studio arts
Pathways to Careers in Studio Arts

The Studio Arts (STAR) program is within the Department of Art and Art History. The STAR major provides a vital and culturally relevant art, design and media experience within a liberal arts education. Our students and faculty are visual catalysts who creatively engage the social, political and economic dynamics that shape our world.

The STAR curriculum begins at the intersection of art, design and community through coursework that focuses on collaborations across academic disciplinary lines as well as interactions with artists, activists, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, cultural centers and the surrounding communities of Los Angeles.

STAR offers immersive learning opportunities within the fields of art and design through class projects, student-driven exhibitions, professional internships and extensive networks within the industries and communities of Los Angeles.

Finding Your Career Path in Studio Arts

The Studio Arts Major encourages LMU students to proactively explore ‘Real World’ working experiences in the art and design fields. Each of the Studio Arts programs offers active resources for the ‘For Credit’ Internships appropriate to the major or minor.

The Art Education program requires participation in the ARTsmart community program as art teachers at local schools and community organizations in Los Angeles.

The Fine Arts program directs students towards internships in museums, artists’ studios and agencies.

The Graphic Design and Multimedia Arts programs encourage multiple internships (two at minimum are recommended prior to graduation) across a spectrum of cultural institutions and creative agencies in Los Angeles. These include: advertising, film production and visual effects studios, art galleries, graphic design and interactive studios, media and entertainment networks, and publishers. The Graphic Design program recommends both student affiliations and professional organizations highlighting “Best Practices” within the design disciplines. These include: the American Institute of Graphic Arts (www.aiga.org), American Institute of Architects (www.aiia.org), American Society of Interior Designer (www.asid.org), Society for Experiential Graphic Design (ww.segd.org).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT INTERNSHIPS:

What are the benefits of an Internship?

Internships provide a pre-graduation experience involving skill building and networking in a field of interest.

How do I find an Internship?

Begin your career path by doing your homework. Research ‘benchmark’ agencies, and creative practices that are at the top of your industry. Have frequent ‘information interviews’ to learn about their practices. More often than not creative leaders are willing to share vital information about their own career paths as well as develop professional relationships.

Can internships be counted for credit towards graduation?

Yes, one can register for an internship using the Art 494, 495, or 496 course number.

What are the course requirements for the internship?

In all cases, an evaluation of your performance is required by your direct supervisor.

Can students have more than one internship during their time at LMU?

Students are encouraged to seek a minimum of two internships during their time at LMU. The internships combined with the information interview process can often lead to that first entry level job experience.

Should I join the professional organization for my major?

Yes, Professional organizations like AAM-US.ORG, AIGA.ORG, AIA.ORG, ASID.ORG often have student chapters and can serve as a platform for career networking.

Are there additional resources available to learn about internships at LMU?

The Office of Career and Professional Development (Von der Ahe 135) provides a range of career counseling services. Additionally, the Department of Art and Art History’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lmustararhs) provides current information.

Selected internships and recent student engagements include:

Creative Agencies and Design Studios
- Bright Design
- Deutsch Advertising
- DVSSHOES .com
- Eames Studios
- Fox TV
- GENTS.com
- Girl Skateboards
- Hulu.com
- Mirada
- Motion Theory
- Sapient
- SONY
- TED.com
- TRUE Agency
- TWBA/Chiat Day
- Watson DG

Cultural Institutions
- Getty Multicultural Internships
- Center for the Study of Political Graphics
- LACMA

Service Learning
- ARTsmart – Dolores Mission
- Center for Service and Action
- LMU
- Heart of Los Angeles, hola.com
- Homeboy and Homegirl Industries
- Venice Arts

Graduate School Placement
- California Institute of the Arts
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Harvard University
- London School of Economics
- OTIS
- Parsons School of Design
- School of the Museum of Fine Arts— Boston
- USC

The Office of Career and Professional Development (CPD). Located in Von der Ahe 135, CPD provides a wide range of career counseling services, information on internships and employment opportunities. For more information contact CPD at (310) 338-2871.

http://cfa.lmu.edu/programs/studioarts/