

Art History Manifesto

Hello, I'm Hannah!



Thank you for electing me as your School President! As your president, I will work hard to implement the policies on this manifesto. This document will outline what I have done, plan on doing, and what is not feasible. Here is the legend to follow along:

Green highlight means this plan has been successfully completed.

Yellow highlight means this plan is currently underway.

Red highlight means this plan is not feasible.*

*Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, not all of the events we were all excited about during campaign season can happen. However, I am adapting everything we can to be online, and constantly reexamining ways to improve student experience while being safe and sensible.

Explanations can be found in the footnotes¹.

You can email with any questions or comments at arthistorypresident@st-andrews.ac.uk
I look forward to working with you all to make our school as great as it can be!

¹ The last word in the point I am explaining will be underlined and have the corresponding footnote indicated.

Creating Collaboration

As your president, I will continue to hold an open weekly office hours for you to voice your opinions, concerns, and suggestions.

I believe valuable change occurs with continual effort, not just all at once in a survey. I will advocate for your needs constantly; improvement for a course shouldn't be reserved for the next students of the course.

Your course experience should not be a trial for future improvement, you should feel the benefits of your suggestions here and now!

I want to do everything in my power to make sure your experience in the course is positive, educational, and is serving you to the best degree possible.

It is important to me to create an environment for free dialogue where we can discuss ways to make your course work for you. This office hour environment will be comfortable, honest, open, non-judgmental, and if you wish it, can be anonymous for your comfort.

I will advocate for the same care and attention to be paid by the class representative, whose meetings I will preside over. I will have frequent meetings, not just once or twice a semester to have more check-ins with the individual courses and students at all levels: from freshers and sub-honours students, to honours, to post-grads and PhDs. Students at every level matter to me, and I believe that everyone, no matter year of study or length of time in art history, has something valuable to contribute to a course.

Post-graduates have demanding schedules, which often don't line up with the undergraduate-dominated meetings. In the past, this has meant that their voices go unheard. This is unacceptable. As president, I will make sure that the post-graduate community gets to speak on its own terms by holding additional meetings specifically for the postgrad class representatives.

When coordinating representative meetings, the post-graduates would often lose out to the undergraduate representatives on when the best time for a meeting according to their schedule would be. This is unacceptable, as the post-graduates that couldn't attend would often lose their voice.

I will also be highly responsive with the school president email address, meaning that you have action to your questions, problems, or comments at the speed in which you deserve.

Creating Community

As previously mentioned, as students of art history, we are connected by a common passion for the arts. This passion should be extended outside of just the course. As class president, I will create events within the school as well as collaborative events with clubs and societies to give art history students the option to have a fully immersive art experience as well as turn St Andrews into a hub for the arts. My strategies include:

- ❖ Taking steps to organize the first Art History Ball. Organizing a ball is not an easy task, especially when you're creating the whole thing from the ground up. However, art history is a school full of romantics, and our ball would be designed by appreciators of art for appreciators of art, and would be an absolutely amazing event. I would start preparation for the ball the day after getting elected, so I can make it happen.
- ❖ Increasing the quality and relevance of the emails you receive. I will send out a highly detailed weekly email that not only provides information relevant to courses within the school, but also events all around the area that relate to art and could be of interest to students. This would include gallery events, events in the university museums, art making courses in the area, events happening at the V&A in Dundee and significant events in other nearby museums, and events held by clubs and societies. However, this does not mean you will have to sift through a massive email every week in order to find the information relevant to you: the email will be formatted to include the more housekeeping-type information at the beginning, and the optional supplementary events in the second part of the email. This will require much research for writing the email every week, but having the arts in many areas of my life is one of my great passions. I will also take suggestions through the art history president email.
- ❖ In addition to recognizing existing events, I will also take an active effort in working with clubs and societies to create more events. This will include: more speakers, free movie showings, study sessions, outside speaker events, and arguably most importantly: careers events!

Creating Assistance in Transition

My strategies for assistance in transition are unique because they extend across multiple years of study.

1st Semester:

- ❖ Advocate for assistance in the transition to honours. In the SSCC, I heard the ways the department has failed to prepare students entering honours, such as little to no previous introduction to theory, and difficulties with the exam format. I would advocate for an earlier introduction to theory in curriculum at a much more comprehensible and accessible level, as well as analyzing how to restructure the exam so students experience less stress during the exam period.
- ❖ **Coordinate** an art history mixer with all years of study as well as faculty at the beginning of each semester. This will create meaningful connections between students of different years of study, including post-grads, as well as between students and faculty. These connections can prove to be valuable students in later years of study to connect to professors who are looking for interns. These connections can also be especially meaningful for freshers in introducing them to older students that can provide advice, and help make the transition easier.²
- ❖ **Start** a voluntary mentorship program where students can sign up to mentor incoming first years. This program would be on a sign-up basis, and would connect an incoming student to one in a later year of study. This would provide a direct line for a student to ask all sorts of questions, and maybe even make a friend as they enter the daunting world of university. This sort of scheme has proved to be highly successful in the school of philosophy.³
- ❖ **Create** resources and events that help with writing art history essays, doing visual analysis, and understanding terms seen. This will be helpful for incoming first years who have never taken an art history course before, but also students in later years who will be taking an art history module for the first time.
- ❖ **Be** present at all the freshers' events to represent our school, answer questions, and provide my information to help make the transition into university easier, and show incoming first-years they're not embarking on this journey alone.⁴
- ❖ **Coordinating** a mixer event during freshers week for first years to get to know one another within their year of study.⁵

2nd Semester:

² Due to Covid-19, this event will take place over Microsoft Teams.

³ Recent changes within the university have made it to where schools are no longer allowed to set up mentorship schemes within the school. If there's a desire for a mentor, one must go through the university's system.

⁴ I will be hosting the AH Freshers' events online, and whatever events are in person, I will attend.

⁵ Due to Covid-19, this event will take place on Microsoft Teams.

- ❖ In the current state, there are little to no resources to help incoming study abroad students or students taking an art history module for the first time in the second semester. I will change this by providing the previously mentioned study resources and information events in the second semester to ensure everyone who takes art history courses receives the resources they need to succeed.

Creating Tools for YOUR Future

There has been a serious lack in providing helpful tools for art history students after university. I'm a student just like you: I want to leave university with clear goals in mind, and knowledge on how to achieve them. It is the job of the university to not just teach course material, but teach lessons that will help in life after university. As your president, I will work to create resources and opportunities to help in your future after university:

- ❖ Work with local institutions such as the university museums and local galleries, as well as within the department on providing students with volunteer positions and internship opportunities in order to gain valuable experience doing real work within the art history field. In my work with the Wardlaw and Bell Pettigrew Museums, I have seen that the opportunities that students could have to volunteer are not being taken advantage of to their fullest extent. I will make sure that students are aware of opportunities for experience building, and look to collaborate in creating new opportunities that do not exist currently.
- ❖ Create more CV building events for post-grads. I know that post-graduates are often overlooked in undergraduate student government, however, I already have and will continue to show the value I hold in post-graduate students. The Art History Student Research Symposium is only the beginning for this. This will include the opportunity to present your research in front of a large group of people and hold a Q&A session. This kind of experience is highly impressive to include on a CV.
- ❖ Organize more informative future-oriented lectures specific to careers in art history
- ❖ Coordinate outside speakers to discuss career paths and opportunities
- ❖ Work with CAPOD and the Careers Centre to create a special art history oriented career guide
- ❖ Ensuring you feel prepared for your future at every level of study within your degree!

HANNAH KOEGLER

For Art History School President

Let's create together!

I am running to become your Art History School President because I believe in working together to create success. As your school president, my main objective is working for YOU. Your experience *in* your art history courses and *outside* your courses is my focus. As art historians, we are a group of people united by a common passion, and to provide you with the best and most holistic experience possible is so important to me. One thing you can always know that I would do as your president is listen. You can trust that- my record proves it:

- ❖ Since being elected class representative, I have held weekly office hours. I heard such great ideas in this office hour, and it proved to be very beneficial in the SSCC, the meeting between class reps and the department, in providing specific problems with the course and a greater understanding of the desired outcome.
- ❖ While serving as your class representative, I successfully advocated for your suggestions in the SSCC. Some of the things from your survey results I advocated for:
 - The use of Panopto for recording lectures. The department agreed to examine the pros and cons of using it. As your president, I will continue to fight for an opt-out plan for Panopto so if you miss a lecture, you will still be able to learn.
 - Increase in the breadth of curriculum such as increase in Russian art to the second year European art course, increase in study of queerness in art in the 19th century, and an increase in discussion of global effect of movements
 - More text on the slides. Art history learning tools can be quite scarce on information included on slides. In the SSCC, we advocated for an increase in text on slides because we understand how quick lectures can move, and how it can be difficult to keep up while taking notes.
- ❖ I have large experience organizing events, specifically for art history. I helped organize the Art History Student Research Symposium in serving on committee and holding the responsibility of sourcing and booking the venue for the event. I also am leading the coordination for the Art History Film Festival which will be running after reading week. I also organized an extremely positively received VAT review session for 2nd year. I also do work for the Bell Pettigrew and Wardlaw Museums social media and events. All of these events gave me great and unique experiences necessary to be the president.
- ❖ I was trained in my free time as a Careers Representative. This means that I have unique knowledge of the tools the careers center and CAPOD offer, and can valuably help students maximize their career building opportunities.