



THE ARTISTIC FACULTY

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) and was last revised on 26-09-2023 (GU 2023/1685) to be valid from 15-10-2023, Autumn semester 2024.

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

2. Purpose

The two-year interdisciplinary master's programme in design explores co-existence during rapidly changing social, ecological, and planetary conditions. Collectively and individually, students engage in critical enquiry concerning living environments, welfare and habitability through a broad approach to design practice.

In the programme, students develop their understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of design in terms of its transformative and manipulative capabilities. Students are asked to critically reflect and respond to complications and dilemmas associated with how societies operate and impact inhabitants, ecosystems and resources. Further, the programme provides knowledge about research topics, political movements and policies addressing social and ecological injustice as well as different rights perspectives.

As a situated, social, and relational design programme, it provides tools to construct and simultaneously reflect on the world we inhabit. As such, the programme equips students who are interested in the ideological, political and environmental dimensions of design with skills to transform societies within new and existing professional roles.

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

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, in addition to the general outcomes for a Master of Fine Arts Degree (120 credits) be able to:

- address complex issues in eco-social contexts through critical approaches in design
- demonstrate skills and abilities to interact in societal transformation through design practice.
- engage with design as an artistic knowledge practice that intertwines sensory and emotional, intellectual and imaginary dimensions.

Sustainability labelling

The programme is sustainability-focused, which means that at least one of the outcomes clearly shows that the programme content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria. The content also constitutes the programme's main focus.

6. Content and structure

In the first year of the programme, students take two subject courses and two shorter seminar courses. The subject courses provide a combination of collective tasks and time to individually develop independent enquiries. The courses are intended to introduce and elaborate on relational dimensions of design practice in questions about social transformation and the long-term habitability of living environments. Furthermore, the subject courses aim to establish a critical discussion on what design practice could be, as well as to prepare students for the commencement or enrichment of working life. The seminar courses, on the other hand, are intended to synthesise different concepts from various fields of study to build a broad understanding of the role of design in society and to develop rigorous intellectual trajectories across disciplines and specialisations.

In the second year, students carry out a degree project in two parts while being supported with methods for artistic research and creative editorial practices.

Across the studies, students are invited to take part in seminars, visits and fieldwork related to a specific theme each year. Themed activities target exchange and collaboration within culture, science, industry and research both locally and globally to build a foundation of collective experience and knowledge. Writing occurs within and across the curriculum following a variation of formats. Programme activities, processes and outcomes are documented and made public through an annual review compiled by students and staff together.

Design Studies

Within the programme, Design Studies is presented as an inter- and multidisciplinary field of knowledge which examines both internal design processes and the influence of design on various aspects of life. The field is connected to the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, and aims to bring together a wide range of methods and discourses.

Elective Programme Courses

Several of the educational programmes offered at the department include compulsory elective programme courses. These courses aim to offer complementary education in artistic practices in addition to the programmes' subject specialisations. The range of elective courses provides opportunities for the student to broaden their knowledge and develop their skills and abilities.

Within the elective courses, students meet across department subjects. Students apply for the elective courses based on an annual course offering.

The programme studies are divided into the following required courses:

Year 1

Semester 1

Relational Practice, 22,5 credits

Design Studies, 7,5 credits

Semester 2

Social Transformation, 22,5 credits

Elective Course, 7,5 credits

Year 2

Semester 3

Master's Degree Project in Design 1, 30 credits

Semester 4

Master's Degree Project in Design 2, 30 credits

7. Guaranteed admission

A student who follows the programme at the normal pace is guaranteed admission. Guaranteed admission at University of Gothenburg consists of two kinds, it can be general or limited.

The programme applies a limited guaranteed admission to the elective programme courses, which means that it is not possible to guarantee admission according to the student's ranking order of selected elective courses. However, the student is always guaranteed admission to one of the elective courses given at the department for the current semester.

8. Transitional regulations

This programme syllabus (GU 2023/1685) applies to students admitted to the programme from the autumn semester 2024.

Students who have begun the programme before the autumn semester 2024 and have unfinished courses according to the older version of the programme syllabus have the right to complete these through additional examinations, at most two years after the courses have been changed or discontinued.

Students who thereafter still have unfinished older courses may complete the programme

according to the current programme syllabus and course structure. An individual study plan for the remaining parts of the programme may be required.

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).