodologies for integrating scholarly depth and art world professionalism. These objectives are achieved through a combination of coursework in the Visual Art program and in the university at large, and two public exhibitions of original work accompanied by contextualizing papers. Students must demonstrate maturity in research as recognized by the academic sector as well as by their peers in the art community. Supervisory committees in the program include artists, scholars, and art world professionals.

On completion of the PhD, students should:

- Have produced an informed and original body of studio work for critical engagement through exhibition in the art milieu (which includes engagement with other artists, curators, critics, and scholars);
- Be able to analyze, evaluate, and position their own studio practice within the context of current contemporary visual arts practices;
- Be able to integrate scholarly research and writing with the practice of art making, through an understanding of existing models for this integration (known as practice-based research).



Claire Greenshaw, PhD candidate
Second Life, 2022
 colour pencil on paper, 12"x14"

MFA / PHD Registration and Course Enrollment

MFA / PhD Registration Procedures

In accordance with faculty and program regulations and as confirmed by the program director, graduate level students **must maintain continuous registration**, including payment of applicable fees, in every term (Fall, Winter and Summer) up to and including the term in which all requirements for their program of study are successfully completed. Students, who fail to maintain continuous registration, including payment of applicable fees, will lose their status as full-time or part-time graduate students and will be withdrawn from their program of study. Students who have been withdrawn for failing to observe registration requirements may petition for reinstatement. <http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/student-status/registration/>

A student may petition for other permissible categories of registration: Leave of Absence, External Leave of Absence, No Course Available, or Maternity/Paternity Leaves of Absence, Elective Leave. See FGS website at <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/regulations/graduate-academic-petitions/> for petition forms.

Minimum Period of Registration

Master's students must register and pay fees for a minimum of the equivalent of five terms of full-time registration. Doctor of Philosophy students must register and pay fees for a minimum of the equivalent of six terms of full-time registration. Normal completion time in Visual Arts PhD is 11 terms including 3 summer terms.

Notice to All Students

By registering, you are considered to have accepted the terms of a contract with the University, which binds you to abiding by the regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. This contract is valid whether or not you have read the information on our website, or in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar.

Each year, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the information in the FGS Calendar, registration deadlines, FGS academic regulations as well as with any additional regulations of the Visual Arts graduate program.

Enrolling in Courses

Once you have completed the mandatory advising session with Nina Levitt Graduate Program Director (GPD) and Dawn Burns, Graduate Program Assistant (GPA), you can proceed with course enrollment. Advising appointments will be coordinated in the summer. Students are encouraged to register and enroll in fall and winter courses at the same time (details below).

Please note, as a graduate student, you are not assigned an "enrollment window" nor are you competing for spaces in courses with other students. Spaces in required courses are reserved for students admitted to the program. However, you must adhere to the deadlines for course enrollment outlined on the Faculty of Graduate Studies Website - <http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/student-status/important-dates/>

1. Registration and course enrollment is a two-step process, all accessible through the student portal on the Faculty of Graduate Studies Website – <http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/student-status/registration/> Simply click to ACCEPT THE FEES, and then ACCEPT THE TERMS for fall term and then log out and repeat the process for winter. You will then be prompted to verify your e-mail address. That's it! In March/April, you will be required to follow the same process for the summer term, regardless if you are enrolling in courses or not.

You must register and adhere to the deadlines established by the Faculty of Graduate Studies; otherwise, you will be subject to the \$200 late registration fee. <http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/student-status/important-dates/>

2. Once you have successfully registered, you can proceed to enrolling in courses. Log in to the Current Students page of the Faculty of Graduate Studies web site – <http://currentstudents.yorku.ca/> Click on Add/Drop courses. You require your Passport York username and password to access this information.

3. The complete list of university course offerings by session is available here: <https://apps5qa.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm>. Best to search by “subject” to retrieve the alpha-numeric catalogue number, e.g. D40F01, which is needed to successfully add courses. Specific courses such as “Directed Reading” require an approval form, signed by the GPD, and access/permission from the GPA before enrolling.

York Courses Web Site

Search Current Courses By...

- > **Subject**
- > Term
- > Course Title
- > Instructor
- > General Education Courses
- > eLearn Courses
- > After 6pm Courses
- > Weekend Courses
- > Advanced Search
- > View Active Course Timetables

My Class Schedule...

- > Plot My Timetable
- > Timetable Help

Exam Information...

SEARCH COURSE TIMETABLES

Search Current Courses by Subject

Session: Fall/Winter 2020-2021
Summer 2021

Subject:
 THST - Theatre Studies - (GS)
 TLSE - Teaching & Learning Seminar 1/2 - (ED)
 TRAN - Translation - (GL, GS)
 TRAS - Translation Studies - (GS)
 TXLW - Tax Law - (GS)
VISA - Visual Arts - (ED, GS, FA)
 WKLS - Work and Labour Studies - (AP)
 WMST - Womens Studies - (GS)
 WRIT - Writing - (AP)
 YSDN - York/Sheridan Design - (FA)

Search Courses

Deadline for Registration:

Fall 2023 term: August 20

Winter 2024 term: December 20

Summer 2024 term: TBD

Deadline to Enroll in Courses W/O Permission:

Fall 2023 term: September 22

Winter 2024 term: February 8

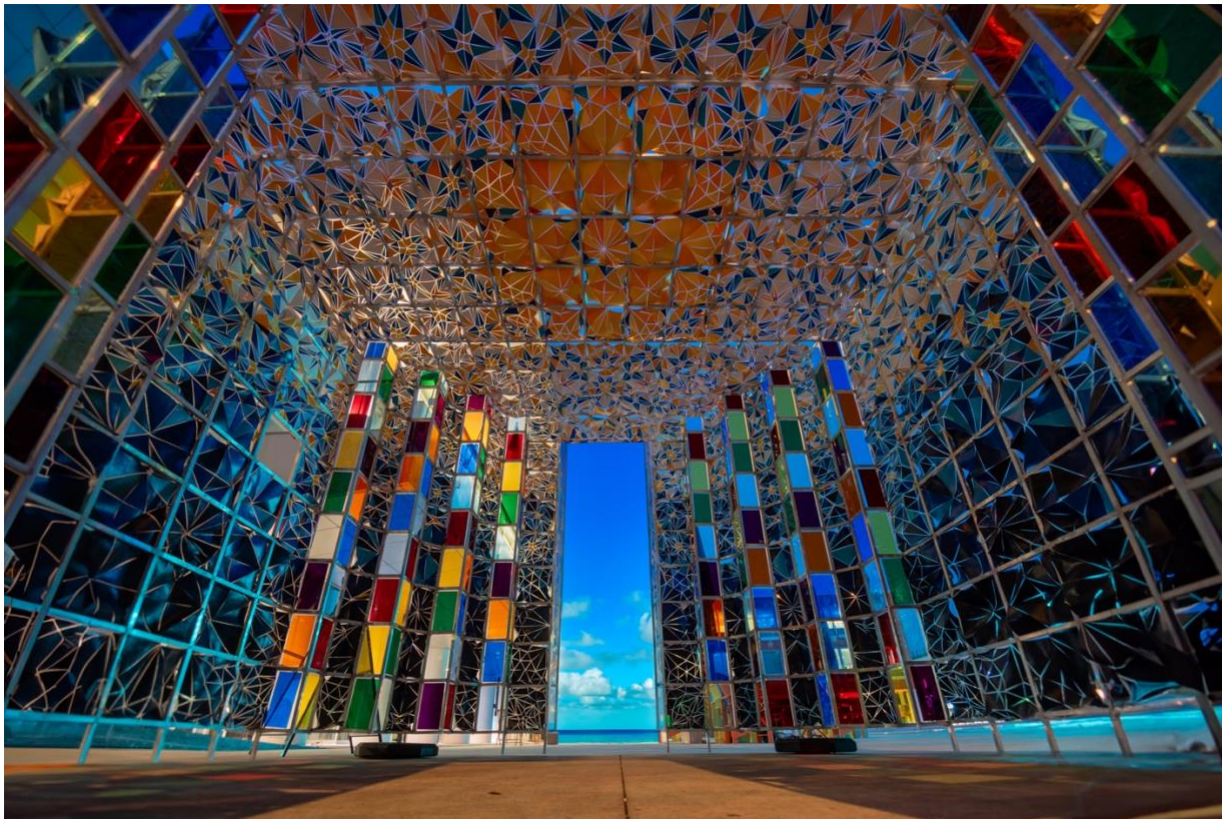
Summer 2024 term: TBD

MFA Degree Requirements

MFA Degree Requirements (see appendix “B” for short course descriptions)

The successful completion of 18 credits of course work is required to satisfy the VISA MFA program requirements.

