

The 2013 Anne & Gordon Samstag
International Visual Arts Scholarships

Guidelines for Applicants

Applicants are advised to read the **Guidelines for Applicants** before completing the Samstag Scholarships Application Form. If you have read the guidelines and still need help, please contact: Samstag Program
(08) 8302 0865
samstag@unisa.edu.au
www.unisa.edu.au/samstag



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2013



Anne and Gordon SAMSTAG
photographed at Mamaroneck, New York, ca.1961

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 substantial provision for funding a number 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 New York Art Students League before continuing his studies at the Academie Colarossi in Paris.

His work is represented in the Toledo Museum, Ohio and the Sheldon Swope Gallery, Terre Haute, Indiana. There are also public murals painted by Samstag (commissioned by the Roosevelt Administration's Treasury Department 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 a number of scholarships to recent visual arts graduates from Australia each year.
The scholarships are being 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 2013, or no later than January 2014. (See Section 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 Program.
- 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 twelve months overseas.
- 2.2 In 2013, the Samstag Scholarship will take the form of a monetary stipend paid directly to the holder in Australian dollars to cover reasonable living expenses as well as materials and equipment costs. The stipend will be paid in instalments, to the equivalent pro-rata value at the time of payment of US \$43,000 (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 holders.
Applicants should note that supplementary grants are exceptional and not readily awarded. (See Section 6, Supplementary Grants).
- 2.4 While it is the prerogative of scholarship recipients to be accompanied by family members or partners during their study overseas, the cost and risk of dependants are not the responsibility of the Samstag Program. 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 graduate, of not more than 5 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 an undergraduate or postgraduate, practice-led visual art academic degree, 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 holders of a Samstag Scholarship 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, 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 More senior, established artists and applicants who already hold postgraduate qualifications or who clearly demonstrate prior overseas experience, will be more competitive if nominating one-year programs.
- 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 selectors 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 supporting documentation. The selection committee will not conduct interviews.

- 4.8 The will of the late Gordon Samstag stipulates that in each year in which more than one scholarship grant is made, one grant at least must be made to an applicant who, in addition to satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in clause 3 above:
- 4.8.1 is a resident of South Australia having principally resided there for at least 2 years prior to the closing date for applications.
- 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 will be notified in writing.
- 4.11 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 fully 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 2014.
- 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.
- 5.4 The scholarship grant 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 2014 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 January 2014, 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 may include a requirement to participate in promotional activities of the Samstag Program, for example exhibitions and publications.

6 SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS

- 6.1 Supplementary grants will only be awarded to eligible scholarship holders, 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 Program 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 holders 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 holders 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 holders will be advised of the procedure to be followed for making an application for a supplementary grant.
- 6.5 The Samstag Program 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 GUIDELINES

- 7.1 Applicants must present documentation of their recent work in **one** of the following ways:
- Artists presenting **still images** only (for example photographs, or reproductions of paintings) must submit a maximum of 10 images on the Samstag Microsoft PowerPoint template. (See 7.4 PowerPoint Presentation).
 - Artists presenting **moving images** only, must submit a digital video, or maximum of three short excerpts of videos, as an authored DVD including a menu. (See 7.5 DVD Presentation).
 - **Multi-media artists** who believe their work necessitates presentation in both still **and** moving form, may submit both a digital video on DVD and separately, still images, on a CD consistent with the requirements of 7.4 and 7.5. 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 selectors as thoughtfully as if choosing works for an exhibition. Poorly presented work in any medium can prejudice an applicant's competitiveness.
- 7.3 DVD's and CD's must be Apple Mac OSX compatible.
- 7.4 **PowerPoint Presentation**
- Artists presenting still images **MUST** use the Samstag Microsoft PowerPoint template, downloadable at: www.unisa.edu.au/samstag/apply
 - 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).
 - PowerPoints should be submitted on a CD.
 - The total, overall size of the PowerPoint presentation file should not exceed 5 megabytes.

7.5 DVD Presentation

- Artists presenting moving images MUST use the Samstag presentation template downloadable at: www.unisa.edu.au/samstag/apply
- To facilitate flexible viewing by the selection committee, a maximum of three excerpts of digital videos MUST be structured on the DVD as selectable items (ie, not as one seamless sequence), and linked to a graphic Menu, as the DVD's opening page.
- DVD Menus should show the artist's name, and the title, date and duration of each work. The Menu page could perhaps also provide a still from each work presented on the DVD, though this is not essential (see below).
- The total playing time of moving images on DVD's must not exceed 9 minutes. Excerpts of videos should each be limited to approximately three minutes duration.
- 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).



