



SAMSTAG  
MUSEUM

THE ANNE & GORDON SAMSTAG  
INTERNATIONAL VISUAL ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS\_  
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS\_



## THE SAMSTAG PROGRAM \_

The Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships were established in 1992 through the bequest of American artist Gordon Samstag, who taught from 1961 to 1970 at the South Australian School of Art, now a part of the University of South Australia.

Gordon Samstag's remarkable gift ranks as the greatest ever made expressly for the development and education of Australian artists. His will makes provision for funding of annual scholarships to enable Australian visual artists to 'study and develop their artistic capacities, skills and talents outside of Australia'.

An American citizen, Gordon Samstag was born in New York City on 21 June 1906, and studied at the Arts Students League of New York before continuing his studies at the Académie Colarossi in Paris.

His work is represented in the Toledo Museum, Ohio, and the Sheldon Swope Art Museum, Terre Haute, Indiana. There are also public murals painted by Samstag (commissioned by the Roosevelt Administration's Treasury Section of Painting and Sculpture) at post offices in Reidsville, North Carolina (1938) and Scarsdale, New York State (1940).

Following retirement, the Samstags lived for a while in Cairns, Queensland, before settling in Naples on the west coast of Florida in 1976, where Gordon died three years after Anne, in March 1990 at the age of 83.



## **1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE\_**

- 1.1 The University of South Australia, on behalf of the trustee of the estate of Gordon Samstag, late of Naples, Florida USA, offers scholarships to visual arts graduates and students from Australia each year.

The scholarships are awarded in memory of Gordon Samstag, formerly a member of the academic staff of the South Australian School of Art, and of his wife Anne.

- 1.2 The scholarships are intended to enable Australian artists to further their studies in the visual arts overseas.
- 1.3 The scholarships are tenable for approved programs of study at approved university-level schools of visual art overseas, commencing during 2020 or no later than 31 January 2021. (See Guideline 5, Procedures After Selection.)
- 1.4 Study programs must constitute practice-led visual art programs under the formal auspices of an institution approved by the Samstag Museum.
- 1.5 The number of scholarships awarded each year will be at the discretion of the trustee, taking into account funds available and the standard of merit of applicants.

## **2 FORM AND AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP\_**

- 2.1 Each Samstag Scholarship is intended to cover the reasonable costs of the holder for a period of 12 months overseas.
- 2.2 In 2020, the Samstag Scholarship will take the form of a monetary stipend paid directly to the recipient in Australian dollars to cover reasonable living expenses as well as materials, equipment and other incidental costs.

The stipend will be paid in instalments, to the equivalent pro-rata value at the time of payment of US \$50,000 (United States dollars).

Additional to the stipend, the scholarship will cover the cost of a single economy-class return airfare to the study destination, personal travel and medical insurance, and the cost of institutional fees for one academic year, where these apply.

- 2.3 The Samstag Scholarship is principally a one-year grant. However consideration may be given to a supplementary grant for eligible scholarship recipients.

Applicants should note that supplementary grants are exceptional and not readily awarded. (See Guideline 6, Supplementary Grants.)

- 2.4 While it is the prerogative of scholarship recipients to be accompanied by dependants and/or partners during their study overseas, the cost and risk of dependants and/or partners are not the responsibility of the Samstag Museum. Applicants are cautioned that study arrangements involving dependants may constitute a significant financial burden and diminish the scholarship experience.
- 2.5 The Deputy Commissioner of Taxation has made a formal ruling that the income from Samstag Scholarships is exempt from taxation under Section 23 of the Tax Act.
- 2.6 Tenure of other awards, grants or paid leave, including study leave, in conjunction with a Samstag Scholarship is not generally permitted.

## **3 ELIGIBILITY\_**

- 3.1 An applicant must:
- 3.1.1 be over the age of 18 years at the date when applications close;
- 3.1.2 be an Australian citizen, or have permanent resident status in Australia; and
- 3.1.3 be a student, currently enrolled in a 'visual arts program' at an institution of higher education in Australia, who has successfully completed at least two years full time (or equivalent part time), or be a graduate (of not more than five years' standing at the date when applications close) of a 'visual arts program' at an institution of higher education in Australia.
- 3.2 'Visual arts program' means for this purpose the equivalent of a practice-led visual art undergraduate degree or post-graduate qualification offered by the University of South Australia through the South Australian School of Art.
- 3.3 Undergraduate Diploma and Certificate visual arts programs are not considered equivalent to university-level programs, and graduates of such programs alone are not eligible for Samstag Scholarships.
- 3.4 Previous Samstag Scholarship recipients are not eligible.

