Graduate Programs Related to the Science Center and Museum Field

There are well over 100 programs offering master’s degrees in museum studies (and related fields) in the United States alone. There are many things that prospective students should consider when choosing a graduate program, including job placement records, strength and breadth of the alumni network, proximity to internships and work opportunities, costs and financial aid opportunities, and the expertise of faculty members.

Below are some graduate programs that emerging and current museum professionals interested in a science center or museum career might consider. These programs have proximity to and/or relationships with local science centers and museums, include science education as a part of their course offerings, or otherwise include a focus on science centers and museums.

This is a working list, and we welcome your contributions. If you have an additional program you think should be included, please send the name of the program, institution, a brief description, and a web link to Mary Mathias at mmathias@astc.org.

Program: Bankstreet Master of Science in Museum Education (certification available)
Institution: Bank Street College, New York City
About: The Bank Street College Graduate School of Education offers three options for Master of Science in Museum Education degrees. The Museum Education: Childhood option gives students the opportunity to obtain New York Childhood General Education certification for grades 1 through 6 as well as a Master of Science in Education, and is suitable for students who think they may want to work in a traditional classroom setting or a museum. The Museum Education degree is appropriate for students who are sure they only want to work in museum settings, and leads to a Master of Science in Education. The Leadership in Museum Education program is designed for working professionals who want to further their professional development and advance in their museum careers, and leads to a Master of Science in Education degree.
Learn more: www.bnkst.edu/graduate-school/academics/programs/museum-education-overview/

Program: Master of Arts in Museum Anthropology
Institution: Columbia University, New York City
About: This program is offered jointly between the Columbia Department of Anthropology and the American Museum of Natural History. The program
trains students to prepare and interpret material culture in a museum setting through an anthropological lens.

Learn more: gsas.columbia.edu/content/academic-programs/museum-anthropology

Program: Master of Science in Museum Leadership  
Institution: Drexel University, Philadelphia  
About: This new program is part of Drexel University’s Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts and Design and is designed to focus on leadership and management issues at multiple kinds of museums, including science centers. The program draws upon Drexel University’s partnership with the Academy of Natural Sciences.  
Learn more: drexel.edu/now/news-media/releases/archive/2013/March/Museum-Leadership/

Program: Master of Arts in Teaching, Museum Education Program  
Institution: George Washington University, Washington, D.C.  
About: This program introduces students to issues and skills surrounding communication, audiences, evaluation, and other topics specific to museum education. Since the program is located in Washington, D.C., students can pursue internships at one of the many local museums or cultural institutions focusing on science.  
Learn more: gsehd.gwu.edu/programs/mep/masters

Program: Master of Arts in Museum Studies  
Institution: Johns Hopkins University  
About: This program is appropriate for both current and emerging museum professionals. Most of the courses are taught online, making it possible to be a full- or part-time student while working full time in a museum anywhere in the world. An in-person, two-week seminar, typically held in Washington, D.C., offers intensive practical experience and immersive exposure to different aspects of the field.  
Learn more: advanced.jhu.edu/academics/graduate-degree-programs/museum-studies/

Program: Master of Arts in Science Education  
Institution: King’s College, London  
About: Located at one of the leading research institutions for science education, this program is constantly redesigned to incorporate changing ideas and practice. The program has a tradition of informal science education teaching and research, having been one of the partners of the Center for Informal Learning and Schools (CILS).  
Learn more: www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus/graduate/science-education
**Program:** Master of Arts or Science in Museum Studies (graduate certificate also available)

**Institution:** The State University of New York, Buffalo

**About:** The State University of New York, Buffalo, has several options for students wishing to pursue a graduate education in museum studies. The Master of Arts or Master of Science in Multidisciplinary Studies offers a Museum Studies track, and allows students to design their own program to cater to their interests, with Science Education as an option for study. There is also a more traditional Master of Arts in Museum Studies program that provides an introduction to collections management, education, and administration within museums, as well as a Graduate Certificate program that can be combined with a Masters program in a related area of study.

**Learn more:** [www.buffalostate.edu/gradprog.xml?bpid=134](http://www.buffalostate.edu/gradprog.xml?bpid=134)

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**Programs:** Master of Arts in Museum Science and Master of Education in Informal Science Learning

**Institution:** Texas Tech University, Lubbock

**About:** The Museum Science program allows students to specialize in a number of museum foci, including curatorship in anthropology and/or the natural sciences. The new Master of Education in Informal Science Learning program, which will launch August 2013, is partnership between the College of Education at Texas Tech University and the Houston Zoo. The program offers preservice, formal, and informal educators the opportunity to enhance their skills in informal science learning.

**Learn more:**  [www.depts.ttu.edu/museumttu/cfas.html](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/museumttu/cfas.html) and [www.houstonzoo.org/education/mastersprogram](http://www.houstonzoo.org/education/mastersprogram)

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**Program:** Museum Studies Certificate (with option to pursue a Master of Arts in a related program)

**Institution:** Tufts University, Boston

**About:** This certificate program is suitable for working students and requires only four evening courses plus an internship. Applicants are required to choose a concentration from four options (Art History, Classics, Education, or History) or can designate their concentration as “Other,” which could include science museums or natural history settings. Students who wish to pursue a Master of Arts can complete the certificate program as a part of their coursework in the home departments in each of the four main concentrations.

**Learn more:**  [ase.tufts.edu/museumstudies/](http://ase.tufts.edu/museumstudies/)

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**Program:** Master of Arts in Museum Education

**Institution:** The University of the Arts, Philadelphia

**About:** The Master of Arts in Museum Education program is designed to provide students with the background necessary to develop programs, teach using objects and other means, and otherwise support a successful museum
education program in a variety of disciplines, including science. The program connects students to a variety of internship opportunities in the greater Philadelphia area. The university also offers a Master of Arts in Museum Communication and a Master of Arts in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design.

Learn more: museumstudies.uarts.edu

Program: Master of Science in Museum and Field Studies (graduate certificate also available)
Institution: University of Colorado at Boulder
About: This program is centered at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History and is appropriate for students who wish to work in collections, education, and/or exhibitions at a natural history museum. Course offerings include core museum studies topics, as well as electives in natural history disciplines such as biology, paleontology, and anthropology. Students are also able to build a specialty focusing on non–natural history concentrations, such as art history. There are more than 20 potential internship and work placement sites nearby, including museums, parks, and zoos.

Learn more: cumuseum.colorado.edu/graduate-program-museum-field-studies

Program: Master of Arts in Museum and Exhibition Studies
Institution: University of Illinois at Chicago
About: This interdisciplinary program has a social justice focus, and emphasizes the evolving social and political contexts of museums of all disciplines, including science. The program provides a general overview of museum work with a focus on exhibitions. Several museums in Chicago act as teaching spaces for students to complete both practical and research work.

Learn more: arthistory.aa.uic.edu/index.php?subj=34

Program: Master of Arts in Museology (Maîtrise ès Arts en Muséologie)
Institution: University of Quebec, Montreal (Université du Québec à Montréal)
About: The Master of Arts program introduces students to the practical skills needed to work in museums in both an educational and collections management capacity. Elective coursework includes courses on science centers and natural history museums. This program is entirely in French, so only students with a mastery of French should apply.

Learn more: www.programmes.uqam.ca/3420
Program: Master of Arts in Museum Science and Management
Institution: The University of Tulsa, Oklahoma
About: In addition to providing introductory courses and hands-on experience in museum specialties such as education and research, this program includes coursework on museum administration and fiscal management.
Learn more: www.utulsa.edu/academics/colleges/Graduate-School/museum-science-program.aspx