



# ARTS



Design Media  
Arts

*Updated 8/16/22 for Fall 2023 Admission*

## GRADUATE MFA APPLICATION INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in the MFA program in media arts at UCLA Department of Design Media Arts (DMA). Applications to the MFA program are due **January 4, 2023**. This is a strict deadline. Please plan ahead to avoid any unexpected technical delays at the last minute. Late, incomplete, or hard-copy applications will not be considered.

Use this MFA Application guide to help prepare your materials for electronic submission via the UCLA Application for Graduate Admission (<http://www.grad.ucla.edu/apply>).

**We remind applicants that this is an MFA program in media arts. It is not a graphic design program.** Portfolios of those interested in pursuing the study or practice of traditional graphic design will not be considered. If you have any questions regarding the application, please contact [dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu](mailto:dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu) or visit our website at <http://dma.ucla.edu>.

In addition to basic information, the following sections will be listed in the UCLA Application for Graduate Admission:

### 1) PLANS FOR GRADUATE STUDY

Select the Design Media Arts MFA major and Fall term for this section.

### 2) ARTIST STATEMENT

Please provide a short statement about your current work. The artist statement should not describe each work specifically, but should more broadly address the key ideas, issues, struggles, and goals within your work; the central themes of your work; and the primary forms of the work (materials, processes, techniques, etc). The statement should be no longer than 500 words.

### 3) ARTIST WEBSITE

Please enter your artist website URL (optional).

### 4) FACULTY CHOICE STATEMENT

If admitted to the program, which faculty member(s) or research group(s) would you like to work with and why? A list of faculty and more information about our research initiatives can be found on the [Design Media Arts website](#).

## Faculty

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jenna Caravello     | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Moeller  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erkki Huhtamo       | <input type="checkbox"/> Casey Reas         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Lunenfeld     | <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Steinkamp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lauren Lee McCarthy | <input type="checkbox"/> Eddo Stern         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chandler McWilliams | <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria Vesna     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rebeca Méndez       |   |

This statement should be no longer than 250 words. Please describe in detail your interest in at least two faculty members or areas of interest.

## 5) PORTFOLIO

Students are accepted into the MFA program in media arts based on evidence of academic achievement and creative talent. Select your best current works that represent your media emphasis and potential for advanced specialized study.

### Portfolio Requirements

- A portfolio consisting of up to 10 pieces of original work is required.
- Up to 5 out of the 10 pieces can be videos. Each video may not exceed 2 minutes.
- Still images, interactive media, and sound will be accepted. Interactive projects such as websites or games should be submitted as a still shot or video. A still shot or video documentation of an interactive project can also be accompanied by a URL link to the actual project.
- URL links to videos longer than 2 minutes must be easily matched with the submitted work.
- A maximum of 5 URL links are allowed.
- For work samples from collaborative projects, please indicate your role(s) in the project.

### Portfolio Restrictions

Although the application may allow flexibility in uploading options, please follow these DMA-specific restrictions.

- Do NOT upload PDF files.
- Do NOT upload PowerPoint files.
- Do NOT upload GIF files.
- DMA's MFA program in media arts is not a graphic design program. Traditional graphic design portfolios will not be considered.
- URL links entered in project description fields will not be reviewed. URLs should ONLY be uploaded separately and easily matched with the associated project.
- Images should not contain titles or descriptive text about the work, but should rather represent the work itself. Please use the details section for each image to add additional information as noted above. Due to technical constraints, avoid images with extreme

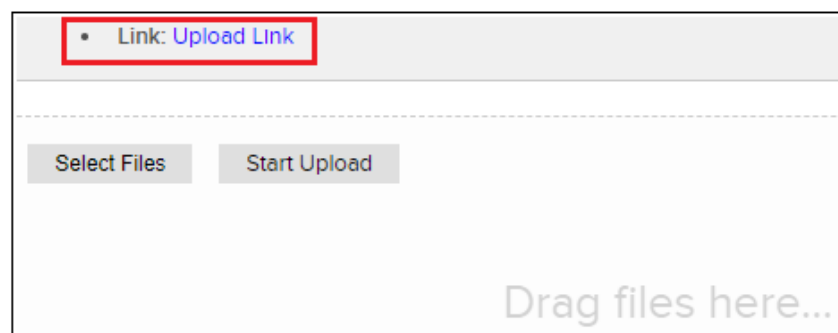
aspect ratios except where this is an integral part of the piece. Applicant should aim for common aspect ratios (i.e. 1920x1080).

After you upload your materials, please visit the "Your Portfolio" tab and for each upload click on the "Edit Details" link. On the pop-up menu please provide a relevant title, year, size, medium, and a description of the upload. You will be able to re-order your uploaded media.

### File Sizes and Types

We support media files as large as 5GB, but please be advised that larger files will take longer to upload from your Internet connection and may stall if you are on a wireless connection or one that cannot sustain a connection for the necessary period of time. We support the following file formats:

- **Video:** .3g2, .3gp, .avi, .m2v, .m4v, .mkv, .mov, .mpeg, .mpg, .mp4, .mxf, .webm, .wmv
- **Audio:** .aac, .m4a, .mka, .mp3, .oga, .ogg, .wav
- **Slide:** .bmp, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .tif, .tiff
- **Link:** can be uploaded but must be re-ordered to match with the associated project



## 6) ACADEMIC HISTORY & TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts from all educational institutions attended (beyond secondary school or community college) must be uploaded. Unofficial transcripts will be accepted during the application process. Official transcripts and documents are only required **after** if you have been admitted.