## **4 SELECTION\_**

- 4.1 Successful applicants will be selected in Adelaide by a selection committee comprising the Head/Director and a senior academic staff member of the South Australian School of Art and one practising artist not employed by the University of South Australia.
- 4.2 The selection committee will endeavour to achieve a balance in the scholarships awarded, recognising the relative difference between experienced artists, students and recent graduates of obvious ability at the beginning of their careers.
- 4.3 The selection committee will also consider the relative merits, competitively, between applicants proposing study programs of more than one calendar year versus those proposing study programs of only one year's duration.
- 4.4 Applicants who already hold post-graduate qualifications will be more competitive if nominating one-year programs.
- 4.5 Applicants who propose programs of study of more than one calendar year's duration will need to demonstrate to the selection committee that they can support themselves financially and meet the costs of study for any period not covered by the initial scholarship grant.
- 4.6 Academic achievement in the visual arts is not the sole qualification evaluated by the selectors. First consideration is given to the quality and stage of development of the applicant's work, as shown in the visual documentation supplied. The selection committee will also consider the applicant's written proposal and potential for further development through the proposed program of overseas study.
- 4.7 The selection committee has a generous definition of eligible media in an applicant's work and is interested in the skill with which applicants' work is crafted. But the committee is most influenced, ultimately, by the work's convincing achievement as fine art — and for its qualities of originality, imagination, concept and meaning.
- 4.8 The selection process is based entirely on the Application Form. The selection committee will not conduct interviews.

4.9 The will of the late Gordon Samstag stipulates that in each year in which more than one scholarship is offered, at least one scholarship must be made to an applicant who, in addition to satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in Guideline 3 above:

- 4.9.1 is a resident of South Australia having principally resided there for at least two years prior to the closing date for applications; and
- 4.9.2 is a student, currently enrolled in a 'visual arts program' at an institution of higher education in South Australia, who has successfully completed at least two years full time (or equivalent part time), or is a graduate (of not more than five years' standing at the date when applications close) of a 'visual arts program' at an institution of higher education in South Australia.

4.10 The selection committee has the right in any year to make no award.

4.11 Awards will be notified by November each year and applicants will be notified in writing.

4.12 The decisions of the selection committee are final and not subject to appeal, correspondence or review.

## **5 PROCEDURES AFTER SELECTION\_**

- 5.1 Successful applicants will be advised in writing of the conditions applying to the Samstag Scholarship offer, including information on the proposed programs of study, procedure for payment of the scholarship and arrangements for travel.
- 5.2 On receiving notice of selection, a successful applicant will take all steps necessary to secure his or her admission to the relevant overseas institution and program of study, with a commencement date no later than 31 January 2021.
- 5.3 The study programs identified by successful applicants in their applications will form the basis of the scholarship offer, and successful applicants may only widen their choice of overseas institutions after selection with approval. (See Application Form, Section C.)
- 5.4 The scholarship is conditional upon formal confirmation that the applicant has secured admission to an approved program of study at an approved university or university- level school of visual art overseas.

- 5.5 Successful applicants will be expected to commence their studies from the official commencement date of the approved program of study. (For example, in a characteristically two- semester-per-year program, the successful applicant should commence their study at the beginning of semester one.)
- 5.6 Entry to programs of study commencing in January 2021 will only be permitted where the approved program of study is conducted on a calendar-year basis.
- 5.7 Postponement of study, or entry to programs of study commencing after 31 January 2021, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.
- 5.8 In the event that the successful applicant is unable to complete the program, the award will terminate at either the time studies are discontinued and/or the successful applicant returns to Australia. Each scholarship must run continuously until termination.
- 5.9 Successful applicants will be required to sign an undertaking to be bound by the conditions of the Samstag Scholarship offer. These conditions include a requirement to participate in promotional activities of the Samstag Museum.