Year 1 – Term 1 Fall 2023 (required)	Year 2 – Term 4 Fall 2024 (required)
GS/VISA 5600 3.0: Contemporary Theory in Visual Art	GS VISA 5640 3.0: Combined PhD/MFA Graduate Seminar (note the course number is different from Year 1 – Term 1)
GS VISA 5620 3.0: Combined PhD/MFA Graduate Seminar	
Year 1 – Term 2 Winter 2024 (required)	Year 2 – Term 5 Winter 2024
GS/VISA 5610 3.0: Theoretical Issues in Contemporary Art	No required course work; thesis writing/exhibition
GS VISA 5650 3.0: Methods in Practice-Based Research	
Year 1 - Term 3 Summer 2024** (required)	
GS/VISA 6020 3.0: Contemporary Visual Art Summer Institute	



Sara Mozafari, PhD candidate
Reliving Thousands of Suppressed Collective Memories, 2023
 textile, aluminum, plexiglass
 Photo Credit: Bangishimo

1st Year Required MFA Courses:

Year 1 - Fall 2023 (Term 1)

GS/VISA 5600 3.0 Contemporary Theory in the Visual Art

GS/VISA 5620 3.0 Combined PhD/MFA Graduate Seminar

In the Graduate Seminar, students engage with each other's work and that of members of the Toronto arts community, through presentations and discussions. Invited artists/curators/theorists present their work and conduct individual studio visits.

Year 1 – Winter 2024 (Term 2)

GS/VISA 5610 3.0 Theoretical Issues in Contemporary Art

GS/VISA 5650 3.0 Methods in Practice-Based Research

Year 1 - Summer 2024 (Term 3)

Joan and Martin Goldfarb Contemporary Summer Institute:

**GS/VISA 6020 3.0 and GS/VISA 6030 3.0 (cross-listed with GS ARTH 6020 3.0). The annual Contemporary Visual Art Summer Institute is a key facet of the program. Co-taught by studio and/or art history faculty, the course explores selected themes through a three-week residency with prominent national and/or international artists, critics and theorists. The guests will hold seminars, present public lectures, and conduct studio visits. It forms a network of professional relationships among Canadian and international researchers operating within and beyond fine arts university communities. Written work is required for this course.

The theme of the 2023 15th Annual Goldfarb Contemporary Summer Institute was *Borders Forms: Redrawing Lines* <https://visual-arts.gradstudies.yorku.ca/goldfarb-summer-institute/> facilitated by professors Tammer El-Sheikh and Natasha Bissonnauth, with a number of esteemed guests.

With approval from the GPD, graduate level students also have the option to enroll in a graduate level language course, or a course from another program, without paying additional tuition fees.

2nd Year MFA Courses:

Year 2 - Fall 2023 (Term 4)

GS/VISA 5640 3.0 Combined PhD/MFA Graduate Seminar

Year 2 - Winter 2024 (Term 5)

Students must register in the Winter 2022 term.

No course work; focus on thesis writing/exhibition.



Heather Rattray, MFA2
Spooning (still), 2022
B&W photograph

PhD Degree Requirements

PhD Course Requirements (see appendix “B” for short course descriptions)

The successful completion of 21 credits of course work is required to satisfy the VISA PhD program requirements.

Full-time doctoral students are expected to complete their coursework, graduate milestone examinations and dissertation proposal by end of Term 9.

Required Courses: Four (3.0 credit) graduate level courses, (12 credits total) in the first 6 terms, or two years of the program. Three additional 3.0 credit (9 credits total) elective courses are required to satisfy the course work requirement. Elective courses must be completed in terms 1 through 6 and can be taken from any program in the university including other fine arts graduate programs.

Year 1 – Term 1 Fall 2023 (required)	Year 2 – Term 4 Fall 2024*
GS VISA 5620 3.0: Combined PhD/MFA Graduate Seminar	No required course; open for elective course(s)
Year 1 – Term 2 Winter 2024 (required)	Year 2 – Term 5 Winter 2025
GS VISA 5650 3.0: Methods in Practice-Based Research	No required course; open for elective courses(s)
Year 1 - Term 3 Summer 2024** (required)	Year 2 – Term 6 Summer 2025** (required)
GS VISA 6020 3.0: Contemporary Visual Art Summer Institute	GS VISA 6030 3.0: Contemporary Visual Art Summer Institute



Mae Harbridge, PhD candidate
untitled (Entangled Terrain 1), 2023
acrylic and ink on canvas, 61 x 78 cm.

*Students can request permission to enroll in courses offered through the Ontario Visiting Graduate Student (OVGS) program – <http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/regulations/registration/#ovgs>

Contemporary Visual Art Summer Institute - **GS/VISA 6020 3.0 (required term 3) and GS/VISA 6030. 3.0 (required term 6) (cross-listed with GS ARTH 6020 3.0). The annual Contemporary Visual Art Summer Institute is a key facet of the program. Co-taught by studio and/or art history faculty, the course explores selected themes through a three- week residency with prominent international artists and theorists. The guests will hold seminars, present public lectures, and conduct studio visits. It forms a network of professional relationships among Canadian and international researchers operating within and beyond fine arts university communities. Written work is required for this course.

The theme of the 2023 15th Annual Goldfarb Contemporary Summer Institute was *Borders Forms: Redrawing Lines* <https://visual-arts.gradstudies.yorku.ca/goldfarb-summer-institute/> facilitated by professors Tammer El-Sheikh and Natasha Bisonnauth, with a number of esteemed guests.

Additional graduate courses are to be completed during the first six terms from any program in the university including other Fine Arts graduate programs (9 credits). These courses are meant to strengthen the theoretical / conceptual area(s) of each candidate, and to inform the development of the candidate's art practice. They will also provide the background for the candidate to write the written portion of the dissertation. In consultation with the Graduate Program Director and the candidate's pro tem supervisor, these graduate courses can be chosen from any area in the university, including the PhD in Art History and Visual Culture. Course approval form is required: <https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/student-status/enrolment/>



Anne Dunning, PhD candidate
Toad Touch, 2021
 cast bronze, 75cm x 75cm x 40cm each

MFA / PhD Studio Access

MFA Studios

Master's level students are granted studio access for the duration of the 5-term program. Currently there are 24 studios spaces, 4 are located in the sculpture studio/ 3 in the mezzanine area, and 19 located on the second, third and fourth floor above the Goldfarb Study Centre in CFA. Studio sizes vary. Each studio on the 3rd floor is approx. 150 square feet with white walls, some with natural light and/or halogen overhead lighting, concrete floors, a desk and chair.

All are equipped with LAN drops. On the third-floor level of the studio area is a common area equipped with a sink, kettle, refrigerator. Attached to the studios is room 338CFA, the graduate seminar room where the many classes will be held. Students are given keys and/ or an access card to the graduate studios and facilities for 24-hour access. YU-Card is also required for graduate-level access (see GENERAL INFORMATION).

Keys and access to the graduate areas may not be given to any non-community members. Anyone entering these spaces must be accompanied by the grad student who has approved access.

In year 1, masters level students are assigned to private studio space by the GPD. At the end of the first year (term 3), 1st students interested in relocating to another studio must make a written request with the GPD. Changes are subject to availability and approval.

Graduating students are responsible for cleaning and removing debris from their individual studio spaces and storage areas. Wall surfaces must be cleared, and holes must be plastered, sanded, and repainted, as required. Paint, brushes, and supplies are available in the supply room. *Studios must be vacated and all keys returned by April 30.

Students are expected to participate in the upkeep of the graduate area. Cleaning supplies are made available in the kitchenette area. If any supplies such as soap or paper towels need refilling, please inform the GPA. This is also the case for lights that need replacing. Once garbage bins are full, place directly outside the graduate area and caretaking will empty them.

Caretaking has been banned from the area due to problems because of artwork left in hallways and were considered garbage. Caretaking does go into the studio once every July to do an overall cleaning of the space.

Students are informed when this will take place so that artwork can be covered and protected from dust.

Please make an effort to be considerate to your fellow

graduate students. It cannot be stressed enough that this is a shared space. The use of toxic substances, the unsanitary disposal of chemicals and paints down the kitchen sink, and the continuous playing of loud music, will definitely NOT be appreciated or tolerated.

The kitchen/lounge is a common space and must be kept clean and food waste disposed in garbage provided. Please wash your dishes and keep the area clean.

Please keep in mind that grad studios are not soundproof! Students often hold crits and committee meetings in their studios so noise in other studios, and in the lounge and kitchen area affects everyone.



