LETTER FROM DEAN ROBIN KELSEY

Your arrival in the Yard marks the beginning of a four-year exploration of new ways of knowing the world. This is your time to study unfamiliar art forms, languages, traditions, and cultures. This is your chance to become conversant with the work of writers and artists such as William Shakespeare, Toni Morrison, Andy Warhol, Lady Murasaki, Jorge Luis Borges, Immanuel Kant, and Miles Davis. This is your opportunity to learn how to make compelling art, literature, theater, dance, or music in your own right. No university is perfect, but Harvard remains peerless as a place to expand the range of your mind.

A Harvard education is for a lifetime. It can prepare you to meet personal as well as societal goals, to address daily struggles as well as global challenges. Your future after college will unfold in accord with the person you have become. Pursuing the Arts & Humanities will strengthen your powers of discernment and deepen your understanding of human creativity, readying you for the inevitable trials and serendipitous discoveries that life will bring.

Be ready to reimagine and renew the world today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Robin E. Kelsey
Dean of Arts & Humanities
Shirley Carter Burden Professor of Photography
Department of History of Art & Architecture
The faculty members who teach in the Division of Arts & Humanities represent the very best in their scholarly and artistic fields. They undertake innovative research, crossing disciplinary boundaries whenever a problem calls for it; they write books, articles, and essays that propel our thinking forward, enlightening us about creativity, language, inquiry, and belief; they make art that transforms our understanding of the world; and they engage us in conversations that challenge students and faculty alike to think anew about the meaning of human experience. The varied backgrounds and lives of our faculty members inform their interaction with students, and help to shape our Arts & Humanities community here at Harvard.

A Resurgence of Curiosity

The plethora of course offerings at Harvard can seem overwhelming and impenetrable to many students. It can be a challenge to navigate your way through course selection to devise a semester or a year that balances your scholarly interests with your curricular requirements. Some follow the herd down a well-worn path, while others break out to explore the unknown. A spirit of adventure can lead to the accidental discovery of new intellectual unknown. A spirit of adventure can lead to the accidental discovery of new intellectual boundaries whenever a problem calls for it; they write books, articles, and essays that propel our thinking forward, enlightening us about creativity, language, inquiry, and belief; they make art that transforms our understanding of the world; and they engage us in conversations that challenge students and faculty alike to think anew about the meaning of human experience. The varied backgrounds and lives of our faculty members inform their interaction with students, and help to shape our Arts & Humanities community here at Harvard.

The Transcript Project

To celebrate and encourage a spirit of curricular exploration, the Dean of Arts & Humanities launched the Transcript Project in 2018. The Project asks students to discard the conventional markers of academic success and instead celebrate the uniqueness of their intellectual journey at Harvard. Framed as a creative competition, students who participate produce a personal account — through text, song, or visual media — that reflects on their choices, considers why they selected the courses they did, and reveals the process by which they found them.

Explore the Transcript Project

To view some of the winning submissions from 2018 and sign up for updates, including the deadline for the 2019 competition, open to all undergraduates.
FRESH SPACES FOR THE ARTS

In 2018—19, Harvard will open doors to several exciting new spaces that highlight the centrality and dynamism of the arts on our campus. They will be spaces of experiment and works-in-progress, of collective inquiry, critical reflection, and social engagement. They will feature studios, exhibition and performance spaces, workshops, and sites for community gathering.

THE ARTLAB

OPENCING JANUARY 2019.

Built on the rapidly expanding Allston campus, the ArtLab will serve as a catalyst for art innovation across the University. Designed by the Berlin architectural firm of Barkow Leibinger, it will feature spaces that allow students and faculty to cross boundaries of media and art form to explore new possibilities for sensory experience and social realization. The ArtLab will feature artist studios, a workshop, video editing and sound recording rooms, and a common area, all configured around a central hub space for performance, installation, screening, encounter, and exhibition.

