# Integrative Project in Art and Theology Guidelines

**Revised September 2024**

The goal of the Integrative Project in Art and Theology (IPIAT) is to create and present a major new work of art (e.g., an exhibition, a short film or documentary, a concert of original music, a screenplay, a play script, a collection of poetry or short stories), accompanied by a research paper investigating the historical contexts and theological dimensions of the work. The level of completed work is expected to be publishable, exhibitable, or ready for performance. An IPIAT may be taken for 6 or 12 credits, depending on the scope of the project.

The IPIAT consists of three main components: (1) the artistic project, (2) a research paper, and (3) a public presentation of your work. This document provides detailed information about each of these components, as well as detailed information about prerequisites and preparation for the IPIAT, the IPIAT proposal, and the procedures for registration and full completion of the IPIAT.

## 1. Prerequisites and Preparation for the IPIAT

### COURSE WORK

To do an Integrative Project in Art and Theology (IPIAT), you must first complete the following courses:

- Christian Imagination (ARTS 501), typically taken in the Winter term of your first year; and
- Vocation of the Artist Seminar (ARTS 701), typically taken in the Fall term of your second year.

Additional course work or guided studies may be encouraged to establish satisfactory technical competence in a chosen medium or genre, which might be taken at other institutions (e.g., University of British Columbia, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design) or by private tutoring or lessons.

### PROGRAM ADMISSION AND ACADEMIC STANDING

Before submitting an IPIAT proposal, you must be admitted to the Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) program, and you must declare a Christianity and the Arts concentration. Admission and program requirements for the MATS degree can be found on Regent College's website. At the time of submitting your IPIAT proposal, you must have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or above to be qualified to do an IPIAT.

**IPIAT ORIENTATION**

In the term that you take the Vocation of the Artist Seminar, or in the following Winter term, you should register for and attend the non-credit IPIAT Orientation (GENR 313). This is a 1-hour informational session offered at the beginning of each Fall and Winter term to clarify the IPIAT process and to answer any questions about it. You must attend this Orientation before submitting an IPIAT proposal. For more information, please contact the Arts Administrator (artsadmin@regent-college.edu).

**DECIDING ON A TOPIC**

When you have a good idea of what you would like to do for an IPIAT, meet with the Concentration Coordinator and/or the Arts Administrator to discuss your idea. He or she will advise you about framing your proposal and who you might approach as a potential supervisor (see below). In choosing a topic, try to do something that brings together your vital interests and ambitiously plays to your artistic strengths, but does so in a way that is focused, concrete, and achievable within the time, skills, and resources available. A good time to begin developing a vision for this project is while you are taking the Vocation of the Artist seminar. The Proposal process (see below) is meant to further hone your project so that you can embark on it with confidence.

**IDENTIFYING A SUPERVISOR (AND A TECHNICAL ADVISOR)**

As your general idea develops, you will need to identify a **supervisor** for your project. The supervisor will consult with you on all aspects of your IPIAT, including your project ideas and progress, the planning and execution of your presentation, and especially your research paper. The Concentration Coordinator is available to supervise IPIATs, but you can choose any Regent faculty member who would be a good fit with you and your project.

In addition to your project supervisor, you will also have a **technical advisor**, who is a practicing artist and/or specialist in the artistic discipline central to your project. While your supervisor oversees your IPIAT as a whole, the purpose of the technical advisor is to give ongoing feedback and guidance specifically about your artistic project. Whereas your supervisor must be a member of the Regent faculty, your technical advisor need not be. In fact, your selection of an external technical advisor provides a wonderful opportunity to begin making further connections in the field of practice you are interested in. The Concentration Coordinator and Arts Administrator will help to identify and commission a good technical advisor for your project, but each student is also encouraged to propose artists who she or he would really like to work with. The selection of a technical advisor will be formalized only after your IPIAT Proposal is officially approved, but it is a good idea to begin thinking of possible advisors as you develop your proposal.

Once agreed upon, the Concentration Coordinator and/or Arts Administrator will contact and commission your technical advisor (this is not something you need to do yourself), and you will meet with this advisor (in person or remotely) for a minimum of 8 hours over the duration of your project.