Chanel DesRoches, MFA2
Slinky, 2021
oil, oil stick, pastel & graphite on canvas, 68" x 78"

PhD Studios

In years two to four of study, each PhD candidate is given a private studio at York. In the first year, shared office space is arranged. Studio assignments are arranged by the GPD in consultation with students. In addition, candidates will have full access to all Department of Visual Art and Art History studio facilities (e.g., sculpture, print, photo, video, and sound) during their time in the PhD program.

Keys and access to the graduate studio areas may not be given to any non-community members. Anyone entering these spaces must be accompanied by the grad student who has approved access.

Students whose program of study extends beyond spring of PhD 4 (term 11) are required to maintain an independent studio space off campus, with shared office space on campus made available where possible.

Year 1 PhD Term 1-2-3 Fall/Winter/Summer	Year 2 PhD Term 4-5-6 Fall/Winter/Summer	Year 3 PhD Term 7-8-9 Fall/Winter/Summer	Year 4 PhD Term 10-11-12 Fall/Winter/Summer
Pro tem supervisor; Term 3 (beginning): 2 nd in-program member of supervisory committee established	Term 6 (beginning): Oral Comprehensive Examinations; final supervisory committee established	Term 7 (beginning): Dissertation proposal due Doctoral research	Doctoral research Term 11 or beginning of 12: completion of Dissertation Exhibition and Support Paper; oral examination
Office on campus and access to Visual Art studio facilities	Individual studio on campus (beginning early term 3) and access to Visual Art studio facilities	Individual studio on campus and access to Visual Art studio facilities	To end of term 11 only (winter term, year 4): individual studio on campus and access to Visual Art studio facilities



Shannon Garden-Smith, PhD candidate
Blinds II (diptych for University College), 2023 gelatin, jewelry, photo transfer, dyed blinds strings, 73.25" x 212.5"
 Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid

MFA Supervisory Procedures/ Progress Reports/ Thesis Proposal



First year MFA Supervisory committee (Objectives and Protocols)

The first year MFA supervision committee consists of two faculty supervisors assigned by the GPD. The objective of the first year committee is to foster and ensure a productive and informed studio practice leading to a successful thesis proposal by the MFA candidates at the end of the first year.

The supervision protocol requires first year MFA students to contact and arrange a minimum of two meetings each term with their supervisory committees. Additional meetings can be arranged if necessary. Duration of each meeting should be no less than one hour and can be extended if required. **Students are responsible for organizing and scheduling meetings with their supervisory committee.** Failure to arrange meetings may jeopardize the students' candidacy. During the meetings, students are expected to introduce

and discuss their work with the supervisory committee; receive advice and be challenged concerning their practice; demonstrate progress in both studio production and theoretical development.

A third meeting each term with two other faculty members is initiated by the GPD and scheduled by the students. This introduces four more faculty members to students, which is helpful for choosing second year committee members and in particular the second year supervisor – a process that should begin no later than early March. Students are responsible for arranging these two meetings as well, once they have the names of the faculty from the GPD at the beginning of the year. First year students can also independently meet faculty members by inviting them for studio visits.

Required: First Year MFA Progress Reports

Within a week after each supervisory committee meeting, students are required to submit an on-line report that serves as a document and summary of the meeting. In Section 1, describe what was discussed during the meeting. Be sure to also include your response to the meeting as well as any references or recommendations made by the committee. This is an academic document that provides critical reflections on the meeting in relation to students' studio production, and be integrated into the students' learning process. Include references and footnotes as needed. The MACH form can be found here <https://ampd.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=158665>

First Year MFA Thesis Proposal (Winter)

MFA students are required to submit a **draft** thesis proposal with a bibliography to their first year committee in advance of the last meeting of the second term (generally in March). The thesis proposal indicates the ideas and work that the student will explore in their second year, and provides direction for the summer term. It may include a synopsis of the thesis exhibition with a tentative exhibition title. The proposal should be 2 to 4 pages double-spaced including a bibliography (detailed information related to the structure/ composition of the proposal will be sent by the GPA closer to the due date). Once the first year supervisory committee has discussed and approved the proposal, it is then forwarded to the GPD with requests from the student for three members of the 2nd Year Committee

Second Year Progress Reports

Following the two meetings during the first term, the supervisor, in consultation with the other committee members submits a progress report to the GPD and GPA by January of the winter term. Any issues that affect progress toward completion must be noted in this report.

Upon completion of the final supervisory committee meeting, students are required to submit the Oral Examination information sheet (appendix A) to the Graduate Program office.

During the first year of the program and in consultation with their committee, 1st year students should be considering who to invite to be on their 2nd year committee. The **final request for committee members must be discussed with, and approved, by the GPD prior to submitting any forms to the Program office.** This is to insure faculty workload equity. See steps below

Second Year Committee

The objective of the second year committee is to assist students towards the production of a thesis exhibition and support paper that fulfills the requirements of the MFA degree. During the meetings, students are expected to demonstrate progress in both studio production and the support paper, and by the second term establish the date and location of the oral examination. Various deadlines regarding gallery booking, oral examination dates, etc. are communicated early in the second term and must be adhered to. In order to convocate in June, the thesis defense (held during the thesis exhibition) must be scheduled before the end of April.

The second year committee consists of **two faculty members** from the Studio sector (referred to also as in-program) – one member will be designated as “supervisor”, which should be clearly stated from the outset. **One faculty member** from Art History or from another York University department that is suitable, or **an artist** from the Toronto area (please note: independent artists are not compensated for this work).

Faculty Appointments

In order to serve on a thesis supervisory committee, individuals who hold academic or professional positions external to York University (including independent artists, visiting professors and/or adjunct faculty postdoctoral fellows), but whose expertise is relevant to the graduate program, must hold an Adjunct Appointment from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Although senior academic qualification (e.g. PhD or equivalent) and experience is desirable for Adjunct Membership, this is not essential and is largely contingent upon the nature of the specific program and activities within the program. Adjunct members may be permitted to serve on supervisory committees but

normally may not act as principal supervisor or co-supervisor of doctoral dissertations or master's theses. Adjunct membership is honorific and recognizes the cooperation with the Graduate Program in Visual Arts. An up-to-date CV from the member is required when submitting the **Supervisor & Supervisory Committee Approval Form (see below)**.

A recommendation for membership of a master's thesis supervisory committee is to be used when recommending the establishment of a supervisory committee, to add members to an incomplete committee, and to make changes to an existing committee. Final approval of supervisory committee rests with the Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Once the committee is approved, students are required to submit a signed **Supervisor & Supervisory Committee Approval Form** - <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/wp-content/uploads/sites/184/2021/03/supervisor-committee-approval.pdf> to the GPD before the end of term 2 (winter) for final approval.

2ND YEAR COMMITTEE STEPS

STEP 1:

Throughout your first year you should be considering possible members for your 2nd year committee. (See requirements above.) Research the practices of artists in the GTA, curators and Visual Art faculty to consider if they might be a good fit for your practice and research, and invite them for studio visits.

STEP 2:

By March of your first year, send potential committee members a draft of your Thesis Proposal. This will help them decide if they are willing to join your committee.

STEP 3:

Once you have met with potential committee members who have agreed to serve, email the GPD with the names of the desired committee members. Note that GPD approval of a faculty member from Visual Art is on a first-come-first-serve basis as they can only serve on a limited number of 2nd year committees.

STEP 4:

Once the GPD has approved your committee, complete the form and have your 2nd year committee sign the TD1 form. Return the form to the GPD/GPA.

MFA Thesis Proposal (TD1)

The MFA Thesis Proposal or **TD1** must be approved and signed by all three members of your **2nd year supervisory committee**. The **FINAL** copy, including ethics forms (TD2, if required) and TCPS ethics tutorial certificate (the latter is a tri-council tutorial that is done online) <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/thesis-and-dissertation/> and must be sent to the GPD for final approval and signature by MAY 29 (end of summer term 3). Failure to submit completed forms will result in delays. E-mail approval from your thesis supervisory committee members is acceptable in lieu of a signature.

Thesis Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree is a two-year full-time program (5 terms). In order to be qualified for the degree, you must produce a thesis that consists of two components: a thesis exhibition and a thesis support paper. A successful completion and oral examination of both components qualifies the candidate for the MFA degree.

