



SORBONNE  
UNIVERSITY  
ABU DHABI



# *Master in* **ARTS & HERITAGE**

**CONCENTRATIONS IN MUSEUM  
AND CURATORIAL STUDIES,  
ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL  
HERITAGE, AND ART MARKET**

CONCENTRATION IN MUSEUM AND CURATORIAL STUDIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

**Ecole du Louvre**  
Palais du Louvre

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# overview

The Master in Arts & Heritage, awarded by Sorbonne Université in Paris and delivered at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (SUAD), is a two-year programme designed for future cultural leaders, curators, heritage specialists, archaeologists, and art market professionals.

Blending academic excellence with professional immersion, the programme integrates advanced theory, applied research, and hands-on experience. Students develop strong analytical skills, curatorial vision, research expertise, and a deep understanding of the global cultural landscape — from museums and archaeological sites to auction houses and luxury-driven creative industries. A strong interdisciplinary foundation in the first year provides comprehensive training in museum studies, archaeology, cultural heritage, and the art market. In the second year, students specialise in one of three high-demand pathways:

- **Museum and Curatorial Studies** (delivered in partnership with the École du Louvre) – exhibition-making, collections management, curatorial practice, and institutional strategy.
- **Archaeology and Cultural Heritage** – fieldwork, site management, conservation strategies, and heritage policies.
- **Art Market** – art valuation, collecting practices, galleries, auctions, cultural entrepreneurship, and the intersection of art and luxury.

The curriculum combines:

- Academic excellence (rigorous training based on the strong academic tradition of Sorbonne University, developing critical thinking, solid research methods, and analytical skills).
- Professional immersion (internships, fieldwork, practical projects, and direct interaction with museums, heritage authorities, galleries, and cultural institutions).
- Regional anchoring (close links with the UAE's growing cultural sector, giving students access to major institutions and heritage initiatives in the region).
- Global outlook (an international approach to art history, heritage management, and the art market, preparing graduates to work in diverse cultural and global contexts).

## Who is this programme for?

This programme is ideal for students who are:

- Passionate about art, heritage, museums, archaeology, or the art market
- Eager to build a career in the cultural and creative sectors
- Interested in combining academic knowledge with practical experience
- Curious about how cultural institutions operate locally and internationally
- Motivated to develop research, analytical, and professional skills

## What makes this programme unique?

### Bridging heritage, museums, art history and the art market

The programme adopts a hybrid model that integrates academic rigour with professional immersion. It approaches the art world not only as a discipline but as an ecosystem where heritage, institutions, collections, markets and cultural diplomacy intersect.

### Regional connections of the programme

The Master is deeply embedded in the UAE's cultural and heritage ecosystem while engaging with global debates on collecting, curatorial practice, restitution, heritage preservation, and art market dynamics.

### The international dimension of the programme

Courses are taught by Sorbonne University professors, renowned international scholars, business leaders, and leading professionals from the UAE and West Asia.

Students benefit from dual academic supervision (Abu Dhabi and Paris) and may pursue research training in France.

### Distinctive features of the three pathways

Students progressively specialise in Museum & Curatorial Studies, which includes a prestigious partnership with École du Louvre in Paris; Archaeology & Cultural Heritage, which offers fieldwork opportunities in the UAE and advanced training in heritage management and preservation; and Art Market, which focuses on galleries, art fairs, auction houses, foundations, and luxury houses within global art systems. Each pathway culminates in a professional internship aligned with sector-specific career objectives.





# Programme *highlights*

- A Sorbonne degree combining heritage, museums, archaeology and art market within one integrated Master
- Fieldwork opportunities on UAE archaeological sites
- Exclusive partnership with École du Louvre (Paris)
- Strong engagement with collections, curatorial practice, global art markets and luxury sectors
- Three specialised career pathways aligned with the UAE's cultural expansion
- Designed for both professional careers and doctoral pathways
- Taught by Sorbonne faculty and leading regional and international experts
- Professional immersion through high-level internships in Paris and the UAE
- Research-intensive programme with thesis and dual supervision (Abu Dhabi & Paris)



# Programme structure

## Academic Framework

The Master in Arts & Heritage combines lectures, tutorials, laboratories, workshops, field trips, and supervised independent research, offering a balanced academic and practical training. Students benefit from diverse teaching formats that support both theoretical understanding and applied learning across museums, heritage, archaeology, and the art market.

The programme includes the completion and defence of a substantial Master's thesis integrating academic research and professional experience. It comprises 120 ECTS credits over four semesters and combines advanced theory, applied research, and professional practice.

## Assessment Framework

Assessment is based on continuous evaluation and final examinations. Students are assessed through presentations, written assignments, research projects, and case studies throughout the programme. This structure ensures regular feedback and progressive skill development in research, analysis, and professional practice.

## Final Semester and Thesis

The final semester is dedicated to a professional internship aligned with each chosen pathway, together with the completion of a research-based Master's thesis and oral defence.

Internship in Paris (Museum pathway) Archaeological excavation site in the UAE (Heritage pathway) Gallery, art fair, auction house, foundation, or luxury house (Art Market pathway).