“HARVARD COLLEGE TRANSFORMED MY CHILDHOOD PASSION FOR THE ARTS INTO A PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL FUTURE I COULD TRULY NEVER HAVE IMAGINED. FROM THE GALLERIES AND CLASSROOMS OF THE UNIVERSITY’S MUSEUMS TO THE CARPENTER CENTER’S STUDIOS, I LEARNED TO SEE AND TO LOVE ART, AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT. THIS INTIMACY WITH VISUAL ART WAS HARVARD’S GREATEST GIFT AND I CONTINUE TO CHERISH IT EVERY DAY.”

21 UNIQUE DEPARTMENTS & PROGRAMS

Feel free to reach out to undergraduate program directors and/or coordinators in our departments and programs to learn more about fields of study in the Arts & Humanities.

Celtic Languages & Literatures

Wren House, http://celt.hfas.harvard.edu/
PROF. NATASHA SUMNER...sumner@fas.harvard.edu

The Classics

Bostian Hall, https://classics.fas.harvard.edu/
PROF. DAVID ELMER...delmer@fas.harvard.edu

Comparative Literature

Dana Palmer House, https://complit.fas.harvard.edu/
PROF. SANDRA NADDAFF...naddaff@fas.harvard.edu

East Asian Languages & Civilizations

2 Dively Ave, http://eac.hfas.harvard.edu/
NICOLE ESCOLAS...esoc@fas.harvard.edu

English

Barker Center, http://english.hfas.harvard.edu/
PROF. STEPHANIE BURT...burt@fas.harvard.edu

Ethnicity, Migration, Rights

2 Arrow Street, https://emr.fas.harvard.edu/
ELEANOR CRAIG...eleanor_craig@fas.harvard.edu

Folklore & Mythology

Wren House, https://folkmyth.hfas.harvard.edu/
LOWELL BROWER...lbrower@fas.harvard.edu

TAKE PART IN THE ARTS

We want to take advantage of Harvard’s new spaces for art making? The opportunities for creative work in our curriculum have never been greater. Check out the course offerings in Music, Theater, Dance & Media, in Visual & Environmental Studies, and in the Creative Writing program in English. Whatever the art form, medium, or approach that interests you, you can find inspiration, mentorship, and discovery at Harvard.

Working in New Media

TEJU COLE, renowned writer and photographer, joins the Harvard faculty in fall 2018 as Gore Vidal Professor of the Practice of Creative Writing in the Department of English. An award-winning novelist and essayist, Mr. Cole is also a well-recognized photographer and art historian whose varied works consider issues of migration, identity, and mediation.

THE SACKLER BUILDING

WILL HOUSE

NEW STUDIOS, OPENING JANUARY 2019.

The studios at Sackler will foster innovative design and media practice, host conversations and events with artists and curators, and support the integration of art and exhibition into classes across the curriculum.

THE RICHARD A. & SUSAN F. SMITH CAMPUS CENTER

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2018.

is a newly renovated central hub for all members of and visitors to Harvard’s community.

THE HARVARD DANCE PROJECT

Dance Director and Senior Lecturer in Theater, Dance & Media JILL JOHNSON teaches students in the HARVARD DANCE PROJECT.


There are several ways to approach course selection at Harvard. Some students focus on the offerings of the General Education Program to guide their first year. Others start with a Freshman Seminar and see what new horizons it opens. Still others begin with potential concentrations or secondary fields, using the requirements of the degree to guide their study.

Whatever your approach to course selection, we encourage you to explore the Arts & Humanities.

To give you a sense of the fascinating subjects and materials you can study, we have organized a selection of courses around critical themes. The themes and courses listed here are but a fraction of the curricular pathways on offer in the Arts & Humanities. Use them to spark your own thinking about how the classes you take can form an interconnected and interdisciplinary course of study in the liberal arts.

For further course listings and suggested topics of study, visit the Arts & Humanities Divisional Website [here](https://artsandhumanities.fas.harvard.edu).
According to the 2017 senior exit survey, 91% of graduating seniors in the Arts & Humanities are satisfied with their concentration, more than any other Division. We also scored the highest in intellectual excitement (97% satisfied), quality of instruction (97%), and faculty availability and helpfulness (96% and 95%, respectively). Students who concentrate in our fields love what they do and work with incredible faculty and administrators to pursue their academic dreams.

