First organized in 1883, the USC Roski School of Art and Design is the oldest art school in Southern California, and features a unique, supportive environment for creativity, experimentation, and collaboration in the visual arts. Different from many art schools, the Roski School features an open approach within a variety of art and design media that allows for integration and exploration, as well as a focused, immersive experience in the arts. Roski students have the extraordinary ability to build a "personal" art degree in a way that is as individual as they are.
The Roski School offers courses in all media—painting, drawing, photography, design, sculpture, video, digital media, ceramics, printmaking—and students are encouraged throughout their time here to explore, combine, mix, match, and move freely among them. All Roski students major simply in art (rather than in a specific medium—say, photography, or sculpture, or graphic design), and students are not forced to choose a concentration in a single area unless that is what they desire. Rather, Roski students focus on what’s relevant to them and their interests and career goals. For an aspiring art director, that might be design, rapid visualization and web media; for an aspiring photographer, that might be total immersion in the photographic processes.

Most importantly, beyond technical proficiency in methods and materials, at the Roski School you’ll learn what it means to be an artist or designer. You’ll learn to share ideas with fellow artists—and with musicians, actors, architects, journalists, biologists, and screenwriters, because they may be among your classmates, too. You’ll learn to see images—and the world—critically, to raise difficult and provocative questions, to respond to—and create—culture in new and meaningful ways.

Top: DENISE KARABOWICZ, Mason Jar Memories, porcelain, 3 x 3 x 5’

Above: ALEXIS KANESHIRO, Wake Up (Experimental Typeface), baby powder
AS UNIQUE AS YOU ARE

Top Left: MEGAN MARSH, Hudson Bay Breakdown, felted wool, dye, canvas, ink, wool yarn, 6 x 16'

Top Right: Advanced Painting Studio

Left: Metal Studio.

Right: Students at work in the photography lab

Below: Life Drawing class
ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS WHO INSPIRE

The Roski School faculty is a diverse and distinguished group of award-winning professional artists, designers, curators, and critics dedicated to their students, to their professional work and to contemporary art. Studio classes at Roski are small—usually 12 to 15 students, rarely more than 20—so each student has access to faculty members, and is ensured close, personal instruction in every course. Each semester the school’s permanent faculty is joined by a wide array of visiting artists, designers, photographers and writers who give lectures, lead workshops, and conduct portfolio reviews.
Above: Professor Chris Barnard with a drawing student.

Above: Professor Robbert Flick with students in the photo lab. Flick is renowned as a California photographer, and his works are in the collections of more than 40 museums worldwide.

Left: Professor Ron Rizk (retired) with a painting student.
Degrees Offered: BA and BFA
The Roski School offers two undergraduate degrees: the Bachelor of Arts, or BA, and the Bachelor of Fine Arts, or BFA. The BFA is an intensive professional arts degree, which allows students to immerse themselves fully in making art. There are no foreign language or minimum elective requirements, so you can spend the vast majority of your class time in studio courses, developing a high level of proficiency in two or three media. The BA, meanwhile, is a liberal arts degree, ideal for students who want to combine art with study in a related or complementary field—or a completely different one. Though the emphasis remains on studio practice, the flexibility of the BA allows you to pursue electives, a minor, or a second major in advertising, or cinema, or neuroscience, or journalism, or—the list goes on and on.
FAMILY FARM
OIL ON CANVAS
EMILY MCPEEK, CLASS OF ’13
Interdisciplinary Study at USC
At USC, you'll have the opportunity to study whatever interests you and combine it with your studies in art—from anthropology to the piano, classic literature to neurochemistry, astronomy to advertisement—and discover a passion you didn't even know you had. USC’s 150 minors give you the chance to gain a depth of knowledge in an area outside of art, while elective courses from a wide range of disciplines can bring a variety of experiences and new perspectives to your art making. With a little planning, you can complement your studies in art with a second (or even third!) major, preparing you in a unique and comprehensive way for just about anything after graduation, from graduate study to the launch of a new business.

Gabriel Noel (B.A. Humanities 2007), a Thornton Protege Program participant, organized a multi-art project called “Quiet Orchestra” that explored cultures through music and language.

Students at the USC Kaufman School of Dance rehearse for an upcoming ballet performance. Photo by Ian Evenstar.

A medical student in the lab at Keck. Students in the labs and workspaces of the Keck HSC. Photo by: Chris Shinn.
Visual and Performing Arts at USC
Alongside the Roski School of Art and Design, USC is home to five prestigious arts schools: the School of Architecture, the School of Cinematic Arts, the Thornton School of Music, the School of Dramatic Arts, and the new Kaufman School of Dance. Aspiring architects, filmmakers, musicians, actors and dancers come from around the country and the world to study with renowned faculty at USC, which makes for a special creative environment. You'll no doubt take classes with other incredibly bright and talented creative people on campus, and you might work on a set, play in a band, launch a clothing line, shoot a movie, or come up with some yet-to-be-discovered form of collaboration together, too. To expand your perceptions, Visions and Voices, USC's arts and humanities event series, brings a wide range of celebrated artists, performers, and thinkers to campus, including, recently, Ira Glass, Spike Lee, Jenny Holzer, Marjane Satrapi, Chris Ware, Zaha Hadid, Michael Ondaatje, Daniel Pollack, and Julia Venegas.
Opportunities Outside the Classroom
A great college education is no doubt built on great courses taught by great teachers—but that’s just the beginning. At the Roski School, you’ll be encouraged to learn outside the classroom and beyond the studio—even beyond the university. The school offers students creative internship opportunities uniquely suited for art students - whether they are designers, photographers, illustrators - to explore career options at museums, galleries, film and media companies, television networks, sports franchises, magazines, marketing/advertising agencies, design firms, special effects studios and many more. By completing an internship at a creative organization, you’ll gain invaluable, crucial real-world experience and make professional connections that can open doors and last a lifetime. Along with internships, all USC students have the opportunity to get involved in their community, tutoring kids in local schools in reading, painting, ceramics, dance, and everything in between.