Thesis Exhibition and Venue

The thesis exhibition is a solo exhibition that presents the MFA candidate's creative work in a cohesive form. The exhibition must demonstrate the candidate's qualification to be a part of the professional community of contemporary art practitioners. This exhibition and accompanying support paper are the culmination of this degree. The Gales Gallery located in Accolade West and The Special Projects Gallery located in the Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts are reserved from the third week of March through the last week of April exclusively for MFA thesis exhibitions. Space will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis with the GPD. Although many of the thesis exhibitions take place on campus, MFA candidates are also encouraged to set up their exhibitions at other venues with approval from the thesis supervisory committee. Possible venues may be artist run centres, commercial galleries or venues that are unconventional but appropriate for the work. Any incurred expenses, such as rental fees, are the student's responsibility.

MFA Thesis Support Paper

The support paper should be 20-30 pages (approx. 5,000-8,000 words). The MFA program regards the support paper as an important supplement to studio practice. FGS guidelines must be followed: <http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/thesis-dissertation/>

The most effective form for the thesis support paper may or may not be that of a standard research paper. Past examples of other creative responses, (some of them have received university-wide recognition with the FGS thesis award nomination) can be signed out through the GPA, Dawn Burns. Recent thesis papers are available online through the Scott Library.

MFA Oral Examination and Thesis Support Paper Submission Dates

To be considered for June convocation, your oral examination and exhibition must be completed on or before the end of April, at the absolute latest.

No later than three weeks before the scheduled oral examination, the student is responsible for ensuring that all members of the exam committee receive an e-copy of the thesis, unless prior approval has been received for the submission of a paper copy. (If paper copies are submitted for the oral exam, the pagination and formatting of each page of the paper copies and the e-copies must match). No revisions to the paper can be made during this three-week period, as all members are reviewing and commenting on the same copy (i.e. all revisions to the paper must be reviewed and approved by the thesis supervisory committee before the 3-week deadline).

Upon the successful completion of the oral examination, FGS will instruct you to electronically upload your thesis (ETD)—see page 21 (bound copies are no longer produced by the university).

PhD Supervisory Committee/ Progress Reports

PhD Supervisor and Supervisory Committee

To enable each student to assume the program of work from the time of his/her entry, a *pro tem* supervisor is assigned in relation to the research interests as well as the media focus of the candidate. The *pro tem* supervisor guides the student in forming the supervisory committee and navigating the university. Recommendation for membership of a doctoral dissertation supervisory committee is formally initiated by the graduate program director via submission of a Supervisor & Supervisory Committee Approval Form.

Each student is required to declare a two-person committee by the end of the second term, consisting of a supervisor and a second member who are both members of the Graduate Program in Visual Arts (full or associate members, as listed above – assistant members cannot act as primary supervisors). A recommendation for membership of a doctoral dissertation committee is to be used when recommending the establishment of a supervisory committee, to add members to an incomplete committee, and to make changes to an existing committee. Final approval of supervisory committee membership recommendations rests with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The final selection of members must be approved by the graduate program director.

A third committee member from the art world community, i.e., an artist, curator, or critic, is selected and added to the committee by the end of the fifth term (second term of PhD II). They will be a member of the comprehensive examination committee and continue as a member of the supervisory committee for the final two years of the program. The role of the third committee member is flexible and depends on available time. The minimum expectations are as follows: one committee meeting per term, with the whole committee; reading and comments on the dissertation support paper in its final stages before defense, unless closer participation in studio visits and the writing process is desired. (See page 14 – Faculty Appointments).

Progress Reports

In consultation with at least one member of the supervisory committee, the supervisor is required to submit a PhD progress report to the GPD for review on an annual basis, by May 30th. The report should be initiated by the candidate. The form is available on the Visual Arts Website - <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/visual-art/current-students/guidelines-policies-forms/> **This report must be completed, reviewed and signed before the student can register for the following term.**

PhD Comprehensive Exam

Comprehensive Examination/Exhibition

In addition to course work (see page 10), the program requires a Comprehensive Examination by the end of PhD 2 (term 6) comprised of a self-curated survey exhibition of the candidate's work and a 20-30-page paper that positions the work in relation to contemporary art practices and theoretical considerations. The examination normally takes place at the exhibition venue. It is expected that this examination will enable the student to reflect on the nature of their work to date and project the direction of their upcoming work, to be detailed in the dissertation proposal. A thorough bibliography, reflecting the fields or domains of research, and comprising artists' works in addition to books and articles, is required. Upon completion of any required revisions, a copy of the comprehensive paper should be sent to the GPD and GPA.

The oral examination relates both to the candidate's work/statement and those of a more general nature arising from the Summer Institute. It is expected that this examination enables the student to reflect on the nature of their past work and to formulate the direction of their upcoming work that is detailed in their dissertation proposal.

Leading up to the comprehensive exam, PhD candidates should work closely with their supervisor and internal committee member to develop the paper and bibliography. Four weeks before the oral examination, the paper and bibliography should be ready to distribute to the committee (two internal committee members and one external member). This allows the committee to read and reflect upon the paper, as well as formulate their questions for the oral exam.



Erica Stocking, PhD candidate
MotherGinger Promenade, 2023
performance

PhD Dissertation Proposal/ Dissertation Defense & Exhibition

Dissertation Proposal

Following the comprehensive exam, a dissertation proposal should be submitted by the end of the sixth term (or at the latest, the beginning of the seventh term). The dissertation proposal will be approximately fifteen pages in length, with the addition of a bibliography. It outlines the nature of the proposed studio work and the theoretical /critical areas that inform it, through a survey of the pertinent texts. It describes how these ideas integrate with the studio work and proposes a series of research questions that will be considered in the final dissertation. It proposes a venue for the upcoming dissertation exhibition. Form TD1 is to be completed by the candidate, including securing the approval of all committee members, and then submitted with the proposal to the graduate program office. The TD1 form is available on the FGS website at:

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/thesis-and-dissertation/doctoral-dissertation/>

this form also outlines ethics approval requirements. Note that use of human participants in the dissertation work requires additional forms and approvals. Please see <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/thesis-and-dissertation/research-ethics/> for additional information.

PhD Dissertation & Exhibition

By the end of the 12th term (approx. year 4) students must orally defend a dissertation that presents their research in the form of a significant solo exhibition, accompanied by a dissertation paper of a minimum of 100 pages. A key criterion for assessing the dissertation exhibition and paper in the final oral examination is their contribution to practice-based scholarship, which includes (but is not limited to) the following objectives:

- To formulate innovative research questions in the context of practice-based research.
- To demonstrate studio-based conceptual, formal, and technical knowledge in order to produce an original body of work and to develop an innovative art practice, of a caliber that is recognized by the art milieu locally and/or internationally

Students will also integrate an interdisciplinary context for art practice (i.e. its relation to other fields of knowledge such as art history, philosophy, science, political activism, feminism, etc.) into practice-based research. They will:

- Exhibit artworks professionally and engage in a critical dialogue with other contemporary artists and researchers.
- Clearly articulate and realize the role of writing within practice-based research.
- Communicate in visual, oral, and written modes that engage in professional and critical discourse in visual arts.

Before the PhD Oral Examination can be convened; a majority of the dissertation examining committee members must agree that the dissertation is examinable. The graduate program director shall poll the members of the examining committee one week before the scheduled date for the oral examination. If the candidate's dissertation does not receive a majority vote, the members of the examining committee who do not agree that the dissertation is examinable are required to give their reasons in writing to the candidate, the supervisor, and the dean within one week after the poll. In such cases, the oral examination shall be postponed for a period not to exceed one year. However, the student has the right to insist that the oral examination proceed as planned.

PhD Oral Examination - Approval of Date, Time, and Location

In consultation with the student and the members of the exam committee, the graduate program director will recommend the date, time, and location of an oral exam via submission of a Recommendation for Oral Examination Form: <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/registration-enrolment/fgs-forms/#oral-exam>

Oral examinations for doctoral dissertations shall be held normally no less than 20 business days from the date on which e-copies of the completed dissertation, approved by the supervisory committee, are sent to each member of the examining committee. The student must be registered as active for the term in which the oral exam is scheduled to take place.

No later than five weeks before the scheduled oral examination, the student is responsible for ensuring that all members of the exam committee receive an e-copy of the dissertation, unless prior approval has been received for the submission of a paper copy. (If paper copies are submitted for the oral exam, the pagination and formatting of each page of the paper copies and the e-copies must match). No revisions to the paper can be made during this period, as all members are reviewing and commenting on the same copy (i.e. all revisions to the paper must be reviewed and approved by the thesis supervisory committee before the deadline).

For a multimodal dissertation, it is the student's responsibility to arrange for the exam committee to view/engage in the non-written component.