<b>Language of Instruction</b>	English
<b>Duration</b>	2 years (4 semesters), 120 ECTS
<b>Core Teaching Units (UE)</b>	<p><b>Semester 1:</b>  <b>UE1</b> – Art History and Archaeology I  <b>UE2</b> – Heritage, Sites, Museums and Collections I  <b>UE3</b> – Art History and Archaeology II  <b>UE4</b> – French for Art Historians and Archaeologists</p> <p><b>Semester 2:</b>  <b>UE1</b> – Art History and Archaeology III  <b>UE2</b> – Heritage, Sites, Museums and Collections II  <b>UE3</b> – Administration and Management  <b>UE4</b> – Choice of 1 of 3 Concentrations:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>• Museum and Curatorial Studies</li> <li>• Art Market</li> </ul> <b>UE5</b> – French for Art Historians and Archaeologists</p> <p><b>Semester 3:</b>  <b>UE1</b> – Heritage, Sites, Museums and Collections III  <b>UE2</b> – Choice of 1 of 3 Concentrations:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>• Museum and Curatorial Studies</li> <li>• Art Market</li> </ul> <b>UE3</b> – French for Art Historians and Archaeologists</p> <p><b>Semester 4:</b>  Choice of 1 of 3 Concentrations:  Internship, Application Seminar and Dissertation  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Museum and Curatorial Studies: Museum Internship; Application Seminar and Dissertation</li> <li>• Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: Excavation Sites and Cultural Heritage Internship; Application Seminar and Dissertation</li> <li>• Art Market: Art Market Internship (Galleries, Auction Houses, Art Foundation, Private Collections, Luxury Brands etc); Application Seminar and Dissertation.</li> </ul> </p>



# Course list by semester



## Semester 1

### Course name

#### Art History and Archaeology I

- Archaeology of the Gulf and Near Eastern World I (Prehistory – Protohistory)
- Classical and Late Antique Archaeology & Art
- Archaeology and Art of the Asian World
- History of Techniques

#### Heritage, Sites, Museums and Collections I

- History of Heritage
- History and Contemporary Issues of Collections / Material Culture
- Valorisation: From Archaeological Sites to Museums. Around the Object.
- Digitisation for Arts and Heritage

#### Art History and Archaeology II

- Islamic Art and Archaeology
- Medieval Art
- Modern Art
- Extra-European Art and Archaeology I

#### Language

- French for Art Historians and Archaeologists

## Semester 2

### Course name

#### Art History and Archaeology III

- Extra-European Art and Archaeology II
- Western Contemporary Art
- Modern and Contemporary Art in the Arab World
- Historiography and Trends in Art History

#### Heritage, Sites, Museums and Collections II

- Basics of Documentation
- Audiences and Cultural Mediation
- The Object and the Expert

#### Administration and Management

- Critical Issues of the Artistic and Museum World
- Scientific and Cultural Programme of Sites and Museums

Choice of one of the three concentrations:

#### 1. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage I

- Lab Archaeology and Archaeometry
- Archaeological Project Management in the UAE
- Digital Archaeology I

#### 2. Museum and Curatorial Studies I

- Museum Acquisition, Policy and Strategy
- Basics of Museography
- International Law Applied to Museums, Collections, and Artworks

#### 3. Art Market I

- Collectors
- Combating Trafficking in Artwork and Cultural Goods
- Economics of Art and Culture / Marketing / Communication / Contract Negotiation

#### Language

- French for Art Historians and Archaeologists

## Semester 3

### Course name

#### Heritage, Sites, Museums and Collections III

- Art History and Archaeology in the Global Museum
- Exhibition Production and Project Management
- Communication (Publications – Networks – Digital Humanities)

Choice of one of the three concentrations:

#### 1. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage II

- Archaeology of the Gulf and Near Eastern World II (Antique – Medieval)
- Archaeology and Art of the Asian World II
- African Archaeology
- Digital Archaeology 2
- Landscape Archaeology
- Material Culture
- Archaeological Site Valorisation

#### 2. Museum and Curatorial Studies II

- Collection Management and Registration (Including Contemporary Art)
- Preventive Conservation and Restoration
- Programming and Curatorial Issues
- Temporary Exhibitions – from A to Z
- Mediation
- The Museum on Show: Architecture, Display, Scenography
- Object Histories and Exhibition Narratives: Which Methods for Which Museums?

#### 3. Art Market II

- Art Market Law
- Art World – Galleries, Auction Houses – Art Fairs
- Antique Art and Antique Dealers: The Issues of Expertise
- Contemporary Art Challenges
- Towards a Global Art Market
- Art and Design: New Issues
- Art and Luxury

#### Language

- French for Art Historians and Archaeologists

## Semester 4

### Course name

Choice of one of the three concentrations:

#### 1. Museum and Curatorial Studies

- Museum Internship; Application Seminar and Dissertation

#### 2. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

- Excavation Sites and Cultural Heritage Internship; Application Seminar and Dissertation

#### 3. Art Market

- Art Market Internship (Galleries, Auction Houses, Art Foundation, Private Collections, Luxury Brands etc); Application Seminar and Dissertation

## Assessment & graduation requirements

Assessment is based on continuous evaluation. Course sessions are primarily assessed through in-class individual and group work, including presentations, case study analyses, and group exercises, as well as final examinations.

