History of Art

Full details about the course are available from
www.hoart.cam.ac.uk/Courses/undergraduate-admissions
and
www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/history-of-art

The subject at Selwyn

As a small subject, History of Art is organised very largely at a
Departmental level, with lectures, seminars and supervisions,
the kernel of Cambridge’s teaching, in every case organised
centrally. History of Art is in this sense one of the most
integrated subjects in the University with students at different
Colleges having the same academic experience, and often
sharing the same Director of Studies. College support is still
important, offering a warm and vibrant environment and a
stimulating interdisciplinary experience, and library provision
particularly so. The College Library holds over 40,000 books,
including those most relevant to this subject, and stock is
continually updated. The Library also provides a pleasant study
area. Selwyn has a record of success in the History of Art
course and provides strong support for students.

The Teaching Fellow

The Director of Studies for the History of Art course for Selwyn
College is Dr Anna Gannon, FSA. She specialises in Anglo-
Saxon Art and culture and in particular Anglo-Saxon metalwork
and coinage, and also teaches for the Department.

Qualities we are looking for

Verbal and visual clarity: the abilities to recognise, analyse, and
appreciate works of art and to put forward a reasoned case on
paper and orally.

Subject requirements

The typical offer will be A*AA from A-Levels, with the A* grade
to be in an essay-based subject.

Interviews

There will be two interviews, one of which will be with the
Director of Studies at Selwyn, who will usually be accompanied
by another specialist member of staff. This interview will include
a visual analysis test, where applicants will be presented with a
couple of images of works of art or architecture, and asked to
comment on these.

You can also expect to be questioned about your interest in the
subject, motivation, knowledge gained so far, and about your
strengths and suitability to the very high standards we expect in
Cambridge.

You will also have a shorter general interview. This is intended
to let us find out more about your motivation in applying for
History of Art at Cambridge. It is intended to give us a fuller
sense of your aptitude for your chosen course, the maturity of
your approach towards academic work, and your art historical
and other interests.

Admissions Assessment

If invited to interview, applicants will also be asked to sit a one-
hour written admissions assessment. This will take the form of
a structured comparison of images and, again, no specialist
knowledge will be assumed. You do not need to register
separately for this assessment, the arrangements will be made
by the College. More information about the assessment,
including some sample questions can be found here –
http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/h
oaaa_specification.pdf

Finding out more and Open Days

The Department of the History of Art will be participating in the
Cambridge Open Days on 5 and 6 July. See the insert in our
prospectus about this and other open days at Selwyn. Full
details are also available on our website.

Other points

The Department aims to have about 20-30 students admitted by
most of the Colleges each year. History of Art is a "small"
subject and does not have fixed quotas at Colleges. Entry will
therefore be very competitive. If you have further questions,
please contact your College of choice by writing to the College’s
Admissions Office.

In recent years Selwyn has made up to two offers in History of
Art.

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