

Art History Career Options

Specialist Major Minor Co-op Joint

Exploring career options involves researching **occupations** and **industry sectors** that fit your **skills**, interests, personality preferences and values. An *occupation* relates to the activities of the work you perform, whereas *industry sector* classifies the organizations that employ people in such occupations.

Example: “Archivist” is an occupation that involves using critical thinking, writing and computer skills to study and design programs for managing, disseminating and storing archives of all types. Archivists work in many industry sectors — particularly but not exclusively in the cultural sector. They might also work in the government, entertainment and professional services sectors.

Art History graduates have many skills. In particular, they can:

Articulate abstract ideas and visual impressions	Interpret a culture’s values and beliefs
Convey complex information	Present theories and ideas
Define quality	Provide disciplined focus and attention to detail
Explain the present by referring to the past	Relate visual observations to political, social contexts
Evaluate research results	Understand and analyze form, technique, iconography



With these skills in mind, how can I research my career options?

Occupational Research

Canada’s National Occupational Classification (NOC) system categorizes over 30,000 occupational titles into 10 broad classes listed in **Table 1**. The 4-digit titles in **Table 2** are examples of occupations related to Art History within these classes (NB: Some require further education).

Table 1: NOC Occupational Titles (www5.hrsdc.gc.ca)

0 Management Occupations	5 Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport
1 Business Finance and Administration Occupations	6 Sales and Service Occupations
2 Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations	7 Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations
3 Health Occupations	8 Occupations Unique to Primary Industry
4 Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Services and Religion	9 Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities

Table 2: Sample Occupational Titles Related to Art History

0511 Museum Director	5112 Conservator/Restorer, Curator
0621 Art Dealer	5113 Archivist
1226 Special Events Planner	5121 Technical Writer
1235 Accredited Appraiser	5123 Journalist/Editor, Art Critic
2175 Web Designer	5124 Museum Art Educator, Fundraising Consultant
3144 Art Therapist	5212 Museum and Gallery/Art Restoration Technician
4121 Teacher/Professor	5221 Photographer
4163 Market Research Analyst	5241 Graphic Artist/Layout Artist
4166 Art Coordinator	5243 Visual Merchandiser, Exhibit/Display Designer
5111 Librarian/Information Specialist	6421 Art Sales Consultant

Occupational Research Links

The two excellent occupational databases below provide you with details about job prospects, nature of work, educational requirements, working conditions, pay and related occupations:

Career Cruising: www.careercruising.com (Access our subscription through your Career Centre Online account)

ONet: <http://online.onetcenter.org> (U.S. site)

Industry Research

The **North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)** is a hierarchical industry structure that divides the economy into 20 broad sectors of activity listed in **Table 3**. **Table 4** provides examples of specific industry groups relevant to Art History graduates.

Table 3: NAICS Industry Sectors (www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/standard-norme/naics-scian/2007/list-liste-eng.htm)

11 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	53 Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
21 Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	54 Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
22 Utilities	55 Management of Companies and Enterprises
23 Construction	56 Administrative, Support, Waste Management, Remediation
31-33 Manufacturing	61 Educational Services
41 Wholesale Trade	62 Health Care and Social Assistance
44-45 Retail Trade	71 Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
48-49 Transportation and Warehousing	72 Accommodation and Food Services
51 Information and Cultural Industries	81 Other Services (except Public Administration)
52 Finance and Insurance	91 Public Administration (= Government)

Table 4: Sample Industry Groups Relevant to Art History Graduates

5111 Magazine Publishers	6113 Universities
5191 Photographic Libraries — Archives	7115 Independent Artists
5414 Graphic Design Services	7121 Art Museums
5417 Humanities Research & Development Services	9119 Federal — Arts and Culture Programs
5418 Advertising Consultants	9129 Provincial — Cultural Affairs Programs
5419 Photographic Services	

Industry Research Links

To learn more about job prospects in your sectors of interest, visit:

Industry Canada: www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/company-entreprises.nsf/eng/home

Career Links Related to Art History

Professional Associations

The Cultural Human Resources Council	www.culturalhrc.ca
Canadian Museums Association	www.museums.ca
Association of Canadian Archivists	http://archivists.ca
The National Art Education Association	www.naea-reston.org
Federation of Canadian Artists	http://artists.ca
Ontario Art Therapy Association	www.oata.ca

Other Resources

Arts and Humanities Research Council	www.ahrb.ac.uk
Metropolitan Museum of Art	www.metmuseum.org
Library and Archives Canada	www.collectionscanada.gc.ca
National Gallery of Canada	www.gallery.ca
Arts and Cultural Industries	www.international.gc.ca/culture
Canadian Heritage — Cultural Affairs Sector	www.pch.gc.ca

E-Journals Available through the University of Toronto Library (www.library.utoronto.ca/utsc)

American Artist	Art History	International Journal of Art and Design Education
Art Bulletin	Art Journal	International Journal of Art Therapy
Art Documentation	Canadian Art	The Art Book

Resources Available at the Academic Advising & Career Centre

Not sure how your skills, values, personality and interests fit your career options? Book an appointment with a Career Counsellor or sign-up for the *Discover Your Skills and Career Options* workshop via the Intranet. The Academic Advising & Career Centre has a very good collection of books related to career planning and job search.