

John T. Paoletti

Research Travel Fellowships in Art History 2026-27

Funds are available to support student research and travel in the summer following the junior year or during winter break in the senior year that will result in a senior thesis project. Only current juniors who are working with art history faculty and who will complete a senior thesis are eligible to apply. Candidates pursuing Honors in Art History are also required to earn a minimum GPA of B+ for their major course work and, prior to graduation, to be compliant with the University's general education expectations (through Stage II). These funds are made available through a gift from Judith Gurewich P'05, P'10 to the Art History Program at Wesleyan University in honor of John T. Paoletti, Kenan Professor of the Humanities, Emeritus and Professor of Art History, Emeritus.

Paoletti Research Travel Fellowships are intended for advanced students who have demonstrated a commitment to art historical study and a strong aptitude for writing and research. In addition to a solid background in art history and knowledge of relevant foreign languages, students must have formulated an original, coherent, and methodologically informed research project related to the study of art objects, material culture, cultural sites, and/or architecture. Applicants must demonstrate that travel to archives and to specific collections and/or sites is necessary in order to successfully complete the proposed project.

Applications must contain:

1. A working title;
2. A description (1000 words) of the proposed project, its objectives and its significance, including a discussion of the relevant scholarly literature;
3. A statement (150 words) discussing course work relating to the proposed project;
4. An account of the methods for carrying it out that includes the archives and sites that will be visited;
5. A detailed research itinerary and budget;
6. An unofficial copy of the student's transcript; and
7. A name of the faculty mentor in Art History who will supervise the project and can attest to its merit and the ability of the applicant to carry it out successfully.

Fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis. The committee will examine each proposal, with special attention to the scholarly value of the proposed research, the

feasibility of the project, and the appropriateness of the proposed budget. Proposals should be as specific and detailed as possible and accompanied by a realistic schedule. Students should prepare the budget with special care, including only essential expenses and showing precisely how the proposed budget will support the work being proposed.

The budget cannot include the purchase of capital equipment (i.e., digital recorders, cameras, etc.). Those planning to do research abroad should consult with Emily Gorlewski, Associate Director, Office of Study Abroad, about their plans and budgets.

Paoletti Research Travel Fellows will receive amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2,300, the amount depending on the availability of funds and project needs. A final report, 2-3 pages in length (up to 750 words), is to be submitted no later than **Friday September 25, 2026, 12 noon** (for students using the funds over the summer) or **Friday February 26, 2027, 12 noon** (for students using the funds over winter break). This report should describe the work done with the fellowship money, including where the research took place, a description of the work accomplished, an accounting of how the grant monies were spent, and a statement about how this work will advance the student's thesis.

Applications will be judged by the art history faculty. Criteria for judging applications include: the relevance of the project to the field of art history; the clarity and suitability of the project design; the feasibility of the proposed project; the applicant's past academic record; the endorsement by the faculty member; and the appropriateness of the proposed budget. Receipt of the grant is contingent on a student actually undertaking a senior thesis project and being fully enrolled at Wesleyan University. Grants will be awarded only in years when there are proposals that meet all the selection committee's criteria.

Applications must be submitted electronically to Song Keng Teoh, Art History's administrative assistant as an attachment (**steoh@wesleyan.edu**). They must contain the student's name followed by "Paoletti Research Travel Fellowship" in the subject line.

The deadline for the receipt of application materials is Friday March 27, 2026, 12 noon. At the top of the first page, please include your Wes ID, Wesleyan Box number, email address, name of your faculty mentor, major(s), as well as your citizenship for tax purposes.

Announcement of grant awards will be made by the end of April. Titles of successful applications will also be posted on the Art History program website.