The programme also includes a compulsory internship, followed by a research-based thesis and an oral defence. Attendance at all classes is mandatory.

**Graduation:** 120 ECTS over 4 semesters



## Career prospects

Graduates pursue careers in museum direction, curatorial practice, archaeology and heritage management, art expertise and valuation, gallery and art fair management, auction houses, cultural consultancy, luxury and creative industries, art criticism, and cultural diplomacy.

The programme also provides strong preparation for doctoral studies in France and internationally. Thanks to its rigorous academic foundation and strong research emphasis, graduates are well positioned to continue with graduate or doctoral studies at top-tier universities worldwide.

## Career Centre support

SUAD's Career Centre supports students throughout their programme offering one-on-one career advising, CV / cover letter support, internship placement assistance, and employer connections through the JobTeaser online platform.



# What can I do with a major in Arts & Heritage?

Where graduates in Arts & Heritage can work  
Graduates from the Master in Arts & Heritage qualify for a wide range of professional opportunities in prestigious cultural sectors, combining advanced expertise, strategic thinking, and professional experience across public and private institutions. They are prepared to work in museums, heritage authorities, archaeological missions, galleries, auction houses, art fairs, cultural foundations, and luxury and creative industries, both in the region and internationally.

## Museum Leadership & Collections Management

- Museum Director
- Curator
- Collection Manager
- Registrar (Museums and Collections)
- Provenance Researcher
- Exhibition Manager
- Public Programmes Manager
- Collections Data Manager

## Archaeology & Heritage Management

- Archaeologist
- Heritage Site Manager
- Heritage Consultant
- Heritage Impact Assessment Specialist
- Digital Heritage Specialist
- Cultural Development Officer

## Art Market & Creative Industries

- Art Dealer / Gallerist
- Art Investment Advisor
- Art Logistics and Art Handling Specialist
- Artistic Director
- Creative Director
- Art Critic

## Cultural Strategy, Policy & International Affairs

- Cultural Policy Advisor
- Cultural Strategy Consultant
- Cultural Partnerships Manager
- Cultural Diplomacy Officer
- Brand or Cultural Manager
- Luxury Brand Heritage Manager





# Admission prospects

Admission to the Master in Arts & Heritage is based on academic merit, motivation, and potential for success in the programme. Shortlisted candidates are invited to attend an interview.

## General application requirements

Applicants must have successfully completed a Bachelor's degree with one of the following results:

- Bachelor in a relevant field with a CGPA of 3 out of 4 or equivalent; or
- Bachelor with a minimum of second-class honours; or a Bachelor with an average of 12 out of 20.

For applicants who obtained a Bachelor's degree below the required score:

- Students with a GPA between 2.5 and 2.9 (or equivalent as per the equivalency table) may be conditionally admitted under probation during the first semester. They will be authorised to continue in the programme only if they achieve an average of at least 12 out of 20 by the end of the first semester. The decision will be made official after completion of the first semester and is based on academic performance.
- Students with a GPA below 3 may be admitted on the basis of their professional and / or personal experience, subject to approval through the VAPP procedure by Sorbonne University's or Université Paris Cité's VAPP commission.

## Language proficiency:

For Master programmes taught in English, applicants must provide one of the following:

- A valid academic IELTS certificate with a minimum overall band score of 6.0 (valid for 2 years); or
- TOEFL certificate with a minimum score of 79 (or equivalent), valid for 2 years; or
- Proof of being a native English speaker who has completed three full years in an English-medium institution within a maximum period of three years; or an equivalent qualification.

## Other education systems:

Conditions apply to other foreign curricula in accordance with the admission policy set by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. Contact Student Recruitment at: [admissions@sorbonne.ae](mailto:admissions@sorbonne.ae) for more details.

## Equal opportunity:

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi welcomes applications from students of all nationalities and backgrounds, regardless of country of origin, income, gender, religion, or physical condition.

## Scholarships

**Up to 100% scholarship available for this programme\*\*!**

To learn more

Click:

<https://www.sorbonne.ae/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/>

or Scan:



\*\*Terms and Conditions apply

# Why Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi?

In today's fast-paced and globalised world, education and communication play a pivotal role in shaping progressive and dynamic societies. The French education system is renowned for cultivating rigorous inquiry and, debate skills – essential qualities for developing future innovators and leaders.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is a globally recognised institution that bridges civilisations, offering a multicultural environment that fosters tolerance, curiosity, harmony, and cultural awareness - vital qualities for success in the modern economy. Students benefit from internationally acclaimed faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and globally recognised degrees, all of which equip them with the tools necessary for a successful and impactful career.

This degree is awarded by Sorbonne Université and accredited by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. Furthermore, this programme is accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA).





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February 2026

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