Use of Audio-Visual Equipment at Oral Exams

The use of audio-visual (AV) equipment at oral exams is governed by the following principles:

- AV equipment may be used for oral exam presentations but the Faculty of Graduate Studies is not responsible for ordering supplies or equipment (e.g., overhead projectors).
- Audiotaping or videotaping of oral exams is not permitted.

Doctoral Dissertation Oral Exam Evaluation Guidelines and Reporting of Results

Evaluation Guidelines:

- Doctoral dissertations submitted by students in partial fulfillment of degree requirements must be successfully defended at oral examinations. The oral examination will centre on the dissertation.
- The dissertation oral examination requirement is met if one of the following situations exists:
 - If the committee accepts the dissertation with no revisions; or,
 - If the committee accepts the dissertation with specified revisions
- Specified revisions could range from typographical errors or changes of a minor editorial nature, to specified insertions or deletions, which do not radically modify the development/argument of the dissertation. The committee must specify such changes with precision. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure that all such changes are made, and the Dean's representative will confirm that this is the case. Specified revisions must be completed within six months of the date of the oral examination.
- In cases where there are no more than two votes for major revision or one vote for failure, then specified revisions are expected.
- A dissertation is referred for major revision if any of the following conditions exist: the committee agrees that the dissertation requires substantive changes in order to be acceptable; or,
 - There are two votes for failure; or,
 - There is one vote for failure plus a minimum of one vote for major revision; or,
 - There are at least three votes for major revision.

In the cases of major revision, one of the following procedures, agreed upon by the committee before the examination is adjourned, must be used to finalize the oral results:

- The committee will reconvene within twelve months to continue the oral examination; or,
- The revised dissertation will be circulated within twelve months to all members, who will inform the Dean's representative whether they feel the stipulated requirements have been met.
- Detailed reasons for referring pending major revisions must be supplied in writing by the Chair to the Dean, the program director and the student concerned within 10 business days.
- After an adjournment and when the major revisions have been completed, the dissertation is failed if there are two or more votes for failure. A dissertation cannot be referred for major revisions more than once and no further adjournment is permitted. In the event of failure, detailed reasons must be supplied in writing by the Chair to the Dean, program director, and student within 10 business days.
- A dissertation is failed if there are a minimum of three votes for failure. In the event of failure, detailed reasons must be supplied in writing **by the Chair to the Dean, program director, and student within 10 business days.**

Upon the successful completion of the oral examination, FGS will instruct you to electronically upload your thesis (ETD—see page 21) Bound copies are no longer produced by the university.



Brendan Fernandes, PhD candidate
Pica, 2023
 installation views

Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Submission (ETD)

Before uploading your thesis/dissertation file to YORKSPACE, you will need to save the file as a PDF (.pdf), which must be compatible with Adobe Acrobat version 5.0 or higher. This PDF document should contain the full body of your thesis/dissertation, including:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Dedication (optional)
- Acknowledgements (optional)
- Table of contents
- List of tables, figures, and illustrations (if applicable)
- All chapters and written body of the thesis/dissertation
- References or bibliography
- All appendices

YorkSpace is York University's Institutional Repository. It is a platform that enables York community members to organize and preserve their research online in an institutional context. It showcases the scholarship of the York University community through the use of a special standards-based software platform that collects usage statistics and provides exceptional visibility on the web. Detailed information can be found on the Faculty of Graduate Studies Website – You may only upload ONE PDF file.

<https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/handle/10315/26310>



The screenshot shows the YorkSpace Institutional Repository website. The header features the YorkSpace logo and a navigation bar with 'YorkSpace Home / Browsing by Subject'. The main content area is titled 'Browsing by Subject "Visual Arts"'. Below the title is a search bar with the text 'Or enter first few letters:' and a 'Go' button. A list of items is displayed, starting with 'An Animal Among Animals' by Sara Kay Maston (2018-08-27). The description for this item reads: 'The discourse of Animal Studies has been gaining momentum as a scholarly discipline, advanced in remarkably diverse ways by theorists such as Jakob Von Uexkll, Gilles Deleuze, Donna Haraway, Michel Serres, and Giorgio ...'. Other items listed include 'Cocoons and a Red Butterfly: Fluye Project & Tlacuila Nepantlera Practice' by Veronica Diaz Garduno (2015), 'Dubious Cosmology: A Photo/Sculptural Rendition of Landscape and Modern Myth' by Eila Sharp (2015-08-28), and '"Integrated Arts" Pedagogy and Philosophy'.

MFA / PhD Funding Information

Funding, Bursaries, Scholarships, Research Funding, Awards and Fees

This following information is to be used as a reference guide only and is subject to change.

York offers a variety of funding options to graduate level students. It is important to differentiate the kind of funding you have been offered, as this will determine what work is expected of you.

GA/TA Fellowship Funding

Detailed funding information is posted on the Faculty of Graduate Studies Website -

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/graduate-funding/>

The basic MFA fellowship funding of \$16,666 is administered in 5 installments of \$3333* over the course of the 5-term program. Students who are registered full-time and in good standing can expect the \$3,333 to be posted to their student account within 3-4 weeks from the start of the term. Tuition charges, which will appear 24 hours after registering in the applicable term, and will automatically be deducted from the fellowship funding.

You are able to accept no more than 10 hours of employment per week in a CUPE Unit 1 and/or Unit 3 position. Depending on the work assignment, the value of the fellowship funding may be adjusted.

*Master's Funding (\$3333) will be paid in two installments in the Fall and Winter terms of 1st year: the 1st before the tuition deadline (approximately 3rd week of term), and the 2nd after confirmation you will not be taking on a teaching assistant/graduate assistant appointment (approximately 5th week of the term).

PhD: fellowship funding will be applied in equal installments each term, at the beginning of each term (approximately 3rd week of term).

The funding model also aims to help graduate students plan their finances more effectively, as students are able to see how any incoming additional funding (such as internal/external scholarships, and awards) works alongside the Fellowship.

If you were awarded a non-renewable entrance scholarship (indicated on your offer letter) in year 1, or another major external scholarship, the funds will be applied to your student account at the beginning of each term in three installments: Fall, Winter, and Summer (you must be registered as full-time). You can view your student account on-line at: <https://passport.york.yorku.ca/pplogin/pplogin>. If you do not owe money to York University, you can request a refund, (refunds@yorku.ca) which will be sent to you in the form of a cheque or direct deposit (arrange for direct deposit here: <https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/student-finances/funding-awards/other-financial-information/direct-deposit/>)

PhD students will also receive additional Grant-in-Aid funding, which will be applied to your student account and refunded. Please visit the CUPE Website for additional information - <http://3903.cupe.ca/>

Bursaries/Scholarships

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Fine Arts Faculty organize several bursaries and scholarships for graduate students. Detailed information, applications, deadlines, criteria, etc. will be sent throughout the year. You are also encouraged to review the FGS bulletins that are sent via e-mail to all students. Also, check the Student Financial Services and Faculty of Graduate studies website regularly:

www.yorku.ca/sfs

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/graduate-funding/funding-at-york/>

for funding opportunities.

Travel Funding

The funding for traveling is minimal. If you are presenting at a conference, or giving an artist's talk or attending an exhibition opening at a recognized institution, you can apply to the FGS Graduate Development Fund for travel funding (not expenses – only travel). You may apply each term (early fall and early spring) for travel funding: a \$300 maximum for a flight in North America and a \$500 maximum for a flight overseas with normally a maximum of \$500 per year. The grant may only cover gas money if the trip is within a reasonable traveling distance. The graduate program director must approve the application for funding after which time FGS will debate whether to grant you any money. The graduate program assistant will distribute all the necessary information by the end of September. Details of deadline dates, when available, may also be found on the Faculty of Graduate Studies homepage.

Research/Fieldwork Cost Fund

The Research/Fieldwork cost fund helps subsidize students' own research expenses that are above and beyond those costs that are typically associated with graduate work, such as travel to sources of research, payment of materials, supplies, services, photocopying, etc. All full-time registered graduate students who are members (past and present) of CUPE are eligible for fieldwork. Funding is awarded early spring and early fall. Apply on-line:

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/awards-and-scholarships/other-funding-sources/fieldwork-cost-fund/>

OGS (Ontario Graduate Scholarship)

The Ontario Graduate Scholarship, valued at \$15,000, is designed for students attending graduate programs at Ontario universities. The minimum grade for applying is an overall average of "A-" in your last two years of university (undergraduate or graduate) studies.

