HONOURS IN CURATORSHIP 2020
PROGANME DESCRIPTION

The Honours programme in Curatorship is offered by the Michaelis School of Fine Art’s Centre for Curating the Archive in close collaboration with Iziko Museums.

The programme offers courses in the theory and practice of curatorship, developing in students a sophisticated awareness of the practicalities, politics and poetics of working with collections of many kinds. Students are encouraged to bring the disciplinary insights of their undergraduate major (whether this be in the visual arts, the humanities or the sciences) to the curating of both material and virtual collections, and are offered opportunities to work on exhibitions in real spaces and in the digital realm. A major aim of this programme is to introduce students, through seminars, fieldwork and workshops, to the central skills of a curator: to understand objects and how to research them, to work with collections, articulating them in exhibitions, and to collaborate with artists, mediating their production.

The course prepares students for further postgraduate study or possible work as curators, museum educators, collection managers, and for positions that require the use, interpretation, display and manipulation of collections.
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Compulsory components:
Critical thinking in curatorship
Working with museum collections
Research essay/curatorial project

Elective courses (two required):
Practical communication
Virtual display
Local issues in curatorship

Other possible electives:
Critical thinking in contemporary art (art history department)
Visual anthropology (anthropology department)

Workshops:
A range of compulsory introductory and specialist workshops will be offered in the fields of curation and conservation.

Internships:
The programme includes a mandatory sixty-hour internship, at a museum or gallery, where students are exposed to curatorial working practice. Students' performance is evaluated by internal and external supervisors.
ADMISSIONS

Academic criteria
Applications are invited from students who have completed an undergraduate degree in the visual arts or cognate fields, including such disciplines as art history, archaeology, visual studies, history and anthropology, as well as any of the sciences where collections are important for research, or for an understanding of the history of the discipline.

Applicants are required to submit hard copies of the following before 31 October 2019:
01. a detailed narrative curriculum vitae;
02. a letter of no more than two pages detailing your background and reasons for wishing to study curatorship, as well as your special areas of interest that are relevant to the programme;
03. academic transcripts;
04. the names and contact details of two academic referees;
05. a sample piece of academic writing;
06. a 500-word research proposal
FUNDING

The CCA has a small number of bursaries available, but given that the support we are able to offer is limited, it is recommended that prospective students pursue other avenues of support.

For more information about postgraduate funding offered by the university, please see: http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/current-students/funding/postgraduate-degree

The deadline for NRF and UCT funding for Honours students is the 31st of October 2019.
APPLICATION INFORMATION
Applications should be directed to:
Professor Pippa Skotnes
Programme Convener
Centre for Curating the Archive
Hiddingh Campus, 31-37 Orange Street
Gardens 8001
Cape Town

Enquiries:
lyndall.cain@uct.ac.za
Telephone: 021 650 1657

To be considered, in addition to the above, prospective students must apply on-line at www.uct.ac.za before 31 October 2019.