

CAREER DEFINING —

LIFE CHANGING

ANNE & GORDON SAMSTAG INTER— NATIONAL VISUAL ARTS SCHOLAR— SHIP

Past Scholars include —

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JAMES
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ALEX
SODA
MARCO
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MICHELLE
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SARAH
PAUL
NICK
HANNAH
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MARTINIS

JOCK

MCMAHON
SAXELBY
ALAVI
GRBICH
NGUYEN
BYCROFT
LOCK
ROE
JERK
FUSINATO
MASI
CURRIE
NIKOU
TERRILL
CROWEST
KNIGHT
MANGAN
GARSIDE
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SEAN CORDEIRO
MIKALA
MICHAEL
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DARREN
SHAUN
LINDA
ARCHIE
ELVIS
NICHOLAS
JULIE
NIKE
KATHY
ANGELA
ROBYN
ANNE

TOWER
WYMAN

PAAUWE
& CLAIRE HEALY
DWYER
KUTSCHBACH
MORTON
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TEMIN
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STACEY
WALLACE

Apply now and spend one year at a
leading international art school of your choice.

- Institutional fees
- \$75,000 tax free allowance
- Flights & travel expenses

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

CLOSE 30 JUNE 2025

The Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships were established in 1991 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 Class of 2026 scholarships are tenable for approved visual art programs of study overseas, **commencing during 2026 or no later than 31 January 2027**. (See Guideline 9, 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 merit of applicants.

2 FORM AND AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP_

- 2.1 Each Samstag Scholarship is intended to cover the reasonable costs of the recipient for a period of up to 12 months overseas, equivalent to one academic year.
- 2.2 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.

In 2026, the stipend will be paid in instalments, to a prorata value of **AU\$75,000 (Australian dollars)** for one academic year.

Additional to the stipend, the scholarship will cover the cost of a single economy-class return airfare to the study destination (including standard luggage allowance), personal travel and medical insurance, and institutional fees for up to one academic year, where these apply. Any other fees, taxes, immunisations, vaccinations, visa costs, materials fees, or luggage and baggage fees are the responsibility of the successful applicant.

- 2.3 Dependants and/or partners may accompany Scholarship recipients during their study and travel overseas, however the cost and risk of dependants and/or partners (including travel and medical insurance) is not the responsibility of the Samstag Museum.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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 be a graduate 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.
- 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 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 The selection process is based entirely on the Application Form and accompanying visual documentation. The selection committee will not conduct interviews. Academic transcripts are requested to demonstrate that eligibility criteria have been met. Grades are not viewed by the selection committee.
- 4.8 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:
 - 4.8.1 is a graduate of a Visual Arts Program offered by the School of Art at the University of South Australia, or of an equivalent program offered by another Institution of higher education in South Australia; or
 - 4.8.2 is not yet a graduate of any Visual Arts Program, but is currently enrolled in a Visual Arts Program offered by the School of Art at the University of South Australia, or an equivalent program offered by another Institution of higher education in South Australia, having successfully completed at least two years of that program.
- 4.9 The selection committee has the right in any year to make no award.
- 4.10 Awards will be notified by November each year and applicants will be notified in writing.
- 4.11 The decisions of the selection committee are final and not subject to appeal, correspondence or review.

The Scholarship Program is not able to provide individual feedback to applicants on decisions made by the selection committee.

5 VISUAL DOCUMENTATION_

- 5.1 A combined maximum of TEN examples of an applicant's work can be submitted (including a maximum of THREE moving image excerpts which contribute to the combined maximum of ten examples of an applicant's work).
- 5.2 Applicants whose documentation necessitates presentation as both still and moving images must submit moving images and still images consistent with the Samstag visual documentation requirements.
- 5.3 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 impact an applicant's competitiveness.
- 5.4 All applicants MUST use the Samstag Microsoft PowerPoint template, downloadable at: <https://www.unisa.edu.au/connect/samstag-museum/scholarship/apply>. PowerPoints should be submitted via the online application form and the total overall size of the PowerPoint presentation file **must not exceed 5 megabytes**. Applicants should resize images BEFORE inserting them into the PowerPoint template.



5.5 Still Image Presentation

- 5.5.1 Applicants may present a maximum of ten still images, which contribute to the combined maximum of ten examples of an applicant's work. Images may include an installation view of an exhibition to communicate scale, context and presentation.)
- 5.5.2 Each slide should contain only one image, and no text is permitted, except on the designated summary slide.

5.6 Moving Image Presentation

- 5.6.1 Applicants may present a maximum of **three** moving image works.
- 5.6.2 The total playing time of moving image documentation must not exceed six minutes. **Excerpts of each work should each be limited to two minutes in duration.** The selection committee will view only the first two minutes of each work.