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/awards-and-scholarships/tri-council-scholarships/>

CGS-M (Canadian Graduate Scholarship) for Masters

The CGS-M program offers non-renewable twelve-month awards, valued at \$17,500, and tenable at recognized Canadian universities, to students who intend to pursue full-time studies at the master's level in a discipline supported by SSHRC. Awards must be taken up in May or September or in January. Calls for applications will be given before December by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. You will be notified by the Graduate Program office of the timelines. Some eligibility requirements do apply. Please access this link for more information.

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/awards-and-scholarships/tri-council-scholarships/>

SSHRC/CGS Doctoral Fellowships

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and CGS Doctoral Scholarships programs aim to develop research skills and assist in the training of highly qualified academic personnel by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of scholarly achievement in undergraduate and graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities. SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships are valued at \$20,000 per annum for 12, 24, 36, or 48 months.

SSHRC determines the value and duration of an award based on the number of months of full time study (or equivalent) the applicant will have completed at the proposed start date of the award. Check the link for more detailed information:

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/awards-and-scholarships/tri-council-scholarships/>

Other Awards

Students will receive timely notification of competitions for annual and semi-annual awards issued by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Visual Arts graduate program, such as the Visual Arts Bursary, the Heisey Award, the Samuel Sarick Purchase Award and Art@Suite 500. There are also opportunities to apply for external awards on the Student Financial Services website www.yorku.ca/sfs.

Art@Suite 500 for MFA / PhD and Alumni

Art@Suite 500 is an annual exhibition co-sponsored by the Schulich School of Business and the MFA /PhD visual arts program. For over 20 years, it has provided both current graduates and alumni from the visual arts graduate program the opportunity to exhibit work in the Miles S. Nadal Management Centre located in the Ernst and Young Tower of the TD Centre in downtown Toronto.

A faculty member of the MFA program and the Schulich School of Business, as well as two respected art professionals from the Toronto arts community, juries work submitted. The Schulich School of Business sponsors the exhibition by paying the cost of invitations, designed by one of the visual arts graduate students, the opening reception and the professional installation of the work. In addition, the exhibiting students are paid an artist's fee. The works are on loan in the exhibition for 1 year. One, and on occasion, two, works are purchased each year and become part of the permanent collection, owned and maintained by the Nadal Management Centre, which is part of the Schulich School of Business.

The Samuel Sarick Purchase Award

Samuel Sarick is a long-standing supporter of the MFA program. He established the Samuel Sarick Purchase Award for MFA students in Visual Arts in 1976. This award is administered annually to a graduate of the MFA program whose thesis work demonstrates outstanding achievement. The award is valued at \$2,500. Each year, students are required to submit images of work from their thesis exhibition for consideration. The annual purchase of work from the MFA thesis exhibition is chosen by a selection committee comprised of members of the graduate faculty in Visual Arts.

The Samuel Sarick Purchase Award collection is on display throughout the Joan & Martin Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts and provides an excellent opportunity for members of the community to see a history of works by graduates of the Visual Arts MFA Program.

Tuition Fees for 2023 - 2024

A complete breakdown of tuition fees can be found on the Student Financial Services Website –

<https://sfs.yorku.ca/fees>

As an MFA student, you are required to register and pay full-time fees for 5 terms. Refer to the Student Financial Services Web site for International student fees – www.yorku.ca/sfs

Students Enrolled in Combined or Joint Programs

You will be assessed fees for the program/faculty in which you are currently (or will be) resident for the academic session. For example, if you are enrolled in the combined MBA/MFA program and you are taking the year one in Fine Arts, then your fees are those posted on this FGS site. When you are a resident at the Schulich School of Business, your fees are posted on the Schulich MBA site. This method of fee payment applies to all combined and joint programs of study.

Additional Charges:

1. **Registration fee:** \$15 per student per term.
2. **Graduate Student Association Health Plan:** \$426.75 (subject to change). See York University's Graduate Students' Association homepage: <http://www.yugsa.ca> for more information (this fee will be reversed if you are a GA or TA and covered by the CUPE health plan or if you have proof of private insurance).
3. **Associated Course Fees:** Additional fees for course materials, lab fees, etc. may be charged in individual courses. You may check with the appropriate academic department or unit for information about such fees. Note that Graduate level students are to provide their own materials when using studio facilities – materials are not covered by tuition fees.
4. **Leave of Absence and External student fees:** \$169.49. If you are currently enrolled in the joint MFA/MBA with the Schulich School of Business, please visit the website for a breakdown of the fees and financial assistance page at: <https://schulich.yorku.ca/programs/mba-mfa-ma/>

Term/Program Withdrawal

Fees refunds/credit calculations are based on complete withdrawal from a term or program, not withdrawal from individual courses. Fees are calculated according to a student's full-time or part-time enrollment status/activity level.

Tuition Fee Deadlines

Tuition fees for the Fall 2023 session are due September 10th; Winter 2024 session - January 10th; Summer 2024 session - May 10th. You can check your student account online anytime at <http://currentstudents.yorku.ca/> to view your account balance and payment due date. You can pay your fees through telephone or web banking. For details on how to set this up, please visit: <http://www.yorku.ca/osfs/paybyweb>. If fellowship funding or scholarship funding does not cover your full fees and leaves you with a balance owing, you will be charged a late fee of 1% per month if not paid before the deadline.

Government Funding - OSAP

For information concerning OSAP, visit the following Web site: <http://osap.yorku.ca/> and Student Financial Services: <http://sfs.yorku.ca/>

Emergency Bursaries

The Graduate Students Association provides emergency short-term interest-free loans to graduate students who experience temporary financial difficulties. The maximum amount loaned is \$200 with a repayment schedule of four months. To qualify, you must be a full-time York Graduate Student and have good standing in your program. To obtain a loan, contact the GSA President or Treasurer in 325 Student Centre (736-2100 ext. 33453) during office hours or by appointment. For more information, please visit: <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/covid-19/financial-resources/>

Alternatively, CUPE 3903 also has a fund available for students in need - <http://3903.cupe.ca/benefits-funds/ways-means>

MFA / PhD General Student Information

Convocation

If you are in the last term of your program and expect to graduate, you must apply to graduate here: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/graduation/apply> (regardless if you plan to attend the ceremony or not). After the ETD is successfully uploaded and approved by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the GPA will confirm your eligibility and then forward the official completion notice along with a DEGREE convocation form. Fill out the STUDENT INFORMATION portion, sign and send back to the GPA. Information about the ceremonies and diploma services is available here: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/graduation/diplomas>

E-mail

It is the students' responsibility to ensure that the University and the Graduate Program know their current mailing addresses. Students must create a YU e-mail account and ensure that the Graduate Program in Visual Arts is aware of their yorku.ca email address. Please make sure to check that email address regularly for communications from the GPD, GPA, FGS, etc.

Fitness Facilities

Tait Mackenzie Centre, located on the North West corner of campus, is a spacious, multi-use sport and recreation facility at York University. With three gyms, a pool, a fitness centre and studios for recreation instructional classes, this building is the hub of health and fitness at Keele Campus. A \$10 membership entitles you to full use of the recreational facilities. Report to Customer Service with your YU-card and you will be given a shoe tag that you should wear every time you use the gym. Membership ID card or current photo ID is required to enter all sports facilities. Please note that fall and winter YU-Cards are valid until the end of August. Summer YU-Cards are valid from May until the end of August. Please visit the website for activities and listings: https://yorkulions.ca/sports/campus_rec

Grades

Grades are submitted as per specified deadlines by each professor. Once the grades have been released by the Office of the Registrar, you can view your grade report on-line using your Passport York login.

Courses are designated as full credit (6.00) or half credit (3.0). There are five passing grades: A+, A, A-, B+ and B; one conditional grade of C: and one clear failing grade of F. Please see regulations 40 & 41 of the FGS Calendar for combinations of C and F grades, which require program withdrawal.

Grade Deadlines

(See FGS regulation 38). Course directors must announce in writing in each course within the first two weeks of classes the nature and weighting of course assignments and their due dates, in keeping with the reporting dates and Regulation 49.

Incomplete Grades

When a graduate student is unable to complete course work by the designated deadline, written approval for an extension must be obtained from both the course director and the graduate director. A grade of "I" must be removed within two months of the reporting date for a half-course or within four months of the reporting date for a full course. If not, an "F" grade will be automatically generated. A Course Transaction Form (CTF) must be completed and filed with the program office before the deadlines for completion of incomplete coursework. The maximum period for carrying an incomplete grade, as established by FGS, is two months. <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/regulations/graduate-courses-and-grading/>

The deadlines for removing incomplete grades are as follows:

Fall term half course:

Grades due: January 15

Incomplete must be removed by March 15

Winter term half course:

Grades due: May 15

Incomplete must be removed by July 15

MFA / PhD Group Exhibitions

During the MFA/PhD program, there are a number of group exhibition opportunities. These exhibitions take place on campus and/or downtown. While some of the exhibitions are organized by MFA/PhD students, others may be juried by professional curators. These are important opportunities for the students to learn about their work, gain professional experience, and contacts.