Samstag PowerPoint template

DVD Menu template

Both are downloadable at www.unisa.edu.au/samstag/apply

8 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- 8.1 Applicants should NOT send original documentation. Graduation parchments or official academic transcripts should be photocopies only. Birth certificates, passports, or other evidence of citizenship or permanent residency should be photocopied. Gratuitous 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 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, 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 overseas institutions and securing formal information on relevant programs of study.
- 10.2 Although Samstag Program staff are available to assist with clarification of guidelines prior to application, 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.

11 APPLICATION

- 11.1 Applications for Samstag Scholarships must be made on the current application form and sent to the Samstag Program at the address given. (See Section 12).
- 11.2 Applications close on 30 June in each year.
- 11.3 Applications must be sent by post. Facsimiles will not be accepted.
- 11.4 Applications must be post-marked no later than the 30 June closing date (or the preceding Friday if the closing date falls on a weekend). 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 in all respects with the Visual Documentation Guidelines (see Section 7 of the Guidelines) and other instructions contained in the application form.
- 11.7 Applicants must provide the names of 2 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 Secretariat. 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.

12 CORRESPONDENCE AND ENQUIRIES

Specific correspondence on scholarship grants and application enquiries should be addressed to:

Samstag Program
University of South Australia
GPO Box 2471
Adelaide SA 5001

(08) 8302 0865
samstag@unisa.edu.au

Additional information on the Samstag Program is available on the Samstag website:
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, downloaded from 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 provide proof of Australian citizenship (or permanent residence 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?

No, unless you are already a graduate within the last five years—by the Samstag closing date—of a practice-led visual art academic degree at an appropriate Australian institution of higher education, and are an Australian citizen, or have permanent residency status.

I graduated from art school more than five years ago, but am currently undertaking post-graduate study at an appropriate Australian institution. Am I eligible?

Only if you can demonstrate that your academic degree will be conferred by the Samstag closing date.

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 studio-based programs under the auspices of an approved educational institution. (See Guideline 1.3 and 1.4).

Can I apply for both the *Australia Council and Anne & Gordon Samstag ISCP Residency* AND the Samstag Scholarship in the same year?

Yes, but if you are awarded the Samstag Scholarship you would become ineligible for the ISCP Studio Residency in that year.

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 question 8) 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 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 studio based — nor is your proposed overseas study.

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

No. You only do this AFTER you have been awarded a Samstag Scholarship. (See Guideline 5). But 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 thousands of overseas institutions offering visual arts programs. You will need to do some research to identify institutions and study programs which best suit your objectives. Some starting suggestions are provided in the *Guidelines for Applicants*. Leading overseas institutions now provide much information by website, accessible through Australian art school libraries. 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, and presented on a DVD and/or CD using a template downloadable from the Samstag website. 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 Section 7 Visual Documentation Guidelines).

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

Applicants should NOT send original documentation. Graduation parchments or official academic transcripts should be photocopies only. Birth certificates, passports or other evidence of citizenship or permanent residency should be photocopied.

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 following information is intended only as a starting point to assist applicants in researching their overseas study options. Publications listed may be available for reference at university and art school libraries. Information on Asian institutions and programs may be available through the relevant embassy, in Australia.

International

The World of Learning

Published by Europa Publications
London
www.worldoflearning.com

Provides information on international institutions and programs, by country, although its scope is much wider than the visual arts.

United States of America and Canada

Directory of MFA Programs in the Visual Arts

Published by The College Art Association
www.collegeart.org

Provides selective information on graduate programs in the USA and Canada, with over 180 institutions listed.

Also:

American Art Directory

Published by R.R. Bowker
a division of Reed Publishing (USA) Inc.
www.americanartdir.com

Comprehensively lists most art schools in America and Canada. However, the majority of these do not offer graduate programs.

Also:

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

Scholarship Administration Services
www.aucc.ca

United Kingdom

The most comprehensive source for information on UK postgraduate courses in art and design, is the annual publication:

A Guide to Art and Design Courses

Trotman & Company Limited
www.trotman.co.uk

The Netherlands

NUFFIC
www.nuffic.nl

Nuffic is an autonomous, non-profit Netherlands organisation, which provides information about programs and the possibilities for studying in the Netherlands.

Germany

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) produces a variety of booklets on studying in the Federal Republic of Germany. The following title offers the most relevant information, particularly names and addresses of institutions.

Studying in Germany

Information for Foreign Students on the Colleges of Art and Music.
www.daad.de