

Student Docent Application

Docents at the University of Virginia Art Museum—

- Expand access to exhibitions by engaging visitors in conversations about the works on view.
- Appreciate art, and enjoy engaging visitors in dialogue about the Museum's exhibitions. Some knowledge of basic art history is helpful; the Museum provides training specific to the artwork on display.
- Have the ability to reach out and interact with people of different ages and backgrounds. The docent class provides training in art appreciation, public speaking and techniques for engaging visitors, and offers opportunities to practice these skills.
- Are able to use email and the Internet. Training and support is provided to help docents become familiar with the electronic documents used to schedule and prepare for tours.

Docents commit to the program with—

Training. Docents attend 10 weekly three-hour training sessions, complete readings and homework assignments outside of class, and give a qualifying tour at the end of the course.

Participation. Docents become familiar with current Museum exhibitions. To facilitate this, the Museum organizes lectures by University professors and Museum curators during the academic year. Attendance at a majority of these education meetings is expected.

Availability. Docents commit to giving 12 tours per calendar year. Most of our tours happen on weekdays during business hours and we need to be able to call on you.

Flexibility. Docents work as part of a larger team that includes students, community members, and Museum staff. They are able to 'think on their feet' and respond to the needs of visitors and large tour groups.

Service. Docents are expected to serve on at least one committee or hold one council post per year.

Professionalism. Docents are the public face of the Museum and are warm, knowledgeable, and engaging in their interactions with the public.

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The benefits of being a docent are—

Access. In addition to lectures by University professors and curators, docents have special access to ‘behind the scenes’ tours of the Museum’s operations and collections. Docents may also audit courses in art history at the University; instructor permission is required.

Camaraderie. Being a docent at the Museum offers a unique opportunity to work with and get to know other people who share common interests. Social events include field trips, a holiday tea, a book club, and an annual luncheon to recognize docents.

Membership. All docents are encouraged to become Museum members at a reduced membership rate. Membership is available to U.Va. students for free through the University’s Arts\$ program.

Tax deduction. Mileage to and from the Museum may be used as a tax deduction.

Satisfaction. Being a Museum docent is a rich and rewarding experience. Docents contribute to the Museum’s mission by fostering an appreciation for art in Museum visitors of all ages.

Deadlines

Applications for the spring 2012 Docent Training Class are due by Monday, January 23, 2012. This semester’s course will be held on Fridays from 9 am to 12 pm, beginning February 3, 2012. Please submit applications by email to docenteducation@virginia.edu, hand-deliver them to the Museum’s front desk, or mail them to:

University of Virginia Art Museum
155 Rugby Road | PO Box 400199
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4119
Attention: Lauren Paullin

Questions about the docent program at the University of Virginia Art Museum?
Contact the Docent Coordinator at docenteducation@virginia.edu or 434.243.2050.

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Please type or print clearly.

Name	
U.Va. email	Telephone
Year	Major(s)

What specific attributes or strengths will you bring to the *Student Docent Program*?

The majority of tours given by docents at the UVaM are for school groups. Please describe any experience you have had working with children.

What other extracurricular activities are you involved in? Please list the time commitment required by these activities.

If selected to be a part of the *Student Docent Program*, I will honor my commitment to complete the ten-week training course. Once I qualify as a docent I will fulfill my tour quota each semester (minimum of 4 tours in the fall and 2 in the spring).

Signature

Date

Applications to the *Docent Training Course* for spring 2012 are due by Monday, January 23, 2012. Please submit your application by email to docenteducation@virginia.edu or deliver a hard copy to the Museum's front desk; attention: Lauren Paullin.