

GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR FINE ARTISTS



Why? Why now? If not, when? What are the alternatives?

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- What are my personal and professional goals? What are my graduate study goals?
- Why do I want to go to grad school? Why now?
- How do I want my work to develop? Who do I want to be?

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR RESEARCH

Who are my mentors?

- What are their career paths? Where did they study? Who did they study with? Are they teaching?

What do my faculty recommend?

- Discuss your professional plans with faculty you've worked with most closely.
- They know your work, and your learning style.
- Don't be afraid to step out of critique mode and talk about your professional strategy! Faculty will be happy to discuss.
- They want you to be serious about your career and successful.

The School

- What is the size? Is it public or private? Is it independent?
- Is it part of a university? What is the relation of the studio areas to other departments?
- What are the facilities?

Faculty

- Who teaches at the school? Does their work and their pedagogical approach interest you?
- What's the profile of the visiting artist program? How much contact will you have with visiting artists, faculty, and a professional network outside of the school?

Curriculum

- Is the program discipline specific/interdisciplinary/cross-disciplinary?
- Is this important to you?
- What courses and research can one do outside of one's area of concentration?
- What is the quality of related areas – visual & critical studies, art history, exhibition studies?
- Is there a written thesis requirement?

Professional Development

- What resources and support are provided for professional development? These may include exhibition and presentation opportunities; access to professional network, industry and community partnerships, awards, recognitions, funding, teaching and research opportunities.

Facilities

- What is the studio space like?
- Workshops? Technical support? Equipment available? Exhibition Spaces?

Location

Climate and geography; cultural and civic engagement; connections to cultural and civic communities; connections to national & international network; city vs. college town vs. small town

Students

- What are they making?
- International students?
- Where do they come from?
- Fulbright recipients?
- What do alumni do?

Finances

- What is the tuition? Are grants or fellowships available?
- Are graduate or teaching assistantships available and how do you get one?
- What kinds of financial assistance and work study options are available?
- Can I afford it and is it worth the investment? • Are there lower cost alternatives?

Personal Fit

- Visit. Always schedule a meeting/interview!
- What's right for one artist may not be for another
- Don't rely on reputation, programs change, evolve and improve

RESOURCES

The Career + Co-op Center

Meet with a career advisor who can help you research graduate programs and develop competitive applications, research professional opportunities, and build a professional strategy.

<http://www.saic.edu/careers>

Graduate Portfolio Days

SAIC hosts a graduate portfolio day every year in early November. Meet with representatives of graduate programs and learn more about the curricula, faculty, application procedures, program information, and get portfolio feedback. <http://www.portfolioday.net/graduate-events>

Graduate Admissions Staff

Each school is organized differently, but the basic role of admissions staff is to make sure you have all the information you need about their programs and assist you with the application process. Ask questions. Let them help you!

College Art Association (CAA)

- CAA Directories of Graduate Programs in the Arts: <http://www.collegeart.org/directories>
- CAA's directories are the most comprehensive resources available for prospective graduate students in the visual arts. Published this fall, the guides list more than five hundred programs in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere worldwide.

Additional Web Resources

- Art & Education: <http://artandeducation.net> (get on their mailing list!)
- <http://www.gradschools.com/Subject/Art-and-Fine-Arts>