Quantitative reasoning favors the humanities

The division of arts & humanities is made up of 21 unique departments and programs.

In addition

To study abroad

Transcultural competence in today’s world demands linguistic and cultural proficiency beyond English, and we are committed to helping students acquire it.

Internships and funded research opportunities

Sharp fellowships

The Summer Humanities and Arts Research Program (Sharp) is a 10-week immersive summer program that places students on research projects with Harvard-affiliated faculty and senior library and museum staff. The program is a summer Humanities and Arts Research Program (Sharp) is a 10-week immersive summer program that places students on research projects with Harvard-affiliated faculty and senior library and museum staff. The program is designed to help students develop skills in research, writing, and presentation, while also exploring the history and culture of their chosen field.

For students in the Arts & Humanities, summers and winter intersessions provide chances to pursue professional development while building on curricular exploration.

Here are a few examples of the 2018 Sharp fellowship opportunities.

(More can be found online at https://uraf.harvard.edu/Sharp-Project-Descriptions)
BEING FULLY IMMERSSED IN SPANISH LANGUAGE AND ARGENTINE CULTURE WAS EXCITING, ENRICHING, AND UNFORGETTABLE!

What I loved most about the Harvard Summer Program in Buenos Aires, Argentina was the perfect balance Dr. Johanna Damgaard Linder (Senior Preceptor in Romance Languages & Literatures) strikes between grammar work and cultural study: I learned that language and culture are truly inseparable. I left Buenos Aires feeling like a local, with an advanced knowledge of Spanish, an intimate understanding of argentinidad, and the enduring feeling of ‘home.’

“PROF. JINAH KIM’S HAA TRIP TO INDIA WAS EASILY THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY FOUR YEARS AT HARVARD. I GOT TO EXPLORE CAVES AND TEMPLES THAT I HAD READ ABOUT BUT NEVER DREAMED OF VISITING, all in the company of top scholars in the field and students as passionate and curious about the region as I was. As a Chemistry concentrator, this trip (and all of my art history courses) stretched me to see art and architecture with different eyes and taught me to articulate the world around me with confidence.”

CAROLINE HUBBARD
Graduate, History & Literature; Consumer Product Strategy and Analytics Analyst at LinkedIn, Founder of TheatreLab
I CAME TO HARVARD COLLEGE Novelist and Composer

“I CAME TO HARVARD COLLEGE WITH THE FULL INTENT OF BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL COMPOSER, while I did concentrate in Music, during my time at Harvard I realized my childhood love for setting fiction. It would be several years before I decided to change careers, but the voice and analytical eye I honed at Harvard were instrumental in helping me succeed in my new field. Harvard gave me a strong foundation in the arts and humanities, one that motivated me to explore different pathways for my creativity, welcomed me to a community of talented professionals and like-minded peers, and most of all, gave me the courage to pursue my dream of becoming an author.”

SAM GREENBERG
Class of 2016, History & Literature, Co-Founder, YiH Harvard Square

“STUDYING HISTORY & LITERATURE TAUGHT ME TO LOOK FOR THE STORIES THAT AREN’T TOLD, AND TO VALUE EXPERTISE THAT ISN’T ALWAYS VALUED. THIS TRAINING AND CONTEXT HAS PROVEN INVALUABLE IN BUILDING YEY TO BE A TRULY YOUTH-LED SHELTER, AND TO PRIORITIZE THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR GIFTS IN SHAPING THE WAY WE DO OUR WORK.”

