



THE ARTISTIC FACULTY

Master of Fine Arts Programme in Photography, 120 credits

Konstnärligt masterprogram i fotografi, 120 högskolepoäng

Programme code: K2FOT

Second cycle / Avancerad nivå

1. Confirmation

This programme syllabus was confirmed by the Dean of the Faculty on 30-11-2017 (G 2017/675) and was last revised on 26-09-2023 (GU 2023/1687) to be valid from 15-10-2023, Autumn semester 2024.

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

2. Purpose

The programme aims to further develop and deepen the student's photographic and artistic practice. Significant emphasis is placed on the student's ability to critically reflect on their own and others' artistic work in speech and writing. After completion of studies, the student should be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge of the historical and contemporary applications of photography, as well as an in-depth understanding of the importance of photography in art and society. The aim is also that the student should be well-informed in the field of photography and be able to work professionally in both the art field and other areas related to photography.

The programme is research-preparatory.

3. Entry requirements

Bachelor's degree in photography, or other relevant field within art and 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 entry 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 Photography (Konstnärlig masterexamen i fotografi).

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.

6. Content and structure

The programme consists of two years full-time studies of 120 credits. The focus is on the development of the students' own photographic work as well as their ability to critically reflect on their own and others' work. Emphasis is placed on the students' knowledge about the practice and theory of the photographic field. The teaching is focused on creating a dynamic between the practical artistic work, theoretical knowledge and critical reflection.

The teaching in the practical courses takes place in the form of critique classes, workshops and individual tutorials where the students' projects are discussed based on various aspects such as technical, artistic and contextual; that is, how the presented work relates to other contemporary and historical examples and practitioners. In the theory courses, the teaching is lecture and seminar-based. Course literature is discussed based on its significance for the photographic field and the questions that form the discourse. Stylistic and formal aspects are also highlighted to give examples of how the texts are written and what distinguishes different genres: mainly essays and academic and research-based texts.

The practical artistic work runs throughout the programme and ends with a degree exhibition or other public presentation during semester four. The practical artistic work of the master's degree project comprises a total of 30 credits.

The students' own writing takes place in parallel with and in relation to the artistic work. A master's essay is completed during semester three. In the fourth semester, the writing work is focused on rewriting the essay into an article. The written parts of the master's degree project comprise a total of 15 credits.

The programme integrates theory and practice in photography and prepares students to work professionally within the field of photography and art, including meeting representatives of different professional groups within the field, gaining insight into different livelihoods and being trained to present their work both orally and in text. This takes place in both of the master's degree courses to an extent equivalent to 15 credits.

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.

Year 1

Semester 1

Photographic Work I, 15 hp

Theory of Photography, 7,5 hp

The Photographic Publication, 7,5 hp

Semester 2

Photographic Work II, 15 hp

Writing on Photography I, 7,5 hp

Elective Course, 7,5 hp

Year 2**Semester 3**

Master Thesis in Photography I, 30 hp

Semester 4

Master Thesis in Photography II, 30 hp

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 2023/1687) applies to students admitted to the programme from the autumn term 2024.

Students who have begun the programme before the autumn term 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

Courses are evaluated in the context of each course. 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).