## 6 SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS\_

- 6.1 Supplementary grants will only be awarded to eligible scholarship recipients, and will be limited in number and not readily awarded. If given, the supplementary grant will be made only to candidates who are engaged in a two-year (or more) degree program, endorsed by the Samstag Museum with the offer of a scholarship, and who satisfy the selection committee that their achievement under the scholarship program is exceptional and merits additional support.
- 6.2 Eligible scholarship recipients may seek a supplementary grant at the conclusion of the period of the initial scholarship. The supplementary grant, if given, will be of an amount equal to one half of the original scholarship (excluding the travel component).
- 6.3 Scholarship recipients in receipt of a scholarship prescribed as a maximum of one academic year of study will not be eligible for a supplementary grant.
- 6.4 Eligible scholarship recipients will be advised of the procedure to be followed for making an application for a supplementary grant.
- 6.5 The Samstag Museum accepts no responsibility for providing a supplementary grant, and applicants are firmly cautioned against an assumption or expectation of one being awarded.

## 7 VISUAL DOCUMENTATION\_

- 7.1 Applicants must present documentation of their recent work in **one** of the following ways:
  - 7.1.1 Artists presenting **still images** only (for example, reproductions of paintings) must submit a maximum of ten images on the Samstag Microsoft PowerPoint template (See Guideline 7.3, PowerPoint Presentation.), or
  - 7.1.2 Artists presenting **moving images** only must submit a maximum of three short excerpts of works via the online application form. (See Guideline 7.4, Moving Image Presentation), or
  - 7.1.3 **Multi-media artists** who believe their work necessitates presentation as both still **and** moving images must submit moving images and still images consistent with the requirements of 7.3 and 7.4. However, such applicants are cautioned against gratuitous and needlessly time-consuming presentations.
- 7.2 Applicants are advised to select their work for presentation to the selection committee as thoughtfully as if choosing works for an exhibition. Poorly presented work in any medium can prejudice an applicant's competitiveness.
- 7.3 **PowerPoint Presentation**
  - 7.3.1 Artists presenting still images **MUST** use the Samstag Microsoft PowerPoint template, downloadable at: [unisa.edu.au/samstag/apply](http://unisa.edu.au/samstag/apply)
  - 7.3.2 Artists may present a maximum of ten images. (Perhaps one or two of these images could provide a context to your work; for example, an installation view of an exhibition will communicate scale, context and presentation.)
  - 7.3.3 PowerPoints should be submitted via the online application form.
  - 7.3.4 The total overall size of the PowerPoint presentation file must not exceed 5 megabytes.
- 7.4 **Moving Image Presentation**
  - 7.4.1 To facilitate flexible viewing by the selection committee, a maximum of three excerpts of works **MUST** be uploaded as separate items (i.e. not as one seamless sequence).
  - 7.4.2 Filenames should show the artist's name, and the title, date and duration of each work.
  - 7.4.3 The total playing time of moving images must not exceed six minutes. Excerpts of works, should each be limited to approximately two minutes duration, with no one work exceeding two minutes.

- 7.4.4 In the case of all work involving moving images, a written description should also be provided with information on the work's conceptual basis, duration and production details, and which describes the applicant's role(s) in producing the work, particularly where collaboration with other artists is involved. (See Application Form, Section H.)



PowerPoint template can be downloaded at:  
[www.unisa.edu.au/samstag/apply](http://www.unisa.edu.au/samstag/apply)

## 8 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION\_

- 8.1 Graduation parchments, official academic transcripts, birth certificates, passports or other evidence of citizenship or permanent residency should be submitted via the online application form.

Documentation submitted other than that identified in the guidelines will not be considered by the selection committee.

## 9 RETURN OF DOCUMENTATION\_

- 9.1 The Samstag Museum does not return visual and other supporting documentation of unsuccessful applicants.

Successful applicants' visual documentation will be retained by the Samstag Museum for archival, educational and publicity purposes.

## 10 SELECTION OF OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS\_

- 10.1 Applicants for Samstag Scholarships will need to show initiative in identifying a selection of proposed overseas institutions and securing information on relevant proposed programs of study.
- 10.2 Samstag Museum staff are available to assist with clarification of Guidelines prior to application. However, they have limited resources for providing advice on overseas institutions.
- 10.3 Academic staff at an applicant's current or former art school may be well placed to offer advice on institutions and programs appropriate to applicants' objectives.
- 10.4 Applicants are not eligible for a Samstag Scholarship for an overseas program of study in which they are currently undertaking or already enrolled.

