

**Queen's University Department of Art History and Art Conservation
ARTH 380 6.0 VENICE AND ITS BIENNALE**

May 3-June 1, 2026

Course fee: \$4,000

Application deadline January 19, 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Every two years, the Venice Biennale turns the city of Venice, Italy, into a massive, dynamic exhibition, featuring the work of hundreds of artists from over 75 countries and regions. ARTH 380 is a 4-week, 6-unit/credit travel study course that gives students the extraordinary opportunity to experience Venice and its Biennale firsthand. Through daily onsite study at the Biennale, as well as at other museums, galleries, and historical sites in Venice, students gain in-depth knowledge of the history the Biennale, its relationship to the city of Venice, and its role within a larger field of global contemporary art.

In addition to onsite lectures and seminars, all ARTH 380 students participate in internships at the Canada Pavilion in Venice, which is coordinated by the National Gallery of Canada. These internships are an exciting opportunity to see behind the scenes of the Biennale (the largest and longest running international exhibition of contemporary art in the world) and to gain meaningful practical experience in the arts. Internship hours count toward course credit.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **The application deadline is January 19, 2026**
- Applications must be submitted electronically using this [Application Form](#).
- Students will be notified of the result of their application Feb 13, 2026
- A waitlist for the course will be created.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- **Registration will take place from Feb 23-27, 2026**
- After Feb. 27, students who have not registered will lose their spot and registration will open to students on the waiting list.
- Detailed information about registration will be provided to students with their letters of acceptance.
- At the time of registration, students must submit a non-refundable certified cheque or money order for the \$4,000 course fee, two professional passport photos, and a scan of your passport. Details about the course fee are provided below.
- To register for the course, your SOLUS account must be free of any outstanding fees.
- Please note that enrollment for ARTH 380 will be limited to 18 students.

REGISTERING FOR ARTH 380 AS A NON-QUEEN'S STUDENT

- Non-Queen's student may register for the course only if they have a letter of permission from their home university. After they have secured this letter, they may register as a Queen's student for the spring term. The 6-credits from ARTH 380 will be transferred to the student's home institution upon successfully completing the course, pending acceptance by the student's home university.
- Detailed information about registering as a non-Queen's student will be provided to students in their letters of acceptance.

COURSE INFORMATION

FINANCES

What does the up to \$4,000 course fee cover?

- Accommodation at Palazzo Martinelli Dolfin (<https://palazzomartinellidolfin.com/>) **from Sunday, May 3 (check-in) to Monday, June 1 (check-out)**
- Daily breakfast at Palazzo Martinelli Dolfin
- Admissions to all the museums and galleries included on the course syllabus (the class visits many contemporary and historical museums and cultural institutions in Venice in addition to the Biennale)
- Passes to the Biennale's Giardini and Arsenale sites
- A public transit pass for the duration of the course
- 3-4 group meals (lunches or dinners)

What costs are not included in the course fee?

- Tuition for a 6-credit course (Domestic tuition is approximately \$1,216.62 and international tuition is approximately \$10,961.64)
- Flights: the cost of flights can vary but you should budget \$1,000-\$2,000. Flights will be less expensive if you book well in advance. Students are encouraged to book their flights as soon as they register for the course. Flight costs will increase significantly by the end of March.
- Spending money for meals not covered by the course (i.e., most lunches and dinners), souvenirs, and money for any weekend travel.

PRE-DEPARTURE: How do I prepare?

- Once you have registered for the course, you are encouraged to book your flight as soon as possible. The course will have an OnQ site where students can coordinate their travel.
- Make sure that you have a valid passport. Your passport must be valid for at least six months after your expected date of departure from Italy. If you are leaving Italy on June 1, 2026, this means that your passport must be valid until at least January 1, 2027
- **Complete the [Queen's University Off Campus Activity Safety Policy \(OSCAP\)](#) and Emergency Support Program Pre-Departure Orientation and Training. You will receive an email with instructions for completing these programs when you have registered for the course.**

- Complete all steps on [Queen's Checklist for Going Abroad](#) for university sanctioned international activities.

Will there be a pre-departure orientation session?

- An evening orientation session will take place in March. All students and their parents are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet your peers, learn more about the course, and ask any questions you may have about logistics, academics, or how to prepare.
- At the orientation session, student will receive a pre-departure package with information about how to prepare for the trip, what to bring, and what to expect once you arrive in Venice, and public health regulations in Italy.

PLANNING AND SAFETY MEASURES

- ARTH 380 will act in accordance with [Italy's current public health requirements](#), the [guidance provided by Queen's University](#), and [Queen's University Off Campus Health and Safety Policy](#). These requirements may change in response to public health developments and this course will adapt accordingly.
- Applicants are urged to familiarize themselves with [Canadian](#) and [Italian](#) travel requirements. It is the responsibility of ARTH 380 student to follow and remain up to date on the [most current advisories](#).
- The course fee for ARTH 380 is non-refundable, except in extenuating circumstances or in the event that the course is cancelled.

LOGISTICS

When does the course take place?

- The course runs from May 3-May 31, 2026
- Students may check into their accommodations on May 3 and must be in Venice to attend a mandatory orientation session at 9:00am on Monday, May 4 and may leave Venice on the morning of Monday, June 1.

Do I need a visa?

- Student with a valid Canadian passport do not need a visa to spend a month in Italy
- Students who are not Canadian citizens are responsible for ensuring that they have the required visa/documentation for the passport they hold.

How do I get to Venice?

- Students are required to make their own travel arrangements. The reason for this is to accommodate different methods of payment and travel schedules. This means that if you want to use frequent-flyer points to pay for your flight you will be able to do this. If you decide to come to Europe early or stay after the dates of the course, you can arrange to do that too.

Where will I stay in Venice?

- All students will stay at Palazzo Martinelli Dolfin, in the Santa Croce neighbourhood: <https://palazzomartinellidolfin.com/>
- Palazzo Martinelli Dolfin is near Ca' Foscari University and a ~10-minute walk to Campo Santa Margherita, which is a popular hangout for local students. **Please note that it is a ~45-60-minute by foot or ~35-40-minute vaporetto (public transit) to the Giardini della Biennale, which is where most classes and your internships will take place.**
- Palazzo Martinelli Dolfin has wireless internet and provides a linen service. It is close to several grocery stores, a laundromat, several coffee shops, and a pharmacy.
- Students do not have access to a kitchen at Palazzo Martinelli Dolfin, but they are welcome to keep non-perishable snacks in their rooms.
- Students share rooms with their peers (4 students/room) and all rooms have a private bathroom.

ACADEMICS

- ARTH 380 offers students the unique opportunity to see and study works by acclaimed contemporary artists from around the world in one place, and to experience work that is being exhibited for the first time.
- Lessons will introduce students to key people, ideas, and trends in contemporary art, focusing on the Venice Biennale's influence on the production and reception of global culture in the late-twentieth and twenty-first centuries. By the end of the month, students will have a strong understanding not only of the Venice Biennale, but also of the networked systems of production, reception, and display that make up global culture.
- The class will meet on weekday mornings. Students will have internships at the Biennale in the afternoons and on weekends. Internship hours will count toward course credit.

INTERNSHIPS

- All students in ARTH 380 will participate in internships at the Venice Biennale. Internships will be arranged in afternoon and weekend shifts and will never interfere with class time. Students can expect to intern approximately one-two afternoons each week and two-three weekend shifts over the course of the month. All students will have at least one weekend free. The internships are an exciting and rare opportunity to see behind the scenes of the Venice Biennale. Student interns will be representing both Queen's University and the Biennale and are expected to present themselves accordingly.