## 2. Submitting an IPIAT Proposal

Once a faculty member has agreed to supervise your project, you will finalize a formal written project proposal, which must be approved both by your supervisor and by the Arts Advisory Committee. *Be prepared to revise your proposal several times before submitting it to the Committee.*

**The proposal should have the following sections:**

### A. ARTIST'S BACKGROUND

Please describe your level of experience with the medium in which you propose to work, including any previous education in this art form and/or previous instances of presenting your work, such as exhibitions, recordings, performances, etc. (If your experience is extensive, you can summarize a few key examples and then attach your CV at the end of your proposal.) In addition, please provide some samples of your previous work: If you have a website or if there are online publications of your work, please include links to these, and/or please attach samples of your work in an appendix at end of your proposal and include some kind of phrasing in this section that points us to the appendix (e.g., "see Appendix A for a sample of past work"). These samples should demonstrate artistic experience and competence sufficient for the project being proposed.

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Briefly and clearly state what you intend to do and the medium in which you will work (painting, drama, dance, film, short story, song writing, etc.). This description should provide an overview of the scope of your project, but it should also be specific enough to convince the Committee that you have a clear, concrete idea of what you want to do. Please indicate why you think this particular art form or genre is appropriate for what you want to accomplish, and what you see as the significance of what you want to create. Provide a preliminary sense of the subject matter, the narrative, and the number of the works (poems, paintings, songs, etc.) you envision within the larger project with and estimation of scale or duration.

### C.  RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC

The aim of the research component of your IPIAT is to gain deeper and richer understandings of the historical contexts and theological dimensions of one or more key aspects of your project. The aim of this paper is not to write a thesis that makes an original contribution to the field of theology and the arts (your central contribution is your artistic project!). Nor is the aim to explain or justify your artistic project, though some of that might be helpful. Rather, the principal aim of this paper is to enrich the thinking going on in your artistic project by identifying and synthesizing the most vital historical and theological *resources* for your artistic project, and to begin to think through them directly in relation to your project.

Thus, in this section of your proposal, please identify the avenue(s) of research you are going to pursue. This might include close studies of artists or theologians who are important dialogue partners for your work, and/or it might include diving into the scholarship surrounding a pivotal concept or issue, a particular artistic or theological tradition, a relevant iconographical or musical motif, a key biblical passage or theme, and so on. In developing your proposal, try to do enough research *at this stage* to enable you to be as specific as possible about what you really want to understand in greater depth for the sake of this project. This focus of study should be doable within the scope of your project (again, your artistic work is your thesis, not this paper per se), and it must match and be supported by the bibliography at the end of your proposal (see below).

## D. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Integrative Projects in Art and Theology are intended to be shared with the Regent community (and perhaps more broadly than that). Please indicate *how* you envision your work will be publicly presented (a concert, a reading, a publication, an exhibition, a screening, etc.) and *where* you envision presenting it (the Regent chapel, the Dal Schindell Gallery, a local church, a local theatre, an online platform, etc.). The Concentration Coordinator and Arts Administrator will work with you to support the logistics of this presentation (especially if it is on campus), but keep in mind that most of the planning, organization, and impetus for the presentation will largely be yours.

## E. PROJECT SCHEDULE

The IPIAT can be undertaken for either 6 credit hours (270 hours) or 12 credit hours (540 hours). Carefully and realistically work out how that time will be allocated. Include a projected time frame for your project, including the research and writing, public presentation, and proposed completion date.

## F. BIBLIOGRAPHY

An initial bibliography for the paper and the project must accompany the proposal, identifying the most relevant and high-quality sources to support your research. Please spend enough preliminary time on this bibliography to ensure that these sources are all high-priority texts for your project and are a realistic amount for you to read carefully. In other words, you should avoid padding your bibliography with several thousand pages worth of sources that aren't actually the best material for your research.

## PROPOSAL DEADLINES

IPIAT proposals are accepted and reviewed four times per year: at the beginning and mid-point of the Fall term and at the beginning and mid-point of the Winter term. To find the deadline that best suits your progress, please click on the IPIAT tab on the "Final Projects" page in Regent's online Academic Catalogue.

**SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL**

Once your proposal has been written, revised, and is acceptable to your supervisor, you must attach two other items before submitting it to the Arts Advisory Committee:

- **Title Page**: Using the Sample IPIAT Proposal Title Page (see Appendix A below), create a title page for your proposal, which includes identifying the faculty member who has agreed to supervise your IPIAT and who approves of this proposal (you need to ensure that this person either signs this title page or has verbally "signed off" on it).

- **Grade Report**: Go to REGIS (under the red Academic tab) and "print" a pdf of your Grade Report, showing that you have completed ARTS 501 and ARTS 701, and that you have a GPA of at least 3.3.

To submit your IPIAT Proposal to the Arts Advisory Committee, please combine your title page (with your supervisor's name or signature), the proposal itself (including all sections listed above), and your grade report into one pdf file, and email it to the Arts Administrator (artsadmin@regent-college.edu).

**ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RESPONSE**

The Committee will respond to your proposal in one of three ways: (1) *approval* of the proposal (full speed ahead!), (2) *conditional approval* of the proposal (move forward, but, as you do so, a specified item or aspect or your plan needs to be reworked or adjusted to ensure a successful outcome), or (3) *request for revision and resubmission* of the proposal (usually this means that the project has good potential but is too big or too vague, requiring tighter focus or more detail). If you receive a request to revise and resubmit, please do not be discouraged by this. "Revise and resubmit" is not a rejection of your idea but a request that you give further thought and planning to some aspect of your project *now*, at the beginning of your project, to avoid more costly, painful, and time-consuming problems later. If you receive such a request, the Committee will give detailed feedback about what needs to be revised with greater focus or detail. Once approved, minor changes to the proposal should be discussed with your supervisor; substantial changes may require a re-submission of the proposal to the Arts Advisory Committee.

**CURRENT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Chair (Concentration Coordinator):** | Jonathan Anderson |
| **Members:** | Paul Spilsbury |
| | James Smoker |
| **Arts Administrator:** | Gillian McLean |

For further information or questions about the IPIAT proposal, please contact the Arts Administrator (artsadmin@regent-college.edu).

## 3. IPIAT Registration

Once the Arts Advisory Committee has approved your proposal, you may register for IPIAT credits. You should register in the same term as when your proposal is approved, and this should be prior to the IPIAT Registration Deadline, which is one week before the end of the term (see Important Dates on the College website).

Observe the following process for registering for and paying for your IPIAT:

- Submit an IPIAT registration form, signed by your supervisor, together with a regular course registration form or a course change form to Reception.

- If you are registering for a 12-credit hour IPIAT, you may register for all 12 credits in one term, or you may split the registration over two consecutive terms by registering for 6 credits in each term. If you are doing the latter, note that you do not need to register for the second 6 credits; this will happen automatically, and you will need to pay for the tuition and fees by the payment deadline of the subsequent term (the Friday before the beginning of classes) to avoid late payment charges. Registration for 6-credit IPIATs may not be split over two terms.

- If registering within a term, but before the IPIAT Registration Deadline, payment will be due at the time of registration. If registering at the beginning of the following term, payment will be due by the Registration & Payment Deadline for the term (i.e., the Friday before the beginning of classes).

- At the time of registration, you will also be charged a $70 handling fee for the archiving of your IPIAT when it is finished. This fee will be charged at your initial registration, whether for 6 or 12 credits.

NOTE: If you initially register a 12-credit IPIAT in the Fall term—whether it is all 12 credits in the Fall or 6 credits in the Fall and 6 in the Winter—you will receive a tax receipt (T2202A: Tuition, Education, and Textbook Amounts Certificate) by the end of February for one quarter of the tuition amount paid in the Fall term. A T2202A for the balance of the tuition amount will be provided by the end of the following February. However, if you initially register your IPIAT in either the Winter or Summer term, you will receive a T2202A for the full tuition amount by the end of February of the following year.

### CONTINUATION FEES

You have three years to complete your IPIAT, dating from the first September after your initial registration of the IPIAT. Each year both your supervisor and technical advisor will evaluate your work to ensure that you are making substantial progress towards completion. If, in the opinion of your supervisor and the Arts Advisory Committee, you are not making substantial progress, the Committee may require that you change or terminate your project. Refund of tuition will not be made.