International Student Identification Cards

International Student cards are free of charge. This card is internationally recognized proof of full-time student status. York is a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), which runs Travel Cuts (an office is located in the Student Centre). With a passport size photo of yourself and proof of your student status, you can get a free ISIC card on the spot at any Travel Cuts free of charge. At non-member universities, the charge is \$16.00. This card is required for student discounts with VIA Rail and on Greyhound bus trips. Reduced rates can also be obtained for certain accommodations, admission to some of the world's most renowned museums, historical sites, and entertainment.

Key Distribution

The security and safety of all users is paramount to the operations of all the studio facilities. Therefore, keys and/or access cards needed to access studio facilities (sculpture, print media, photography, time based media etc.) and individual studios, will only be provided to graduate students who have attained the necessary experience and appropriate skill level. This will be determined through communication with the Area Heads on a case-by-case basis. Where possible, introductory technical orientation sessions will be organized in each area at the beginning of each academic year. Initial discussion with the GPD will guide you to the appropriate area to meet your needs.

Where a student has sufficient technical competency that would allow them to work appropriately, independently and safely, the relevant Area Head and area technical staff will review the specifics of the Departments' procedures and equipment operation with the student. Students who require training to acquire new skills should consult with the relevant area faculty member or the GPD in order to be directed toward auditing appropriate undergraduate classes for acquiring these skills (these cannot be taken for credit). Please note that technical staff are not permitted to provide training nor one-on-one support for individual projects.

Once access is authorized, the Administrative Assistant and the Studio Manager will distribute keys. Most keys are readily available but in the case where keys must be ordered, a wait should be expected. The Graduate Program Assistant, Dawn Burns, distributes and coordinates keycard access and individual studio keys.

Graduate students are expected to be self-directed and work independently in the studio facilities. They are required to provide their own materials when using studio facilities – materials are not included in tuition fees.

Keys and access to any graduate areas may not be given to any non-community members. Anyone entering these spaces must be accompanied by the grad student who has approved access.

Libraries

The YU-card is your library card and will be required to access library services. Please bring your card to the Circulation Desk at any of the York University Libraries: Scott, Steacie, Bronfman, Law, or Frost in order to obtain your library PIN. You will need the PIN for certain library services including online renewal, self-checkout and off-campus access to eResources.

Graduate students may apply for extended loan privileges at the Circulation Desk, Scott Library by submitting a signed letter from the GPA stating that they are currently working on a master's or doctoral thesis.

You can return York books to other university libraries, **except** U of T. York will honour the date stamped into the book at the other library (return books to the Circulation desk to get the stamp). With the number of students at York, the library can get busy and noisy. The best times to go are between 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.

Note: At York, graduate students are eligible for three-month book loans.

University of Toronto – Library Privileges

Your YU-card can also be used for borrowing privileges at the Robarts Library - located at 130 St. George St., Toronto, tel. no. 416-978-8450. Visit the circulation desk in order to obtain a "Direct Borrower" card. This will give you access to book loans at all University of Toronto libraries for up to two-weeks, with the allowance of one renewal. You can set up the same arrangement with ANY Ontario university library using your York library card. You can also return books borrowed from University of Toronto at York. They will be date stamped to ensure you are not fined, as long as they are returned on time.

Scott Library Research Workshops

Students who attend these workshops will be given the essential skills they needed to efficiently retrieve solid academic material in the form of books, scholarly journal

articles, and web pages. That makes for time well spent. **All classes are held on the 5th floor of Scott library in room 531. Online alternatives are also available.**

Research Seminars for Graduate Students

There is no need to make a booking or sign up to attend these workshops. Drop in at any available time and day that suits your busy schedule.

Graduate Research at York University Workshop (2 hours)

Expectations for research and academic work in North American universities can sometimes be confusing. In this workshop we will: 1) discuss what, generally, is valued in graduate research work and how that might differ across cultures; 2) examine how the scholarly research process in North America and UK works; 3) learn how to locate and use graduate-level research tools; and 4) consider how to negotiate workable topics for essays.

Students are encouraged to share ideas and experiences in this workshop. Students are expected to come prepared with a topic to use for hands-on work. This workshop is meant primarily for those graduate students enrolled in Humanities or Social Sciences programs. If you would like to attend this workshop, please contact Kalina Grewal at kgrewal@yorku.ca

Mail Distribution

Mail is distributed once per day, approximately 3:00 p.m., to the graduate student mailboxes, located on the second floor beside room 257. Please remember to check your mailboxes regularly.

Mailing Address

As a graduate student, you have your own mailbox.
You can direct mail/supplies to be sent to:

Your name
c/o Visual Arts Graduate Program
Room 255
Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Office Hours – TA

It is expected that TAs hold office hours for their undergraduate students. Often graduate studios are utilized for this purpose. Please arrange to meet your students in the hallway outside the graduate area and accompany students to your studio. For safety reasons, **DO NOT leave the main door propped open when awaiting students or visitors, as it allows anyone to wander into an otherwise secure area.**

Public Transportation (TTC)

The subway stop is located on the North and South end of campus. The South stop is located directly across from the Accolade East building. See fare and route information at: <http://www.toronto.ca/ttc/fares.htm>

Parking on Campus

In order to purchase a parking pass, you must do so either in person or by mail. Only renewals can be done online by sending an e-mail to: parking@yorku.ca. The closest parking lot to the Fine Arts building is: Haynes Road Lot 88 <http://www.yorku.ca/web/maps/>

The closest parking garage (available for hourly/daily parking) is the Student Services Parking garage. Instructions for purchasing a pass can be found online - <http://www.yorku.ca/parking/>. The Parking office is located in Room 222, William Small Centre, 155 Campus Walk - 416-736-5335.

The best time of day to visit the parking office and avoid line-ups is the early morning. Currently the busy periods are between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We recommend using the forms available outside the parking office at the William Small Centre, or online, mailing the completed form and paying by MasterCard, Visa, AMEX or cheque. You can arrange to either pick up your permit at the customer service reception window or have it mailed to you.

Photocopying and Printing on Campus

Students can print documents in a number of computer labs and Libraries on campus. York University uses the YU-card for payment for printing and photocopying services.

Printing

[Instructions on how to print in William Small Center can be found here](#)

[Instructions on how to print remotely from your laptop or residence can be found here](#)

Locations of publicly accessible campus printers and photocopiers:

[Scott Library \(1st floor\)](#)

[Scott Library \(2nd floor\)](#)

[Scott Library \(3rd floor\)](#)

[Scott Library \(4th floor\)](#)

[Scott Library \(5th floor\)](#)

[Bronfman Business Library](#)

[Osgoode Hall Law School Library](#)

[Frost Library \(Glendon\)](#)

[Steacie Science Library](#)

[William Small Centre](#)

[Accolade East](#)

How do I get help?

Instructions for queuing and printing are posted beside the printing stations.

[Printing from William Small Centre](#)

[Printing from the AP Labs \(LA&PS\)](#)

[Printing for Students Requiring Accommodation](#)

[Printing Allocation for Registered Graduate Students](#)

[Remote printing from your laptop on-campus or desktop computer in residence](#)

Residence and Campus Living

The York Apartments are a complex of apartment buildings administered by the York Apartments Office of Student Housing Services catering to graduate students and married or more mature undergraduate students. Occupancy is by lease for a specified time period and both furnished and unfurnished models are available.

York Apartments - Student Housing Services

Located: 4 Assiniboine Rd., Room 101

E-mail: yorkapts@yorku.ca

Tel: 416-736-5152 Fax: 416-650-8008

Telephone, cable, and internet hook-up can be arranged through Telecom York, 416-650-8055, located in York Lanes. Laundry machines are located in every residence building and operate on a debit card system.

Off-Campus Housing

You can view the off campus housing listings in and around the GTA at: places4students.com

Student Study Areas - Graduate Student Reading Room

On the fourth floor of Scott Library (Room 409), there is a Graduate Student Reading Room. This room was created by the Libraries, with generous assistance from the Office of the Vice-President Academic and the Faculty of Graduate

Studies, as a quiet study space for graduate students.

Room Features - There are 122 seats at tables and carrels, as well as lounge seating. The room is supported by the AirYork Plus wireless network and all tables have YorkNet connections and electrical outlets. There are six computers and a printer (with payment by standard York University Libraries print/copy cards). The tables are equipped with reading lamps. An electronic noise reduction system has also been installed in the room. The room is fully accessible to graduate students with disabilities.