## 11 APPLICATION\_

- 11.1 Applications for Samstag Scholarships must be made on the current online application form. (See Guideline 12, Correspondence).
- 11.2 Applications close on 30 June of each year.
- 11.3 Applications must not be sent by post. Facsimiles will not be accepted.
- 11.4 Applications must be submitted no later than the 30 June closing date. Late applications will not be considered.
- 11.5 It is the applicant's responsibility to provide full and correct details of all information sought by the Application Form. The selection committee will not consider an application which contains insufficient information.
- 11.6 Applicants must ensure that the Application Form is accompanied by all required supporting documentation. Documentation must comply with the visual documentation guidelines. (See Guideline 7, Visual Documentation and Application Form, Section H.)
- 11.7 Applicants must provide the names of two referees, preferably persons who have known the applicant for some years in a professional or academic relationship. At least one referee should be in a position, if requested, to verify the applicant's authorship of the works depicted in the visual documentation supplied with the application. Referees are not required to provide written references unless requested by the Samstag Museum. However, the names provided should only be of people who have agreed to act as the applicant's referee.
- 11.8 No application will be considered unless it includes the applicant's signed undertaking to be bound by these regulations as amended by the trustees from time to time.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND ENQUIRIES\_

Applicants are advised to read the Guidelines for Applicants before completing the Samstag Scholarships Application Form.

Correspondence on scholarship grants and application enquiries should be addressed to:

Samstag Museum of Art  
University of South Australia  
GPO Box 2471  
Adelaide SA 5001  
(08) 8302 0870

[samstagmuseum@unisa.edu.au](mailto:samstagmuseum@unisa.edu.au)

Additional information is available on the Samstag website:  
[www.unisa.edu.au/samstag](http://www.unisa.edu.au/samstag)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***How do I apply for a Samstag Scholarship?***

Submit an application on the current Samstag application form, via the Samstag website: [www.unisa.edu.au/samstag](http://www.unisa.edu.au/samstag).

### ***How can I tell if I am eligible?***

You must carefully read the Guidelines for Applicants, paying close attention to Section 3, Eligibility.

### ***Must I provide evidence of my eligibility?***

Yes. Your application will not be considered by the selection committee unless you provide proof of Australian citizenship (or permanent resident status) and can demonstrate — through copies of official academic records — that you meet the eligibility criteria relating to your Australian visual arts education.

### ***I won't finish my current visual arts study until after the Samstag closing date of 30 June. Am I eligible?***

You must be a student, currently enrolled in a 'visual arts program' at an institution of higher education in Australia, who has successfully completed at least two years full time (or equivalent part time), or be a graduate (of not more than five years' standing at the date when applications close) of a 'visual arts program' at an institution of higher education in Australia.

### ***I graduated from art school more than five years ago. Am I eligible?***

No, as you are required to have your degree or post-graduate qualifications conferred not more than 5 year's standing at the date when applications close.

### ***Can I use my Samstag Scholarship as an artist-in-residence with an overseas organisation, or to just travel?***

No. Samstag Scholarships must be used for practice-led programs under the auspices of an approved educational institution. (See Guideline 1.3 and 1.4.)

### ***Can I use my Samstag Scholarship for post-doctoral research?***

Provisionally, yes. However applicants with a PhD seeking to undertake post-doctoral programs are advised to secure in-principle agreement that the institution proposed will support their research program, and what the arrangements will be.

### ***I have an offer from an overseas institution. Will this assist my application?***

No.

### ***Can I receive or apply for other cultural and study grants while I am holding a Samstag Scholarship?***

Not if they are substantial awards, grants or paid leave for the same period as your Samstag Scholarship. In fact, applicants MUST accurately declare in their application (See Application Form, Section D) whether they have received or applied for, or are intending to apply for, such other opportunities; for example, Australia Council Fellowships, etc, or Australian university post-graduate study scholarships. While it may be acceptable for Samstag Scholarship recipients to defer other awards they have secured, a failure to accurately declare this information will result in revocation of the Samstag Scholarship. Modest-sized cultural project grants (for producing artworks, for participation in exhibitions, or for travel prior to the Samstag Scholarship period) already secured or sought at the time of application are generally acceptable, provided they are declared.

