



FACULTY OF FINE, APPLIED AND PERFORMING ARTS

MFA Programme in Design, 120 credits

Konstnärligt masterprogram i Design, 120 högskolepoäng

Programme code: K2DEN

Second cycle / Avancerad nivå

1. Confirmation

This programme syllabus was confirmed by the Dean of the Faculty on 26-10-2017 (G 2017/603) to be valid from 03-09-2018, Autumn semester 2018.

Responsible Department/Equivalent: HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design

2. Purpose

The overarching purpose of the programme is to engage students in critical perspectives on design. The content and design of the courses are set within a sociocultural framework addressing issues concerning the role and importance of design in society. The key issue is how alternative roles and approaches of designers can be conceived and how they can be made real. The courses highlight the investigation into and the enhancement of the specific competence of the designer to explore, visualize and express possibilities of transformation in sociocultural situations through artistic methods.

Throughout the courses of the programme students are trained to independently develop, through practice and experiments, design methods and artistic approaches based in their own field of specialisation. The courses highlight the enhancement and development of explorative approaches in students' self-defined personal projects and require that students have previous experiences in executing self-defined and self-governed projects.

The programme also introduces design as a field of research. Engagement in and contribution to a disciplinary discourse in design is an important imperative of the programme and students are being trained in formulating, investigating and accounting for disciplinary issues in seminars and in writing.

3. Entry requirements

Bachelor's degree in design of at least 180 credits or equivalent. Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the

equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS. In addition, approved work samples are required. Other requirements are documented in each course syllabus.

4. Higher education qualification and main field of study

This programme leads to a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) in Design (Konstnärlig masterexamen i design).

5. Outcomes

Second-cycle study programmes shall involve the acquisition of specialist knowledge, competence and skills in relation to first-cycle courses and study programmes, and in addition to the requirements for first-cycle courses and study programmes shall:

- further develop the ability of students to integrate and make autonomous use of their knowledge,
- develop the students' ability to deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, and
- develop the students' potential for professional activities that demand considerable autonomy, or for research and development work.

General outcomes for Degree of Master in Fine Arts (120 credits)

According to Higher Education Ordinance (see SFS 1993:100, System of Qualifications, Annex 2):

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master in Fine Arts (120 hec) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in areas of the field as well as specialised insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate familiarity with methods and processes for dealing with complex phenomena, issues and situations in the field.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master in Fine Arts (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to formulate new issues autonomously and creatively and contribute to the formation of knowledge, solve more advanced problems, develop new forms of personal expression as well as to reflect critically on his or her artistic approach and that of others in the main field of study
- demonstrate the ability to create and execute his or her own ideas with his or her own personal expression, to identify, formulate and solve artistic and creative problems autonomously and also to plan and undertake advanced artistic tasks using appropriate methods within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability both nationally and internationally to clearly present and discuss his or her works and artistic issues in speech, writing or in other ways and in dialogue with

different audiences, and

- demonstrate the competence and knowledge required to work autonomously in a professional capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree in Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant artistic, social and ethical issues
- demonstrate insight into the role of art in society, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Local outcomes

To meet the requirements for the MFA Degree in Design the student must be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Characterize design competence and design practice in general informed by their own practice, as well as developing advanced issues and critical reflections in the knowledge field of design
- Account in general of current and historical formation of knowledge, research and discussion in design, and relate critically to their own practice and result, as well as that of others
- Account for the concept of sociocultural perspective and critically discuss alternative ways of engaging in design practice in a sociocultural context

Competence and skills

- Apply a creative and questioning approach in identifying and formulating design projects and disciplinary issues in design
- Run, develop and refine the design process independently as well as develop their own methods and approaches
- Generate ideas and concepts autonomously and visualise, articulate and refine them with precision
- Plan and carry out complex design projects autonomously within given time frames, individually and in cooperation with other types of competence
- Artistically explore disciplinary issues using adequate design methods, artistically express the result and accounting for it in writing
- Communicate his/her own project clearly, using text and visual media, both to experts in the subject field and to the general public, in a variety of contexts, domestically as well as internationally
- Plan and carry out relevant and responsible interactions with users and other stakeholders as part of the design process

Judgement and approach

- Critically evaluate the artistic and disciplinary aspects of their own ideas, process and results, as well as those of others
- Critically evaluate the relation of their own projects and results to historical, cultural, societal and ethical contexts
- Apply a critical perspective to the role and responsibility of the designer, and constructively discuss these issues with both experts and members of the general public
- Identify, describe and develop their own learning process independently.

6. Content and structure

The programme consists of 8 courses. In the last course students carry through a Master Degree Project of 30 credits, consisting of a practical project and a written thesis.

The programme studies are divided into the following required courses:

YEAR 1

DM1DEP Design as Exploratory Practice 15 credits
 DM2CPX Visualizing Complexity 15 credits
 DM3EXH Exhibition as Mediating Practice 7,5 credits
 DM4PER Design in a Socio-Cultural Context 15 credits
 DM15SO Social Intervention 7,5 credits

YEAR 2

DM6DIS Engaging in the Design Discourse 22,5 credits
 DM22PP Preparation for Degree Project 7,5 credits
 DM8CNT Contributing to the Design Discourse 30 credits

7. Guaranteed admission

A student who follow the program at the normal pace is guaranteed admission to all of the required courses listed in the programme syllabus provided the student is qualified for entry.

8. Transitional regulations

No special transitional regulations.

9. Other information

The language of instruction is English.

All materials are paid for by the student.

The study programme will be followed up and evaluated in accordance with the applicable *Policy för kvalitetssäkring och kvalitetsutveckling av utbildning vid Göteborgs universitet* (Policy for the Quality assurance and Quality Development of Education at the University of Gothenburg).