

ANNOUNCING

Downing Grants

for Undergraduate Research/Travel in the History of Art and Architecture

The Department of History of Art and Architecture is pleased to announce grants for travel to exhibitions, collections, monuments/heritage sites, and research centers to supplement academic instruction in the History of Art and Architecture department at Vanderbilt University. Downing Grants shall be awarded to junior and senior HART and ARCH majors who wish to travel to see art to enhance their classroom work.

These grants, which provide assistance for up to \$3,000 in travel costs, are awarded in the fall and spring of each academic year. Proposals are welcomed from (but not limited to) students enrolled in advanced seminars and upper-level “W” (writing) courses. Funds permitting, grants may also be awarded to students who wish to use Downing grant monies for informal art historical study, e.g. to visit museums, collections, monuments, or other art historical or architectural sites related to their field of study.

In the past, the Downing grants have supported research on projects ranging from a Marcel Duchamp installation in the Philadelphia Museum of Art, to the Parthenon marbles in the British Museum, to a Gothic reliquary in the Louvre, to ancient mosaics in Volubilis, Morocco.

Application procedure

Applications are submitted via an online form. Students must be in residence on Vanderbilt campus when applying and need to consult with a HART/ARCH faculty when preparing their applications.

The application consists of 3 parts:

- ❖ Online submission form.
- ❖ A detailed proposal of one page explaining the purpose and rationale of the proposed travel—this statement should address the direct impact travel will have on your art/architectural historical knowledge and/or your research project. Students may elect to include other information demonstrating need (e.g. no prior international travel experience, etc.). This proposal should also briefly outline the deliverable (examples include but are not limited to: blog post, research paper, and informational video).
- ❖ projected costs (accommodation, food, travel expenses, and research costs).

Selection procedure

Selection will be made by the Downing Grant faculty committee. The number of awards given each semester varies depending on the availability of funds and the number of applicants. Questions should be emailed to the Downing Grants Committee, c/o Professor Dine (susan.dine@vanderbilt.edu).

Application deadline

Applications for the [fall 2025 grants](#) are due on **October 3, 2025 by 5 PM CST**.