ELIZABETH LIM
Class of 2008
Music, Neediest and Composer

“MY UNDERGRADUATE CONCENTRATION IN VES FILM STUDIES EXPOSED ME TO THE ART OF LIVING AND THE UNIVERSAL EXPERIENCES THAT CONNECT US ALL AS PEOPLE. MY COURSE WORK STRENGTHENED MY CAPACITY TO BE MOVED BY HUMAN EXPERIENCES RADICALLY DIFFERENT THAN MY OWN. AS A DOCTOR AND A COLUMNIST, THIS EDUCATION PROVIDED ME WITH THE FOUNDATION I NEEDED TO APPRECIATE THE ART OF MEDICINE. I WILL FOREVER BE THANKFUL TO HARVARD FOR EMPOWERING ME TO PURSUE MY PASSIONS IN MEDICINE AND MEDIA, AND FIND SUCCESS BEYOND THE BOXES PATH.”

JENNIFER ADÉEZ OKEWEREKWU, M.D.
Class of 2016
Visiting Environmental Studies Resident Physician in Mental Health Psychiatry at the Cambridge Health Alliance-Harvard Medical School, Columnist for STAT

“STUDYING THE ARTS & HUMANITIES WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE MORE MEANINGFUL.

WHATEVER YOUR CAREER PATH, TRAINING IN THE ARTS & HUMANITIES WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE MORE MEANINGFUL.”

ZACHARY POODLUSKY
Class of 2015
The Classics, Attorney at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

“AS A CLASSICS CONCENTRATOR, I USED TO ASSUME THAT I WAS SACRIFICING SOME ASPECT OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION IN FAVOR OF STUDYING A FIELD THAT I LOVED. EVEN IF THAT PREMISE HAD BEEN CORRECT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A SACRIFICE WORTH MAKING IN LIGHT OF THE SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES OF STUDYING CLASSICS (AND CERTAINLY CLASSIC HUMANITIES) AT HARVARD – AN INTELLECTUALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE HIGHLIGHTED BY INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION FROM WORLD-CLASS SCHOLARS AND A COMMUNITY OF FELLOW STUDENTS WHO SHARED MY PASSION FOR THE SUBJECT MATTER. BUT NEARLY FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, HAVING SPENT SEVERAL YEARS AS A FINANCIAL ANALYST, ATTENDED LAW SCHOOL AND PRACTICED CORPORATE LAW, I HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT IT WAS NO SACRIFICE AT ALL. STUDYING CLASSICS TAUGHT ME THE ART OF CAREFUL READING, PRECISE WRITING AND ANALYSIS OF DISPARATE AND SOMETIMES CONFLICTING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCE MATERIAL WITH THE AIM OF PRODUCING COGENT AND ORIGINAL INTERPRETATIONS. IN A WORLD OF RAPID CHANGE, THIS TRAINING AND THESE SKILLS REMAIN UNIVERSALLY APPLICABLE.”

TIM RECKART
Class of 2018
History & Literature

“AS A PROFESSIONAL FILMMAKER, I DON’T OFTEN REFER TO THE CONTENT I STUDIED AS A HISTORY & LITERATURE CONCENTRATOR. BUT THE PRACTICE OF RESEARCH AND WRITING TAUGHT ME HOW TO FORM AND ARTICULATE IDEAS, AND THESE SKILLS SERVE ME EVERY DAY, WHETHER I’M WRITING A SCRIPT, PUTTING TOGETHER A PITCH, OR EXPLAINING A CONCEPT TO SOMEONE ON MY CREW. FOR ME, A HUMANITIES CONCENTRATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE INTENSELY WITH HUMAN CULTURE, AND THAT EXPERIENCE HAS ENRICHED MY LIFE WELL BEYOND MY PROFESSIONAL WORK.”

VANESSA (DUBE) LE

“STUDYING THE HUMANITIES AT HARVARD GAVE ME AN ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION IN CREATIVE ANALYSIS THAT INFUSES MY WORK EVERY DAY. AS COUNSEL ON THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, I’M PART OF A STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERTHROWING THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. WHETHER I’M INTERVIEWING WITNESSES, REVIEWING DOCUMENTS, OR PARTICIPATING IN STAFF BRIDGINGS, I’M CONSTANTLY USING THE CLOSE READING AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS HONED BY MY INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES EDUCATION.”