

SMU Meadows Division of Art

M.F.A. in Studio Art -- Frequently Asked Questions

How many fellowships does the program offer?

SMU offers up to six full fellowships each year, supplemented by teaching assistantships. This generous bulwark of support is offered to aid students in the development of their work so that they can begin their careers largely unencumbered by debt. Additional funds are available for materials and travel related to students' creative research.

What does the teaching assistantship entail?

You'll assist a professor in all aspects of their course, including participating in student critiques, evaluating assignments and helping with day-to-day course logistics.

What studio spaces are available for M.F.A. students?

Both single studios and larger shared studios for two or three M.F.A. artists are available.

What facilities are available?

Facilities for the study of art include well-lighted studios, individual workspaces and excellent equipment to support all media in the curriculum, as well as individual experimentation. Facilities span both new and traditional approaches to studio art, including a woodshop, foundry, ceramic studio, painting and drawing rooms, darkroom and digital photography processes and printers, video and computer-generated imaging labs, virtual and augmented reality headsets and equipment, and digital fabrication and physical computing tools. More information may be found here: <https://www.smu.edu/Meadows/AreasOfStudy/Art/Facilities>.

Do I get to do studio visits with the Visiting Artist Lecture Series participants?

Yes, we have 5–6 visiting artists each year who give lectures and do studio visits with M.F.A. students. Studio visits are about 30 minutes. To see the current roster of visiting artists, please [visit](https://www.smu.edu/Meadows/AreasOfStudy/Art/LectureSeries) <https://www.smu.edu/Meadows/AreasOfStudy/Art/LectureSeries>.

To find out more about previous artist lectures, please visit our archive: <https://www.smu.edu/Meadows/AreasOfStudy/Art/LectureSeries/Archive>.

Am I eligible for any additional scholarships and stipends as an M.F.A. student?

Yes! Aside from receiving a full fellowship, you will receive a \$3,000 TA assistantship per academic year that is supplemented by a variety of travel and scholarship opportunities. These include:

Meadows Travel Grant

Doolin Grant

Zelle Grant

Jones Grant

Richter Fellowship

Is there any engagement with other Dallas university art departments?

Yes, every year the first-year M.F.A. students participate in Temporary Collectives, a collaborative graduate project combining students and faculty from TCU, UTA, SMU, UNT, UTD, TWU and Texas A&M - Commerce.

Are there workshops that the faculty organize?

Yes! Workshops are offered on a semester basis depending on faculty availability and student interest. Contact individual programs for more information.

Do M.F.A. students have access to exhibition spaces?

Yes, there are two gallery spaces. The Pollock Gallery is where you will have your final M.F.A. show, and the Doolin Gallery can be reserved for

shorter periods of time at any point during your M.F.A. program, depending on availability.

What are the M.F.A. traveling opportunities?

The program encourages students to explore the arts outside of the traditional classroom environment. We offer the Meadows Travel Grant and the following opportunities:

- New York Colloquium: During the New York Colloquium, students visit a range of museums, galleries, artists' studios and other venues appropriate to the development of their critical and professional studies in art.
- SOMA Summer: Each year, SMU alumni and current students are welcome to apply to SOMA Summer, an eight-week program for international artists, curators, critics and art historians in Mexico City. For the student who is accepted, the SMU Division of Art will pay SOMA tuition and travel expenses.
- ENSA Dijon: A graduating M.F.A. student is selected annually for a 4–6 week residency in Dijon, France, culminating in an exhibition.
- Mercedes Benz Emerging Artist Award: A two-month residency is offered in Berlin every other year to a graduating art student or recent alum.

What are the building hours?

The Owen Arts Center is open 7 a.m.–12 a.m.

Do I have 24 hours access to equipment?

After you are trained on the equipment, you will have access to the wood and metal shops during the building's open hours. Equipment like cameras, lights, video projectors, sound recorders, etc. are administered by the Tech-Effect equipment checkout room. Students can checkout equipment during Tech-Effect's hours, and it can be kept for 48 hours before being returned to Tech-Effect.

Can I visit the facilities and talk to current students and faculty?

Yes, please send us an email at art@smu.edu and we would be happy to arrange a tour and talk with you.