Until you have completed your IPIAT, you will be assessed a $100 continuation fee (in addition to any registration fees) beginning in the first September after you register for

your IPIAT, and again in subsequent Septembers. This will continue until you have completed and submitted your IPIAT or until your three-year time limit has expired.

If you have not completed within three years (dating from the first September after your initial registration), you will need to appeal, at least four months before the end of the three-year completion period, to the Academic Standards Committee to request an extension. Your appeal must include (1) a description of the progress you have made, (2) an explanation of why you could not complete within the time limit, (3) a schedule for how you plan to complete together with a proposed date of completion, and (4) a supporting letter from your supervisor. Note that extensions are not guaranteed. If the Committee grants you an extension, you will be assessed an extended continuation fee of $500 per year (in addition to any registration fees).

In addition, if you have not completed the program within the six-year time limit for the MA Theological Studies program, you will need to appeal to the Academic Standards Committee for a program extension. If granted, you will be assessed, in addition to any other fees, a $100 per year program extension fee.

The refund policy for dropping an IPIAT is given online.

## 4. The IPIAT Project

At the center of the Integrative Project in Art and Theology is the artistic project, and we consider the artwork itself (not only the speaking or writing about it) to be at the heart of the *integrative* activity we are after. This artwork should reflect a significant degree of creative ambition, both in terms of execution and concept, and it should produce some kind of complete artistic presentation: an exhibition, a concert of original music, a film, a collection of poetry or short stories, etc. Our aim is for the completed work to reach a level of development that is publishable, exhibitable, or ready for performance. But the scale and scope of this work also must be achievable, focused, and squarely supported by your own creative strengths, skills, and prior experience with the medium.

In some sense, this project is a culmination of your studies at Regent, but you should think of it not as a "final" work but as the first major work you send into the world *after* your time at Regent College. In other words, don't try to "say" everything there is to say in this one work and don't get bogged down in perfectionism; rather, try to approach this as an ambitious exploration that will open into further explorations in the years ahead.

**WORKING WITH YOUR TECHNICAL ADVISOR**

Once your IPIAT proposal has been approved, the Arts Advisory Committee will initiate an agreement with the Technical Advisor for your project—an advisor who is a practicing artist and/or specialist in the artistic discipline central to your project. Regent College will contract with this advisor to meet with you for a minimum of **8 hours** over the duration of your project to provide feedback, guidance, and support as your project develops. Once the official connection is initiated between you and your Technical Advisor (usually by an email from the Arts Administrator or Concentration Coordinator), then you are responsible for arranging the timing, duration, and format of all these meetings with your advisor, and for ensuring that the allotted time has been completed prior to your final

presentation. These meetings are for you to use in whatever way and in whatever frequency makes most sense for the needs of your project.

## 5. The IPIAT Research Paper

The research component of your IPIAT should aim at articulating a deeper and richer understanding of the historical contexts and theological dimensions of one or more key aspects of your project. Your paper should remain focused on working through ideas directly relevant to your particular project, but it doesn't need to provide a direct explanation or justification of your artwork.

Your research paper should be **5,000–7,000 words** in length, and it should adhere to the Regent College style guide, which follows the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) (which you can access on the Regent College Library website). You and your supervisor should talk through your ideas for this paper in its early stages of development, and you should allow your supervisor to give feedback on drafts of it along the way.

The final draft of your research paper must be submitted to your supervisor **ten days prior to the public presentation** of your Integrative Project**.** Use the Sample IPIAT Paper Title Page (see Appendix B below) to format the title page before submitting your final draft. In addition to your supervisor, the Arts Advisory Committee will appoint a second reader to assist in the assessment of your IPIAT research paper. This may be your technical advisor or a member of the Regent faculty.

## 6. The IPIAT Presentation

A high value in the Regent Arts program is that your finished IPIAT is publicly shared with the Regent community (and hopefully beyond Regent). Working with your supervisor, the Concentration Coordinator, and especially the Arts Administrator, you will need to arrange the date of presentation, the venue, the format, the promotional materials, and any equipment, refreshments, or additional support needed for the event. Working with the Arts Administrator, you will need to schedule your presentation to occur before the **IPIAT Presentation Deadline** (see "[Important Dates](#)" on Regent College's website). You are encouraged to schedule this well before the deadline to avoid any disappointments due to scheduling conflicts.

