

THE JOHN & BARBARA GILLETTE STUDY OF THE ARTS ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The John & Barbara Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad and Academic Scholarship Fund for The University of Akron's Mary Schiller Myers School of Art was established in 2013 by John & Barbara Gillette to provide students with the opportunity to explore the borderless and timeless language of the arts, and to provide the gift of education for art majors. The Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship offers invaluable lessons in life and art for junior and senior-level students who have declared art as their primary major. For the students who are selected to participate in the program, it is a high honor and responsibility. Held in even numbered years starting in 2014, the Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship program will provide full support for overseas travel and study in contemporary art forms, art culture and art history.

The Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship is one of the most prestigious and valuable awards offered through the Myers School of Art. The application process is highly selective, and only seven to ten scholarships are awarded. All art majors who meet the eligibility requirements are welcome to apply; a faculty nomination is not necessary to earn this scholarship. Your application materials are of critical importance: you are strongly encouraged to put your best work forward in order to be competitive for this scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Eligible for the Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship are undergraduate students who:

- have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.000;
- have at least a 3.500 grade point average in their Major (all ART/7100: Art classes);
- will be a Junior or Senior in the semester of travel;
- have a declared art as their primary major; and
- are in good standing with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Ineligible for the Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship are:

- seniors graduating in the semester of travel;
- students who submit incomplete or late applications.
- students who have already traveled on either a Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad or a Venice Biennale trip.

Preference will be given to applicants who have not yet been awarded a fully-funded international travel scholarship.

APPLICATION

Application materials should be submitted to the Manager of Student Affairs by **noon on the Friday, February 21, 2025**. Submit a pdf of the following materials in order via email to the Manager of Student Affairs. Your pdf must be titled **LastName_FirstName_Gillette_YearOfTravel.pdf**.

1. Cover sheet

The requisite cover sheet must be completely and accurately filled out; reformatted cover sheets are not permitted. If you need assistance determining your GPA or earned credit hours, please consult the Manager of Student Affairs.

The cover sheet can be found on the last page of these guidelines.

2. Work Sample

- **Studio and Graphic Design Majors:** Submit documentation of 3–6 exemplary works (minimum of 3 for 3-D artists and 6 for 2-D artists). Students must independently select which works to include. Label each work with title, date, dimensions and materials. If a piece was created as a class assignment, include the class and assignment name. If appropriate, students may include an artist's statement no longer than one page (250 words).
- **Art Education Majors:** Submit a sample of curriculum development such as a full lesson plan with studio samples, electronic portfolios, or an advanced research project.

3. Letter of Interest

The letter of interest should be a clear and concise document, at least three pages in length (750 words). The standard format will be: 12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced. Research the destination(s) of the Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Program, and in your letter, address the following questions as thoroughly as possible:

- How will the museums, sites, and experiences at the destination(s) be influential in your growth and development as an artist, designer, scholar, or educator?
- Indicate specifically how the culture, artistic heritage, and/or history of the destination(s) will be inspirational to your work.
- How will the contemporary art on exhibit shape your work as an artist, designer, scholar or educator?

4. Resume

The resume must include your full name, student ID #, UA email address, phone number, address, education history, and work history (if applicable). Detailed, comprehensive resumes assist the committee in evaluating your application; many students, especially those in Graphic Design, find that their professional resume needs significant additional information and narrative detail.

Be certain to highlight the following aspects:

- **Professional Growth and Accomplishment:** Highlight the public presentation of your work in venues such as: solo and group exhibitions including those sponsored by the Myers School of Art such as the Juried Student Show, the Student Art League show, the Myers School of Art Studio Scholarship show, GAR UA/KSU exhibition, participation in conferences and research symposia, and any presentation at outside galleries or museums (i.e., AAM or CMA). Demonstrate your professional growth through: awards and honors received; educational travel; work history; internships; membership in professional organizations, such as Spaces Gallery or MOCA.
- **Service to the School and Community:** Document your commitment to the Myers School of Art and the arts community in NE Ohio. This can include gratis art/design projects; internships; organizing lectures, films and/or art walks; UA student organization membership/leadership roles; mentorship of fellow students; volunteering for Myers School of Art recruitment events.