Door Access - Graduate students can enter the Graduate Student Reading Room by punching in the current door access code, which will normally be changed weekly. The current code can be obtained by completing the Graduate Student Reading Room Door Access Code form. Graduate students, faculty members, and staff can obtain the door code using this form. Please DO NOT share the door code with anyone else; please ensure that unauthorized users do not follow you in after you enter the room.

Student Organizer

You can pick up a free organizer at the York Federation of Graduate Students, student government office, in the Student Centre, whose main office is Suite 335, 94 York Blvd. between York Lanes and Vari Hall (above the food court). Tel: 416-736-5658.

Transcripts

A transcript is an official record of your academic history at York. It is a comprehensive summary of your course enrolment, the grades you earned and sessional academic decisions. Transcripts are typically required when you are applying for external scholarships, other post-secondary programs; in addition, a potential employer, government agency or insurance company may ask you for a transcript in order to authenticate your complete record at York. If a third-party (e.g. prospective employer) only needs to verify the completion of your degree, you may direct them to our online degree verification service, [YU Verify](#).

You may request to have a transcript sent directly to a third party or you may request a personal copy of your transcript that will be stamped “Issued to Student” and placed in a sealed envelope. Please note that third parties may not accept transcripts “Issued to Student”. Check with your intended recipient before ordering your transcript. If you request a transcript “Issued to Student” and your third party does not accept it, you will be responsible for re-ordering another transcript.

NOTE: York University adheres to the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC) national transcript guidelines for post-secondary institutions. For more information on these standards, please visit <https://guide.pccat.arucc.ca/en/transcript-standards.html>.

Teaching Commons

<https://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/> The Teaching Commons brings together like-minded colleagues from across the university individuals who are interested in exploring and sharing teaching and learning innovation across York University. We are a network of colleagues, collaborations, and projects, working across and within Faculties and Support Services. We offer a broad range of learning opportunities for course directors and teaching assistants, from individual workshops, comprehensive courses, and certificates to communities of practice and research support, to assist and enhance teaching and learning across campus.

The team of educational developers offer expert advice to help inform teaching, explore best practices and innovative strategies for teaching, support and accompany program renewals and course design, and offer guidance specific to York institutional priorities around experiential education, eLearning, the first year experience, and internationalization of the curriculum.

TA or GA - CUPE 3903 is Your Union

CUPE 3903, which represents the contract faculty, teaching assistants (TA), and graduate assistants (GA) at York

University, is a member of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), a national union whose membership exceeds 500,000 workers and is Canada’s largest union. CUPE 3903 members have negotiated an extensive health plan into their contract. Visit the web site for details about the Drug, Vision, and Dental Plan: <https://3903.cupe.ca/>

Useful Phone Numbers and Websites

Useful Phone Numbers

YORK SECURITY/EMERGENCY
(dial from any internal phone)
ext. 33333

Main York Switch board
416 736-2100

York Bookstore, York Lanes
416 736-5024

Career Centre
416 736-5351

Client Services (UIT), Steacie Science Bldg.
416 736-5800

Counseling & Disability Services, Bennett Centre for Student Services
416 736-5297

CUPE 3903, 2050 TEL
416 736-5154

Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), 230 York Lanes
416 736-5521

Graduate Students Association (GSA), 325 Student Centre
416 736-5865

VISA Graduate Program Office, 255 GCFA
416 736-5533

Graduate Admissions, Bennett Centre for Student Services
416 736-5000

Lost and Found, Ross Bldg.
ext. 33369

York Apartments
416 736-5152

Office of the Ombudsperson
416 736-5200

Information Security, 228 William Small Centre
416 650-8808

goSAFE
416 736-5454

Office of Student Financial Services (OSFS), Bennett Centre
416 872-9675

York Card Office, 200 William Small Centre
416 736-5674

Parking, Parking Structure II
416 736-5335

Payroll, Kinsmen Building, 155-1
416 736-5005

Scott Library Information
416 736-5150

Transcripts, Registrar's Office, Bennett Centre for Student Services Bldg.
416 736-5151

Important Websites

York's Main Page

<http://www.yorku.ca>

Office of the Registrar

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/>

Faculty of Graduate Studies

<http://www.yorku.ca/grads/>

York (Keele) campus map

<http://www.yorku.ca/yorkweb/maps/york2d/index.htm>

Visual Arts Graduate Program

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/visual-art/>

Student Account Statements On-Line

<https://sfs.yorku.ca/fees/your-student-account>

Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

<http://osap.gov.on.ca/>

Graduate Housing

<https://www.yorku.ca/housing/graduate-housing-york-apartments/>

York Libraries

<http://www.library.yorku.ca/>

Student/Staff Directory

<https://atlas.cafe.uit.yorku.ca/atlas/servlet/atlas>

Go SAFE

<http://www.yorku.ca/gosafe/>

goSAFE is a complimentary service provided by York University to help students, faculty, staff and their guests safely get from one on-campus location to another.

Appendix "A"

Graduate Program in Visual Art
MFA Oral Examination Information Sheet

Name:
Date of Oral Examination:
Location:
Address:
Time:
Brief Description:
Committee Members: Include full name and e-mail address
1.
2.
3.

Complete this form in full and return it to Dawn Burns in the Graduate office rm. 255 GCFA or dburns@yorku.ca

Appendix “B”

List of MFA/PhD required courses with short descriptions

GS VISA 5600 3.0: Contemporary Theory in the Visual Art taught by studio faculty. This theory course delivered by an artist offers students the opportunity to read and discuss a series of texts in parallel with visual images of art works. Addressing ideas in a dialogue with images is an important matter in our program because they are two different languages and consequently need to be explored differently. Hence, it is important to have this course given by an artist, as an artist has a direct experience of art making, of material and technical skills. This course covers a wide range of current approaches in affect theory, Anthropocene/ climate theory, critical race/black studies, cybernetics, economic and political theory, feminist & trans/gender theory, neuroscience/cognitive science, new materialist and object-oriented philosophies and technology studies (among others). This course supports the student’s acquisition of concrete examples of art making expertise, professional ethics and attitudes, the formal vocabulary and terminology of visual arts, theoretical perspective and a practical and critical overview of contemporary visual culture.

GS VISA 5620/5640 3.0: Combined PhD/MFA Graduate Seminar is designed to address current and critical issues in contemporary art through a series of lectures given by art professionals (artists, curators and gallery directors) speaking from real experience in the real world. It is structured to provide a balance between practice and theory, between experimentation and mastery as well as between self-directed research and collaborative projects. These lectures are complimented by critical studio visits. The course has been developed in order to support students in situating and contextualizing their work within the historical lineages of different art practices. The structure of this course accentuates a pluralistic approach that reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the MFA and PhD programs and the global nature of contemporary culture.

GS VISA 5610 3.0 (cross listed with GS ARTH 5160):

Theoretical Issues in Contemporary Art also examines the issues of contemporary art but within the framework of art movements and historical periods. The instructor determines which art historical methodologies are introduced in this course; in the past, structuralist, post-modernist, feminist and psychoanalytic approaches have been explored. This course not only expands the students’ breadth and depth of knowledge; it supports them as they develop an appropriate methodology for their thesis research.

GS VISA 5650 3.0: Methods in Practice-Based Research

provides a focus on methodology for first year MFA students and first year PhD candidates. Although students at each of these levels have different needs and goals in relation to the guidelines of the specific programs, the course content should be of interest and use to all. The course has been designed to examine relevant terminology, beginning with the relationship between methodology and methods, and extending to a consideration of the nature of practice-based research. It is both an exciting prospect and a particular challenge, as there is no universally accepted definition, in this growing field, of practice-based research and all that it can entail. We will work toward this definition through your work. To summarize, this course supports the student’s development of good writing skills, theoretical perspective and a historical overview of contemporary visual culture.

****GS/VISA 6020 3.0 (term 3) and GS/VISA 6030. 3.0 (term 6 PhD) (cross-listed with GS ARTH 6020) Contemporary Visual Art Summer Institute** is a key facet of the program for both MFA and PhD candidates. It includes a three-week residency with prominent international artists and theorists, drawing on the Toronto and international art communities for distinguished guests to give public lectures and hold seminars. In this way, the PhD in Visual Art program acts as a catalyst for the interplay between academic research and the innovative activities of art world professionals. It forms a network of professional relationships among Canadian and international researchers operating within and beyond fine arts university communities. Written work is required from students enrolled in the Summer Institute.