



# Academic Promotion Discipline Statement

Discipline area: Arts

Discipline: Art history and visual culture

## Discipline Overview

Art history is a long standing discipline which involves the study of aesthetic objects created by humans across time and place. Art historians seek understand how and why such objects came to be made, what they mean and the role they place in human culture. Traditionally art history focussed on painting, drawing, sculpture, architecture and decorative arts, however in recent decades the discipline has expanded to include broader aspects of visual culture. Art history is taught within the university sector as a discipline in its own right, with graduates being employed as curators, critics, art advisers, collection managers and educators. Additionally, art history is a component of most visual arts programs in the higher education sector, providing arts practitioners with knowledge of the broader context in which they work.

Those working as art historians within the visual arts industry will most likely have an honours degree as a minimum qualification; in academia a PhD is the norm.

## Gender Profile

Profession/Industry	Data not available
Higher Education Sector	Data not available
University	100% male / 0% female

## Discipline Context and Expectations

This section provides a promotion committee with a broad understanding of the discipline environment, including expectations of performance and contribution peculiar to the discipline.

<b>INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION</b>	This discipline is not subject to industry accreditation requirements.
<b>DISCIPLINE PEDAGOGIES</b>	Teaching typically involves lectures, tutorials and workshop activities conducted online or on-campus and may include field trips to museum settings. While the focus is on building traditional research, writing and visual analysis skills, the varied nature of the student cohort at CSU requires a flexible and creative approach to the development of teaching and assessment strategies.

<b>STUDENT PROFILE</b>	The student cohort in art history at Charles Sturt University is diverse. It includes school leavers and mature age students, a small but significant number of whom will have previous qualifications. A single subject will likely include students undertaking art history as a major discipline within a BA, students electing the subject as a minor, and students undertaking the subject as a compulsory component of a visual arts program. The latter often enter the university by alternative pathways and may require additional support in the early stages of their study program.
<b>STUDENT FEEDBACK/PERFORMANCE</b>	Feedback in compulsory subjects with large cohorts may be lower than the norm. By contrast, feedback is often better than the norm in niche subjects with smaller cohorts.
<b>RESEARCH APPROACH</b>	An individual approach to research is more common than collaboration. Where collaboration occurs, it is likely to involve researchers working on individual projects/components that make up a larger project.
<b>PUBLICATION</b>	<p>There are numerous peer reviewed publications ranging from broad-based art history journals to those which are genre or topic specific.</p> <p>Most of the broad-based art history journals are international and can be quite parochial. They are not always interested in Australian topics and the top tier journals are very competitive. This is a significant issue for art historians who research Australian topics. The more focussed journals tend to be not as highly ranked.</p> <p>Books/monographs are the culmination of a significant period of research and regarded as a significant achievement.</p> <p>Catalogue essays are another form of publication common in the discipline. Those commissioned by major public institutions, such as a state or national gallery, are highly regarded.</p> <p>Art historians also write for professional journals such as Art Monthly Australia. Although not peer reviewed, these publications have a wide readership.</p>
<b>CONFERENCES</b>	Conference presentations at national and international level are important in developing an external profile in this discipline. Highly regarded conferences within the discipline include the AAANZ Conference, the College Art Association Conference and the International Conference on the Arts in Society.
<b>GRANTS</b>	External grants in the arts are highly competitive and it is unusual for art historians at CSU to be awarded external grants.
<b>HDR SUPERVISION</b>	Academics begin by supervising honours projects, progress to co-supervision of Masters and PhD students and then to primary supervision of PhDs.
<b>RECOGNITION</b>	Information not available



<b>EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT</b>	<p>External engagement with the gallery/museum sector is an important element of the work of an art history academic.</p> <p>Curating exhibitions is also something that art historians do. The more prestigious the museum the more highly regarded the curating is considered.</p>
<b>PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION</b>	There are no formal registration/accreditation requirements

<b>Prepared by</b>		
<b>Authorisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>
<b>Discipline Adviser</b>	Dr Susan Wood	
<b>Head of School</b>	Professor Sally Totman	29 July 2022