If you are a university/college senior, do not wait for senior-year grades before submitting your application and transcript. If you are admitted provisionally, you will be required to submit your final transcript showing the degree has been awarded with the date of conferral. The department must receive the final transcript prior to the first month of the quarter. Failure to send final transcripts will result in a hold on your student account.

## 7) AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

List academic awards, prizes, honors, fellowships, or other distinctions you have received. You may also list your publications and any scholarly or professional organizations in which you hold membership.

## **8) RESUME/CV**

Please upload your resume or CV.

## **9) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The statement of purpose is an integral part of your application for graduate admission and consideration for merit-based financial support. It is used to understand your academic interests, and to evaluate your aptitude and preparation for graduate work, as well as your fit with the proposed program of study. It is also used to assess your ability to write coherent and convincing prose.

Please respond to the following. Your statement can be up to 500 words in length. You do not need to answer every question; focus on the elements that you feel are most relevant to your candidacy.

- What is your purpose in applying for graduate study in your specified degree program? Describe your area(s) of interest, including any subfield(s) or interdisciplinary interests.
- What experiences have prepared you for advanced study or research in this degree program? What relevant skills have you gained from these experiences? Have your experiences led to specific or tangible outcomes that would support your potential to contribute to this field (examples: performances, publications, presentations, awards or recognitions)?
- What additional information about your past experience may aid the selection committee in evaluating your preparation and aptitude for graduate study at UCLA? For example, you may wish to describe research, employment, teaching, service, artistic or international experiences through which you have developed skills in leadership, communication, project management, teamwork, or other areas.
- Why is the UCLA graduate program to which you are applying is the best place for you to pursue your academic goals? If you are applying for a research master's or doctoral program, we encourage you to indicate specific research interests and potential faculty mentors.
- What are your plans for your career after earning this degree?

## **10) PERSONAL STATEMENT**

The Personal Statement is an opportunity for you to provide additional information that may aid the selection committee in evaluating your preparation and aptitude for graduate study at UCLA. It will also be used to consider candidates for the Cota-Robles and Graduate Opportunity fellowships.

Please respond to one or more of the following prompts. Your statement can be up to 500 words in length (approximately 1-page, single spaced, using 1-inch margins and 12-point font). To be considered for a Cota-Robles or Graduate Opportunity fellowship, be sure to describe your contributions to diversity. The [University of California Diversity Statement](#) can be found online.

- Are there educational, personal, cultural, economic, or social experiences, not described in your Statement of Purpose, that have shaped your academic journey? If so, how? Have any of these experiences provided unique perspective(s) that you would contribute to your program, field or profession?
- Describe challenge(s) or barriers that you have faced in your pursuit of higher education. What motivated you to persist, and how did you overcome them? What is the evidence of your persistence, progress or success?
- How have your life experiences and educational background informed your understanding of the barriers facing groups that are underrepresented in higher education?
- How have you been actively engaged (e.g., through participation, employment, service, teaching or other activities) in programs or activities focused on increasing participation by groups that have been historically underrepresented in higher education?
- How do you intend to engage in scholarly discourse, research, teaching, creative efforts, and/or community engagement during your graduate program that have the potential to advance diversity and equal opportunity in higher education?
- How do you see yourself contributing to diversity in your profession after you earn your advanced degree at UCLA?

## **11) SURVEY INFORMATION**

How did you learn about the UCLA program to which you are applying?

## **12) PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

This section is optional.

## **13) FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION**

The fellowship application is optional and is to be used by all UCLA graduate applicants who wish to be considered for UCLA merit-based awards. If you do not wish to apply for any of the awards, select None in the Graduate Division Fellowships field; then click Continue below without selecting any other options. If the Graduate Division Fellowships field does not appear, click Continue below without selecting any other options. [Review the fellowship descriptions](#)

[and eligibility requirements](#) to be sure you are eligible. Certain fellowships may require applicants to upload an eligibility statement. You will be ineligible if items are left blank and information is called for but not provided.

## 14) TEST SCORES AND TEST REGISTRATION NUMBER

DMA does not require GRE scores.

If your first language is not English, you may be required to certify English proficiency by submitting TOEFL or IELTS scores. [Click here for English requirements and minimum test scores.](#)

TOEFL Institution code for UCLA: 4837

TOEFL department code: 15

Enter your ETS Registration number in the application. Mailed TOEFL or IELTS scores must be postmarked by the application deadline.

Test scores sent electronically may take several weeks to match up *after you have submitted your application*. Your name and other personal information must be exactly the same on the application as on the test materials to make a match. You may upload a PDF of your test taker's score report in the Supplemental Materials section as unofficial documentation of your scores.

## 15) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

This section is optional. Portfolio submissions in this section will not be reviewed.

## 16) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

DMA requires **two (2) letters of recommendation** using the online UCLA application. Recommenders can be undergraduate, graduate, academic, or professional contacts; they should be people who can speak to your creative ability and potential. After entering your each recommender's information, they will be sent an e-mail with instructions to submit their letter online through the application system.

## 17) FEE WAIVER

Waivers of UCLA's application fee are available for U.S. citizens, Permanent Residents and others who meet the certain criteria. Please see more [frequently asked questions about fee waivers](#).

If you requested a fee waiver, it may take several business days *after* you submit your application for your documentation to be reviewed. If it is determined that you are not eligible for a fee waiver, you will receive an email notice with instructions for paying the fee. If you have applied for a fee waiver, please email [dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu](mailto:dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu) to check the status of your fee waiver request.