### ***I graduated with a photography major and now work in digital media. Is this work competitive?***

You must be working in a demonstrably practice-led visual arts studio context to be competitive. The selection committee has a generous definition of eligible media, and is less concerned with media per se than the skill with which it is used and the nature of its achievement as fine art. (See Guideline 4.6.)

### ***I graduated with honours in a BFA (History/Theory) and want to undertake a Masters in History overseas. Is this eligible?***

You are not eligible. Your Australian study was not practice-led, nor is your proposed overseas study.

### ***Do I need to enrol in an overseas program before submitting my Samstag application?***

No. You only do this AFTER you have been awarded a Samstag Scholarship. (See Guideline 5.) Your application will need to identify up to three proposed institutions and programs.

### ***How can I identify the best overseas study program for me?***

There are numerous overseas institutions offering visual arts programs. You will need to do some research to identify institutions and study programs which best suit your objectives. Leading overseas institutions now provide much information by website. Academic staff at your art school might also have helpful suggestions.

***If I'm an Australian citizen living abroad, am I eligible for a Samstag Scholarship?***

Yes, provided you meet the other eligibility criteria.

***When will I find out if my application is successful? Will you give me reasons if I'm unsuccessful?***

Scholarships are publicly announced by November each year, but unsuccessful applicants are advised before the end of October. Samstag Scholarships are very competitive and awarded at the discretion of the selection committee, which will not discuss or enter into correspondence on issues relating to its decisions.

***When must I use my Samstag Scholarship, if awarded?***

Successful applicants are expected to take up their study during the calendar year following the scholarship offer, or no later than January in the subsequent year.

***Can I submit different forms of documentation?***

All visual documentation must be submitted in digital form. Documentation such as slides, VHS videos, catalogues and photographic prints, etc., will not be considered by the selection committee. It is essential to read the Guidelines to determine the appropriate form of presentation. (See Guideline 7.)

***Do I have to provide the original version of my academic records and other documentation?***

Applicants should NOT send original documentation. Graduation parchments, official academic transcripts, birth certificates, passports or other evidence of citizenship or permanent residency should be submitted via the online application form.

***Will the Samstag Program return my documentation?***

The Samstag Program does NOT return visual and other supporting documentation of unsuccessful applicants. Successful applicants' visual documentation will be retained by the Samstag program for archival, education and publicity purposes.

## **RESEARCHING VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMS\_**

The Samstag Scholarships were established in 1991. Scholars have enrolled in a range of programs of study, from visiting scholar and non-degree programs to undertaking a Masters qualification. Institutions scholars have attended include:

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA\_**

**New York University**  
New York, USA

**School of the Art  
Institute of Chicago**  
Chicago, USA

**Parsons, The New School  
for Design**  
New York, USA

**California College  
of the Arts**  
San Francisco, USA

**University of California**  
San Diego, USA

**Rhode Island School  
of Design**  
Providence, USA

**California Institute  
of the Arts**  
Valencia, USA

**Simon Fraser University**  
British Columbia, Canada

### **UNITED KINGDOM\_**

**Goldsmiths, University  
of London**  
London, United Kingdom

**Slade School of Fine Art**  
London, United Kingdom

**The Glasgow School of Art**  
Scotland, United Kingdom

**Chelsea College of Arts**  
London, United Kingdom

**Central Saint Martins**  
London, United Kingdom

**Edinburgh College of Art**  
Scotland, United Kingdom

### **EUROPE\_**

**Maumaus School  
of Visual Arts**  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Royal Institute of Art**  
Stockholm, Sweden

**Kunst Musikk Design**  
Bergen, Norway

**Braunschweig  
University of Art**  
Braunschweig, Germany

**Berlin Weissensee  
School of Art**  
Berlin, Germany

**Universität der Künste**  
Berlin, Germany

**Städelschule**  
Frankfurt, Germany

**Sandberg Institute**  
Amsterdam, The  
Netherlands

**Piet Zwart Institute**  
Rotterdam, The Netherlands



**Cover Image:** Georgia SAXELBY, *Lullaby*  
(still from video performance), 2017,  
in collaboration with Viva Soudan and Bailey Nolan.  
Photo: Kristin Adair.