Each moving image work MUST be uploaded as a separate item.
- 5.6.3 Moving image files must be uploaded to <https://app.ezfiledrop.com/365190/samstag-scholarships>.

After uploading the applicant will receive an email containing a URL for each file. These URLs **must** be included in the visual documentation PowerPoint. The applicant should use one slide per URL and ensure that URLs are also noted on the designated summary slide.
- 5.6.4 Filenames should show the artist's name, and the title, date and duration of each work, and contain no spaces.

6 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION_

- 6.1 Graduation parchments or academic transcripts should be submitted via the online application form. Birth certificates, passports or other evidence of citizenship or permanent residency will be requested from successful applicants only.
- 6.2 Documentation submitted other than that identified in the guidelines will not be considered by the selection committee.

7 SELECTION OF OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS_

- 7.1 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. Samstag Museum staff do not provide advice to applicants regarding overseas institutions.
- 7.2 Applicants are not eligible for a Samstag Scholarship for an overseas program of study in which they are currently undertaking or already enrolled.

8 APPLICATION_

- 8.1 Applications for Samstag Scholarships must be made on the current online application form. A link to the online application portal can be found at <https://www.unisa.edu.au/connect/samstag-museum/scholarship/apply>. It is important that applicants read and follow the instructions contained on the portal.
- 8.2 Applications close on 30 June of each year.
- 8.3 **Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59pm (ACST) on the 30 June closing date. Late applications will not be considered. If you are still completing your application at the closing time you will lose your work and be unable to submit your application. Please ensure you complete the process and submit your application well ahead of the deadline.**
- 8.4 Applicants can save and edit their application prior to submitting it, however resubmission is not possible. Applicants should thoroughly review their application prior to submission.
- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 Applicants must ensure that the Application Form is accompanied by all required supporting documentation. Documentation must comply with the visual documentation guidelines.
- 8.7 Applicants must provide the names of two referees, preferably persons who have known the applicant for some years in a professional or academic relationship. Referees are not required to provide written references unless requested by the Samstag Museum. The names provided must be people who have agreed to act as the applicant's referee.
- 8.8 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.
- 8.9 Samstag staff are able to assist with clarification of the Guidelines during business hours only and no later than 27 June.

9 PROCEDURES AFTER SELECTION_

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 Following notice of selection, a successful applicant will take all steps necessary to secure admission to the relevant overseas institution and program of study, with a commencement date no later than **31 January 2027**.
- 9.3 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 the approval of the Samstag Museum.
- 9.4 **A scholarship offer remains conditional until the applicant has secured admission to an approved program of study at an approved visual art institution overseas.**
- 9.5 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.)
- 9.6 Postponement of study, or entry to programs of study commencing after 31 January 2027, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.
- 9.7 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.
- 9.8 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.

10 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

Additional information is available on the Samstag website: <https://www.unisa.edu.au/connect/samstagmuseum/scholarship/apply>

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.

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 can demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria relating to your Australian visual arts education.

Successful applicants must provide proof of Australian citizenship (or permanent resident status).

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 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?

Yes, following changes to the Guidelines from the Class of 2022 onwards.

Can I use my Samstag Scholarship to just travel?

No. Samstag Scholarships must be used for practice-led programs under the auspices of an approved institution. (See Guideline 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, and applicants applying for PhD programs are advised to secure in-principle agreement that the institution proposed will support their research program, and what the arrangements will be. Applicants are reminded that Samstag Scholarships are provided for a study period up to 12 months only.

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. Applicants MUST accurately declare in their application 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 Guidelines 7 and 9.) 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 of this information on their websites. Academic staff at your art school might also have helpful suggestions.

Applicants are urged to carefully consider their preferred institutions and destinations, given the potential ongoing impact on international travel due to COVID-19.

What is an approved program of study?

Scholars are required to enrol in a structured program of study in person at a recognised institution. The selection committee will consider the relevance and merits of the proposed program of study and institution to the objectives of the applicant.

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.

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

No.

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 that applicants may wish to consider include:

NEW ZEALAND /

University of Canterbury

Christchurch, NZ

Massey University College of Creative Arts, University of New Zealand

Wellington, NZ

Elam School of Fine Arts, The University of Auckland

Auckland, NZ

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

International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP)

New York, USA

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

[UNISA.EDU.AU/CONNECT/SAMSTAG-MUSEUM/SCHOLARSHIP/APPLY](https://unisa.edu.au/connect/samstag-museum/scholarship/apply)

Helen GROGAN, *SET AND DRIFT* (as 3-4 constellations for Samstag Museum), 2020, installation view, from the exhibition 2020 Adelaide//International, 2020, at Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia.
Photograph by Sia Duff. Courtesy of Samstag Museum of Art.