ART AND DESIGN BE

CERAMIC WORKS
JULIA VANN, BFA 2012
“Conservation Workshop” presented and organized by the USC Fisher Museum of Art for parents on Trojan Family Weekend in 2011 during the exhibition Conserving Beauty currently on view in the museum.

Below: Lead Developer Alexander Silkin, USC student Janice Chang, tryout ‘Wild Skies’ an immersive 360 degree virtual reality program designed by his team Project Holodeck during the University of Southern California’s GLIMPSE Digital Technology Showcase. Photo by Gus Ruelas
Art and Design in Los Angeles

When it comes to location, you can’t get any better than the image-making capital of the world. The arts and entertainment business drives this city and represents the second largest industry in the state of California. USC is just minutes from downtown Los Angeles, one of the world’s most diverse, dynamic, influential, and largest cities—and an undisputed cultural capital. L.A.is home to world-class museums - the encyclopedic Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the prestigious Getty Museum - and boasts the highest concentration of game design start-ups in the world. LA is home to hundreds of commercial and alternative galleries and exhibition spaces, which display everything from street art to modern masters. The heart and soul of Los Angeles art, though—and what makes the city the cultural leader that it is—are the artists, designers, curators, critics, writers, thinkers, and filmmakers who live and work here. Studying art and design in the center of L.A, you’ll be able to experience cutting-edge creativity firsthand. You’ll have truly global experiences, gain new perspectives, and begin building an artistic and professional network – things you just can’t get anywhere else.
In addition to Florence, Roski Students like Hannah Puente (above) are eligible to earn credit toward their major degree requirements while studying abroad in Canberra, Australia; Cortona, Italy; and Cape Town, South Africa.

GLOBAL INFLUENCE

“Roski allows its students to shape their art studies in a very unique way, which is why I knew it was the program for me. In my time at USC I have not only finely developed my knowledge and skills as an artist in the various areas of art, particularly in painting and graphic design, but have learned the importance of being a professional in the art industry.”

“My last semester I studied abroad in Florence, Italy where I took painting, drawing, and art history. This experience challenged and pushed me as an artist to realize my purpose; the meaning and experience I want to evoke in my work, as well as my relevance as an artist in today’s world.”

Hannah Puente
B.A. Fine Arts
Painting and Graphic Design
Class of 2012
Sacramento, CA
Reality: An Active Professional Arts Career
An education in art and design offers an unusually practical combination of training in making and thinking, action and inquiry. With a degree in art you’ll have a unique set of skills and resources that will allow you to bring abstract ideas to fruition – whether web sites or wood sculpture – from conception to delivery. You'll have a thorough understanding of our increasingly image-based culture, and you'll have a degree from one of the most respected universities in the world. An art degree will prepare you for a wide range of careers, in graphic design, photography, the film and video game industries, fashion, advertising and marketing, animation, arts administration, and more: just about every business today employs some kind of artist or designer. And with the support of thousands of USC alumni worldwide who make up the Trojan Family, you'll have connections that make anything possible.

“I notice now that when I flip through a magazine, I look at every precise detail. Adam also inspired me to start collecting my own inspiration and keeping my own journal of ideas of potential photoshoots.”

SAMANTHA ALPERT, BFA 2017
INTERNS WITH ADAM GLASSMAN, CREATIVE DIRECTOR AT O MAGAZINE
“Overall I learned as much about the business world as I did about design. I got to do a lot of hands on work with major brands.”

SEAN HNEDAK, BFA 2016
INTERNED WITH CHIEF ENGAGEMENT OFFICER FOR SOCIAL PLATFORMS AT IMMERSIVE YOUTH MARKETING FIRM.

“I was given a two-page spread in the Summer 2015 Men’s Catalog. Using Photoshop and InDesign, I imported the photos from post-production, and began my work on the Boardshort Overview.”

DANNY RAZZANO, BA 2016
INTERNED WITH VOLCOM INDUSTRIES. ASSISTANT TO THE CATALOG DIVISION MANAGER, POST-PRODUCTION.
How Do I Apply?
Applying to the Roski School of Art and Design is straightforward; there are two main requirements. **First**, apply to USC via the CommonApp. Detailed instructions are available at www.usc.edu/admission/undergraduate/.

**Second**, submit required supplemental art materials including a portfolio of your artwork – ten to fifteen images created within the past two years – and a creative resume, online at roski.slideroom.com. In addition, transfer applicants must submit two letters of recommendation, and international applicants must submit TOEFL or IELTS test scores. For complete information about how to apply, or to start your application, please visit roski.usc.edu/undergrad/admission/.

Financial Aid
Attending a private university is a big investment. But USC offers generous financial aid in the form of talent scholarships (based on your portfolio), grants and loans – and more the 60 per cent of USC students receive some kind of financial assistance. If you think the Roski School of Art and Design might be the right fit for you, we believe that cost shouldn’t be the primary factor in your decision to attend. If you’re unsure about the financial obligation of attending USC, please don’t hesitate to contact us. And we’d encourage you to go ahead and apply for financial aid – you might be surprised. For more information, please visit [www.usc.edu/admission/fa/](http://www.usc.edu/admission/fa/).

Leah Fong, a undergraduate cinema-television production major, works on a perspective drawing for an assignment in her Fine Arts 101 Drawing class. Photo by Philip Channing.