Your public presentation should present the artwork in a format well suited to experiencing the work (a concert, an exhibition, a reading, a publication, a screening, etc.), but it will also feature a talk by you, the artist of the work. There are no requirements for the length or content of this talk, but you are encouraged to provide any context or framing of the work that will help to open the work for your audience and invite them into it. Each presentation can take a very different form, depending on the medium of the work, the length of time needed to present the work, and the effectiveness of when and how to talk about the work (before showing the work? after? interspersed?). These presentations usually include an opportunity for discussion of the work, led by questions and interaction from the faculty supervisor, followed by questions from the audience.

The IPIAT presentation is usually a festive event, accompanied by refreshments and celebration. You are encouraged to announce it by poster or invitation. Please make sure that the members of the Arts Advisory Committee are invited well in advance. And please be in frequent, clear communication with the Arts Administrator; she will accompany you throughout the process.

## 7. The IPIAT Reflection Paper

Toward the very end of the project, after your presentation is complete, you will write a short (1,000–1,500 word) personal reflection on what you learned through the process and the presentation of your IPIAT (difficulties encountered, principles and insights gained, ways this has prepared you for future artistic endeavours).

## 8. Completion of the IPIAT

Your IPIAT is considered complete once you have completed all the requirements to the satisfaction of your supervisor—including your finished project, your research paper, your public presentation, and your reflection paper—and submitted all materials to the Arts Administrator. When submitting, please include the IPIAT Completion Checklist (see Appendix C below) alongside these materials.

If you are completing in the Winter term and intend to graduate then, please be sure to apply for graduation by January 31 (this can be done online).

To graduate, you must have completed your presentation and submit all required IPIAT materials with the Checklist to the Arts Administrator (artsadmin@regent-college.edu) by the **IPIAT Presentation Deadline** (see "Important Dates" on Regent College's website).

# Appendix A

## Sample IPIAT Proposal Title Page

Regent College

PROPOSAL
FOR

An Integrative Project in Art and Theology
Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Theological Studies
[*specify 6 or 12 Credit Hours*]

[*your topic/title*]

[*your full name*]

Supervising professor                               Student submission date

_____        _____

                                                              Committee approval date

                                                              _____

# Appendix B
## Sample IPIAT Paper Title Page

Regent College

RESEARCH PAPER
FOR

An Integrative Project in Art and Theology
Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Theological Studies

[*title*]

[*your full name*]

Supervisor: [*typed name*]

Vancouver, British Columbia

[*month and year*]

RIGHTS OF PUBLICATION AND LOAN

In presenting the associated Integrative Project in Art and Theology (IPIAT), in partial fulfillment of the requirement for an advanced degree at Regent College, I agree that the Library shall make it freely available for reference and study. I further agree that permission for extensive copying of this IPIAT for scholarly purposes may be permitted by the Librarian. It is understood that copying or publishing this IPIAT for financial gain shall not be allowed without my written permission.

DECLARATION OF AUTHENTICITY

This is to certify that:

- the content of the IPIAT is my own;
- any assistance I have received in preparing this work has been explicitly acknowledged within this work;
- the IPIAT has not been submitted for any other course, degree, or other academic purpose without the permission of the supervisor; and
- I have read the College's policy on plagiarism and confirm that I have properly given credit to all sources that I have used.

Furthermore, I declare that while it is acceptable for students to seek editorial help, all of the research, analysis, argument, and conclusions are my own.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

The views expressed in this IPIAT are those of the student and do not necessarily reflect the views of the supervisor(s), the technical advisors, or Regent College.

By signing below, I agree to all of the above.

[*signature*]

_____

[*typed student name below this line*]

# Appendix C

## *IPIAT Completion Checklist*

*Complete this form and submit it to the Arts Administrator along with the following items to be archived in the Library*.

☐ Research paper (include title page & signed declaration page)

☐ Reflection paper (include title page)

☐ Project (include title): _____

_____

Medium of project: _____

_____

## Other items included:

☐ Poster of event or invitation card

☐ Visual recording if performance based: _____

_____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

Name: _____
      Surname                Given Name           Middle Name

Student ID: _____  Date submitted: _____