Sample formats for resumes by discipline can be found on the College Art Association website (collegeart.org/guidelines/) or in The University of Akron Career Center (uakron.edu/career/).

5. Academic Transcript

Unofficial Academic Transcript. This can be obtained through your Workday, and must include coursework from the current semester.

DEADLINE

Application materials should be submitted to Sofia Calderwood, Manager of Student Affairs at sofia@uakron.edu by

5:00pm on Friday, February 21, 2025.

A single pdf of the above materials should be emailed to the Manager of Student Affairs. The pdf must be titled **LastName_FirstName_Gillette_SemesterYear.pdf**.

No materials will be accepted in hard copy or as print outs.

Applicants will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of submission, if successful. If you do not receive this email, please resubmit. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure your application is complete and successfully emailed by the deadline; no extensions due to technical issues will be granted.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Recipients of the Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship will be announced at the Myers School of Art Awards Ceremony at the end of the spring semester.

EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship is an honor and a responsibility. The applicants selected as recipients of this scholarship agree to the following commitments:

- **Appropriate conduct throughout the process of application, preparation, travel, and post-travel.**
- **See the Student Code of Conduct for standards;** those in violation may be sent home at their own expense, and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.
- **Participation in pre- and post-travel meetings with faculty organizers.** The time commitment is extensive, and all participants must commit to work collaboratively and individually through Spring 2026.
- **Active participation in trip documentation and presentation to the school and donors,** including the development and presentation of a public exhibition, lecture, book, website, video and/or other PR materials.
- **Craft a thank you letter to the donors, John & Barbara Gillette.** The Gillette's generous gift has made this and future Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship trips possible, so it is crucial that we present the Myers School of Art in the best possible light. Your thank-you letter must be a thoughtful, personal expression of your gratitude and what you hope to gain from the travel experience. Your thank-you letter must be emailed to the Manager of Student Affairs before 5:00 pm on May 07, 2025. All letters will be reviewed for content and tone before being forwarded to the Donors.
- **Recipients of all scholarships and grants administered by the Myers School of Art are expected to give back to the school by participating in school-sponsored events.** Events can include high school visits, Portfolio Review Days, speaking to an Arts Orientation class about your award, and other events where a student's voice and perspective are valued. Your participation will be coordinated by the Manager of Student Affairs, and by accepting this scholarship you agree to serve in at least three such events over the next two years.

QUESTIONS

Any questions about the John and Barbara Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship guidelines or application process should be directed to the Chair of the Scholarships and Grants Committee.

**THE JOHN & BARBARA GILLETTE
STUDY OF THE ARTS ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP
COVER PAGE**

**Please complete this form by typing the required information and checking the boxes.
Print, sign, scan, and place it as the first page of your pdf application.**

Name: _____

Home phone: (____) ____-____ Mobile phone: (____) ____-____

Student ID #: _____ Major: _____

Minor/s (if any): _____

UA e-mail address (*not* your personal email): _____

Status as determined by earned credit hours: Senior Junior

ART GPA (AR/7100) classes: _____ Cumulative GPA (all UA classes): _____

Anticipated Graduation Date/Term: _____

MYERS SCHOOL OF ART AWARDS & GRANTS DISCLOSURE

Have you previously received an award or grant through the Myers School of Art?

Yes No

If yes, list all including dates awarded, and their status (complete or in-progress):

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Authorization for the Release of Information: By signing this form, you grant the Myers School of Art permission to consult with offices and units on campus as needed to administer this scholarship, including the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards and the Office of Student Financial Aid.

DEADLINE 5:00PM FRIDAY, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2025.

**Email a single pdf of all required information to
Sofia Calderwood, Manager of Student Affairs at sofia@uakron.edu.**

LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON.