BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREE 210 CR

Basic Studies in Fine Arts 27 cr
- Orientation studies 2 cr
- Introduction to independent artistic activities and the subject areas 25 cr

Intermediate Studies in Fine Arts 173 cr
- Artistic work seminars 12 cr
- Thesis project seminar 2 cr
- Thesis project 10 cr
- Theoretical studies 31 cr
- Artistic studies 118 cr

Language and Communication Studies 10 cr

Advanced Studies in Fine Arts 120 cr
- Artistic work seminar 2 cr
- Theoretical studies 19 cr
- Artistic studies 50 cr
- Thesis project seminars 9 cr
- Thesis project 40 cr

MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE 120 CR

Artistic studies 50 cr

Theoretical studies 19 cr

Thesis project seminars 9 cr

Thesis project 40 cr
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TO NEW STUDENTS

Guide
This Study Guide for the academic year of 2017–2018 at the Academy of Fine Arts contains basic information on studies, teaching, degrees and graduation. Please keep this guide.

A characteristic feature of academic life is the freedom to plan one's own studies. The Academy of Fine Arts revised its curriculum most recently in 2016. It expanded even more than before the options available to students and the proportion of independent artistic work. The purpose of this was to ensure a sound basis for professional work as an artist after graduating from the University of the Arts Helsinki, because it often requires more self-guidance than many other professions.

The first chapter of this guide, Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts, contains various kinds of useful basic information on the organisation of studies at the Academy and financial assistance and support available for students. It also describes the artistic activities of the Academy of Fine Arts, which are closely associated with studies.

The second chapter, The Study Path and Degree Requirements, provides an overview of the progress of studies at the Academy of Fine Arts, the specific areas of the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts and the thesis projects submitted for these degrees.

The third chapter, Teaching at the Academy of Fine Arts and the Open Campus of the University of the Arts Helsinki, presents the units and areas providing teaching in which students at the Academy can participate.

Sources of information
The most important source of information in use at the Academy of Fine Arts is the continuously updated Artsi intranet (artsi.uniarts.fi) serving the University of the Arts Helsinki and containing more detailed information than this guide on almost all available topics.

Information on courses and teaching is available from the WebOodi course information system (weboodi.uniarts.fi) and via the Asio academic schedule planning tool (asio.uniarts.fi).

Welcome to study at the Academy of Fine Arts.
THE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

The Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts degree programmes provide teaching and instruction in the following subject areas of specialised competence in fine arts.

- sculpture
- painting
- printmaking
- time and space arts

Joint, compulsory and optional teaching is provided for all Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts students by the Joint Studies subject area.

The Academy of Fine Arts also launched in 2012 its two-year Praxis Master of Fine Arts Programme in Art and Exhibition Studies.

Training for the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts is provided in the doctoral programme.

The Academy’s emphasis on individuality gives students opportunities for long-term, personalised instruction and independent work. The faculty includes professionally active artists, whose work provides a live contact with the field of the arts.

FROM THE DRAWING SCHOOL OF THE FINNISH ART SOCIETY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS HELSINKI

The earliest predecessor of the Academy of Fine Arts was the Drawing School of the Finnish Art Society, founded in 1848. In 1939, the school was taken over by the Fine Arts Academy of Finland, which was established in that year, and it came to be called the School of the Fine Arts Academy of Finland. The school began to receive funding from the Finnish state in 1963, but the state did not assume full responsibility for higher art education until 1985, when the Academy of Fine Arts was founded to carry on the work of the former School of the Academy of Fine Arts. The new Academy was given the official status of an institute of higher learning in 1993 and of a university on 1 August 1998.

The Academy of Fine Arts, the Sibelius Academy and the Theatre Academy were merged at the beginning of 2013 into the University of the Arts Helsinki. The three Academies are of equal status in terms of their academic content and cultural influence. The University of the Arts has approximately 2,000 students. It works to foster the heritage of the arts in Finland and to train artists whose work will introduce new perspectives, ways of thinking, friction and vitality into society.
## Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts

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DEGREES

The Academy of Fine Arts provides students with the competencies needed for professional work as independent artists. The planning of teaching and instruction proceeds from awareness of the fact that contemporary art and the identity of artists are in a continuous process of change, influenced by national and international factors alike. The Academy has a two-tier degree system. The lower degree (Bachelor of Fine Arts) is first completed, followed by the higher university degree of Master of Fine Arts, after which students can apply for post-graduate studies. New students are admitted annually to both the 5.5-year degree programme consisting of the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, and to the two-year Master’s degree programme.

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (BFA or lower university degree) comprises 210 credits and is generally expected to be completed in 3.5 years.

Studies leading to the BFA have the following aims:

× To encourage students to discover their own strengths, means of expression and interests in the fine arts. Over the course of their studies, students develop artistic expression with various artistic means and verbally.
× To give students competencies for independent artistic work and understanding their own activities within the contexts of contemporary art and society, where artists can have various roles. These competencies include knowledge of the history, theory and practices of presentation of art and the ability to think critically.
× To provide practical and technical competencies corresponding to the personal interests of students and individual guidance in the various fields of the fine arts. Individual instruction and the discursive environment of the community support the process of becoming an artist.
× To provide the qualifications needed in studies for the higher university degree and ongoing learning and sufficient communication and languages skills for this purpose.
MASTER OF FINE ARTS

The Master of Fine Arts degree (MFA or higher university degree) comprises 120 credits and is expected to be completed in 2 years of study.

The studies for the MFA degree have the following aims:

- To give students competency for independent and demanding artistic work based on their own strengths and focuses of interest. During the course of their studies, students will deepen their own artistic thinking and expression with various means of the fine arts, and verbally. Competencies for research and knowledge of theory expand from the students’ own interests and are integrated into their artistic work.

- To offer students the means to work independently in the fine arts and to understand their own work within the contexts of contemporary art and society, in which artists can have roles of various kinds. These competencies include an in-depth knowledge of the history, theory and presentation practices of the contemporary art, and the ability to think critically.

- To provide practical and technical skills and individual guidance in different areas of the fine arts in accordance with the personal interests of students. Personalised instruction and a critical environment of discussion reinforce development as an artist and deepen understanding of the contexts and practices of contemporary art.

- To provide competencies for artistic research, advanced studies and ongoing learning, and good communication and language skills. The degree also provides qualifications for work as an expert and developer in contemporary art in demanding positions and for participating in international cooperation.

DOCTOR OF FINE ARTS

The degree of Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA, postgraduate degree) comprises 240 credits and is expected to be completed in 4 years.

Holders of the Doctorate in Fine Arts are experts in their respective areas of research, who:

- are capable of independent artistic research

- can carry out an artistic research project based on a well-argued plan.

- can critically assess the stages and results of an artistic research process and engage in academic discourse concerning their topic of research.

- are capable of documenting the processes of artistic research and communicating about it in various contexts.

- can identify topical and important phenomena in their specific fields and view them critically.

- are able to apply information that they have adopted and to function within art and artistic research systematically, with expertise and creativity.

- are capable of collaborating with experts in their own and other fields

- understand the ethical dimensions of research and their own activities and act in a just and responsible manner.

THE SCHEDULE OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

- The academic year officially begins on 1 August and ends on 31 July. The academic year is divided into the spring and autumn terms. Teaching at the Academy of Fine Arts mainly takes place from early September to the end of May.
- Student enrolment for each year must be completed no later than the 15th of August, in accordance with the legally mandated procedure as determined by the University of the Arts Helsinki and the Academy of Fine Arts. Enrolment is carried out with the WebOodi system. More information at: Artsi>studying>academic-year-calendar>registration-for-the-academic-year
- Information on teaching and instruction during the academic year of 2017–2018 is available on the WebOodi course information system and registration for the courses in the autumn term has begun on 15 May 2017. Students can only register for the courses if they have enrolled as present students at the Academy. Registration for the spring term courses will begin on 16 November 2017.
- The dates of the maturity tests and the Academic Council meetings will be posted on the Artsi intranet each term. Language tests can also be completed on the maturity test dates. The Academic Council evaluates the thesis projects for the Bachelor of Fine Arts and confirms the appointment of the official examiners and supervisors of the Master's thesis projects and evaluates the artistic projects for the degree.

STUDY COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE

The Board and the Academic Council are the highest bodies making decisions on teaching at the Academy of Fine Arts. Support in matters concerning teaching and studies is provided by faculty members, study and production-related and technical services, and student tutors.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Orientation sessions are held for first-year students at the beginning of the academic year and during it. During the autumn term, first-year students will study in the Introduction to Independent Artistic Work and Subject Areas module, which follows a set schedule. At the end of the autumn term, first-year students choose their own subject areas. Support for new students is provided by administrative staff, faculty members and student tutors.

MASTER OF FINE ARTS STUDENTS IN THE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME

In connection with the orientation at the beginning of their studies, new students for the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree are given an intensive introduction to the practices and degree requirements of the Academy of Fine Arts, student benefits and related matters, international aspects, and other matters related to studies at the Academy. MFA students also have their own student tutors who arrange joint events and sessions and introduce new students to the activities of the Student Union.

THE PERSONAL STUDY PLAN (PSP)

All BFA and MFA students prepare a personal study plan (PSP), which is updated annually. The PSP contains a plan for the completion and scheduling of compulsory and elective courses and a plan for the student’s own artistic work. The PSP is specific to the degree being completed. It must also include a schedule for completing the thesis project for the BFA or MFA degree.

All students completing degrees at the Academy of Fine Arts are required to prepare a personal study plan, which is done together with their supervising teacher and a member of studies administration at the Academy. The PSP is approved by the supervising teacher.

The purpose of the PSP is to support the student’s own planning of studies, progress in studies and graduation. The discussions related to the PSP monitor the progress of studies, the development of the student and address the artistic aims and career plans of students.

If a first-year student has completed a considerable amount of previous art studies or other university-level studies, they can be included in the degree to be completed at the Academy of Fine Arts. The PSP for these students in prepared immediately at the beginning of the autumn term. Other first-year students prepare their personal study plans at the beginning of the spring term after choosing their subject areas.

Master of Fine Arts students prepare their first PSP in connection with orientation with their supervising teacher and a teaching planning officer.
SUPERVISING FACULTY MEMBERS
Supervising teachers provide counselling and guidance especially in matters concerning the content of studies, assist students in preparing the PSP and follow the progress of their studies. Lecturers are generally the supervising teachers of BFA students and professors for the MFA students. In situations of difficulties in studies or prolonged forced absence from teaching and instruction, students must primarily contact their supervising teachers.

TUTORS
Student tutors offer support to the new students through the first academic year. The tutors support the orientation of the new students both at the Academy and the University of the Arts Helsinki, introducing them to studying and student life.

STUDY AFFAIRS
(Persons responsible for the listed duties at the beginning of the autumn term of 2017)

Subject Area Coordinators – Time and Space Arts and Sculpture, Emma Savolainen (acting), Painting and Printmaking, Inkeri Suutari – study counselling, course registrations and cancellations, maturity test registrations, grants for materials, BFA students’ personal study plans, the submission of BFA thesis projects, coordination of teaching.

Coordinator of Joint Teaching in the Fine Arts and the Praxis MFA programme Virva Sointu – study counselling; art theory and joint studies in the fine arts, first-year students, coordination of teaching.

Senior Coordinator Johanna Vakkari – personal study plans for MFA students, curricula and development work, feedback and response from students

Academic Affairs Coordinator, Open University & Joint Studies (Uniarts) Johanna Wahlstrom – coordination of the SAMA audio studies module, coordination of language teaching, mobility studies and the teaching at the Open University provided by the Academy of Fine Arts.

International Affairs Coordinator Ulla Tissari – international affairs (including student exchange), grants.

Academic Affairs Coordinator Lotte-Maria Maasalo – study counselling concerning MFA thesis projects, MFA thesis project planning and the submission of the documentation of the project and its written section for evaluation, allowances for documentation, flexible studies, study administration information systems, Secretary of the Academic Council.

Study Affairs Officer Maria Liisa Saastamoinen – study counselling, study attainments, credit transfers, personal study plans for students ‘in their Nth year’, internships, financial aid for students, social matters related to studies, certificates concerning studies, degree certificates.

Doctoral Studies Programme Coordinator Henri Wegelius – study guidance for doctoral students, coordination and communication of doctoral study affairs, preliminary and final examination matters related to graduation, grants for doctoral students.

Research Coordinator Michaela Brann – Planning, development and coordination of doctoral training and research.

Senior Coordinator Laura Viertola (acting) – BFA and MFA students’ admissions and faculty recruitment matters.

Head of Academic Affairs Pinja Metsaranta (acting) – Planning, coordination and development of academic affairs administration and services, head of the Study Affairs staff.

PRODUCTION SERVICES
Producers Anni Anttonen and Christine Langinauer – exhibitions (Kuvan Kevät, the BFA exhibition, thesis project exhibitions and other Academy of Fine Arts exhibitions), allowances for thesis project materials, international projects, lectures and talks for the public, Open Studios, the Berlin residency programme and other residencies, public art projects, the mentoring programme, joint projects within the University of the Arts Helsinki.

TECHNICAL SERVICES
Technicians – working facilities and equipment, machinery, devices, work safety, material acquisitions, exhibition mounting and transport.

More information on the Artsi intranet. Log in with your Uniarts email.
STUDIES AT THE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

This section contains basic information on the rights of students, study facilities, financial support and opportunities for exchange studies.

ENROLMENT

Each basic degree and doctoral student must enrol as present or absent student at the beginning of the academic year. If a student wants to study during the academic year or to graduate from the Academy, enrolment status must be ‘present’. More information from the Artsi intranet: Artsi>studying>academic-year-calendar>registration-for-the-academic-year

THE STUDENT AGREEMENT

Upon enrolling, the students receive, for their personal approval, the Student Agreement pertaining to the rights to use their course and thesis work.

THE STUDENT ID CARD

As members of the Student Union and the National Union of University Students in Finland (SYL), students are entitled to a student ID card. The card is ordered from the Student Union of the University of the Arts Helsinki Student Union (ArtSU, Fi. TAIYO) at the beginning of the first year of study. The student ID card, or the Frank card, is valid student identification everywhere in Finland and provides access to the services of the Finnish Student Health Services (FSHS, Fi. YTHS), as well as student discounts for travel, at student cafeterias and hundreds of other services and venues. The card is invalid without a sticker indicating the academic year. For more information, see https://taiyo.fi/in-english/ or www.frank.fi/en/
FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

Allowances for materials
The Academy provides financial support for some of the materials used during instruction. Students at the Academy of Fine Arts students are allocated a €100 material allowance per term for acquiring materials for artistic use. The material allowance, awarded upon application, can be used to buy, for example, paints and colours, paper and fabric.

More information available from the coordinator of your subject area or at Artsi-Studying>Students’ social and financial...>Grants...

Financial support for obtaining the MFA degree
The Academy of Fine Arts provides financial support for process of graduating. The application for the allowance for thesis project materials is submitted to the producer after approval is given for the thesis project plan. Financial support for the costs of the written component and documentation of the MFA thesis project can be sought from the Academic Affairs Coordinator. Students can receive purchasing forms or reimbursement against presented receipts. PLEASE NOTE: The receipts must be returned during the calendar year of the purchases, even when the allowance will continue to be used during the following year. More information at: Artsi-Studying>Students’ social and financial...>Grants...

If the student uses the services of a supervisor or supervisors from outside the Academy of Fine Arts while working on his or her thesis project, the Academy will pay the supervisor according to the number of hours of supervision work that have been notified in advance. In addition, one or both of the examiners of the thesis project can be experts from outside the Academy of Fine Arts. In this situation, the Academy will pay the examiner a fee for the work, the preparation of his or her statement and for participation in the public inspection of the thesis project. More information at: Artsi-Studying>Thesis and graduation

STUDIOS FOR STUDENTS AND OTHER RIGHTS OF USE

Studio facility rights
All students completing the basic degrees at the Academy of Fine Arts are entitled to a studio for the normative or expected period of their studies (5.5 or 2 years respectively). A studio facility is a work location, work space or shared studio assigned to a student, where he or she can engage in independent artistic work. During the autumn term, first-year BFA students will work in facilities assigned to the Introduction to Independent Artistic Work and Subject Areas study module.

The subject area chosen by the student completing the BFA will assign to him or her a studio facility suited to his/her work. The respective subject areas of MFA students will assign suitable facilities to them at the beginning of their studies. Studio facilities are assigned by the subject areas and students leaving for an exchange period are required to vacate their studio facilities for the duration of the exchange period.

Students graduating in the autumn term must vacate their studio facilities no later than 1 December. Students graduating in the spring term with remaining rights to a studio facility must vacate the facility by 31 July. The Academy of Fine Arts has no obligation to arrange studio facilities to students beyond the normative period of completing their studies.

The right to a studio facility requires independent artistic work. A student who does not use his/her studio facility during a term must give the facility back for the duration of that term. If a student with a studio facility at the Academy has not completed studies in independent artist work in two months, he/she will lose rights to a studio facility for the next term. Giving back the facility or losing its use for a set period will not prolong the student’s rights to a studio facility.

Students leaving for an exchange period or giving up their studio facility for other reasons must vacate their facility by 31 July in the spring term and by 15 December in the autumn term. Students leaving for an exchange period in the middle of a term will agree separately on vacating their studio facilities with the professor responsible for their subject area.

As a rule, students are permitted to work in their studio facilities 24 hours a day on all days of the week except when the Academy as a whole is closed.

The studio facility can be used only for study purposes. The Academy of Fine Arts has limited space and there is no possibility to store works. Completed works must be removed from the premises of the Academy.

Rights to studio facilities can be extended mainly for reasons of legally mandated absence (maternity, paternity or parental leave, national service or civilian service). More information at: Artsi-Facilities management...>Facilities and their use>Student working and training facilities
The Utö residency

The Utö residency provides an opportunity to concentrate on work in a peaceful environment all year round. The periods of use, varying from two weeks to two months, are assigned at six-month intervals. The residency is managed by the KuvAn residenssi organisation. Contact information: uto.residenssi@gmail.com

Use of information systems

Enrolled students are entitled to personal user access to use the joint IT services of the University of the Arts Helsinki (e.g. classroom computers, copy/print-out services, the Artsi intranet, WebOodi, Asio and email). The login ID is activated personally by students with internet banking ID at the address https://salasana.uniarts.fi. Rights of use will remain valid while the student is enrolled at the University of Arts. The rights are automatically discontinued if enrolment as present or absent is lacking and after graduation.

Brief summary of the terms of use:
- User rights are personal and must not be forwarded to anyone.
- For reasons of information security, the University of the Arts Helsinki user ID and password must be used only for services provided by the University.
- User identification is based on the combination of the user ID and the password
- The password must never be disclosed to anyone. The password should be easy to remember but hard to guess.
- User rights can be restricted and the ID can be cancelled for misuse.
- More information on IT user rights at: Artsi>IT and telephone>User IDs and passwords.

Email

New students are assigned University of the Arts Helsinki email addresses. The validity of the address is linked to user ID validity. Students’ email addresses are generally in the format firstname.lastname@uniarts.fi. The email address and other university IT services are meant for study purposes. Students’ email addresses are automatically included in the Academy’s internal mailing lists. Email can be accessed via the address https://webmail.uniarts.fi. Also staff and faculty email addresses usually have the format firstname.lastname@uniarts.fi.

Work stations and computers

Students of the Academy Fine Arts are allowed to use the Mac computers in the IT class. Log-in with the University of the Arts Helsinki user ID. The computers in the IT class have the common Adobe software, Microsoft Office software and other widely used applications.

Printing and photocopying

Each student has printing/photocopying quota of 400 black and white pages/year. The quota can be extended on the http://lataamo.uniarts.fi webshop. A colour page costs € 0,224 and a black and white page €0,06.

The multifunction printers for students are in the IT class (second and third floors). The easiest way to print is from the computers in the IT class or by using mobile printing. When using mobile printing, send the file to be printed as an attachment from your email address to print@uniarts.fi, after which the printed material can be collected from the multifunction printer.

For more information on printing and copying services, see: Artsi>IT and telephone>Printing and photocopying

WebOodi and Asio

WebOodi contains up-to-date information on courses and can be used for browsing course content and registering courses. Asio is an aid for planning personal course and study schedule. WebOodi also contains the student register of the Academy of Fine Arts into which all study attainments are recorded. Students can use WebOodi to review completed studies, order an unofficial transcript of studies, update contact information and to enrol for the academic year. New students are instructed in the use of these services at the beginning of the academic year, and assistance can be requested later from study coordinators.

Help

Assistance and further information on the university's IT services and equipment are available from IT Support and the Artsi intranet: Artsi>IT and telephone. IT Support is on the fifth floor. The IT Support telephone number is 0294 47 2200 (weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). IT Support can also be emailed at: help@uniarts.fi.
STUDY ATTAINMENTS, SUBSTITUTIONS AND TRANSFERS OF CREDITS

All study credits completed by students are entered into the study register of the University of the Arts Helsinki and can be viewed by students in their personal transcripts of records.

Students are entitled to include in their degrees studies completed at other schools, universities or institutes of higher learning if they meet the criteria for studies of the Academy of Fine Arts. Other studies can also be credited for special reasons. In some cases, students can demonstrate their skills with a demonstration of work or a proficiency test (e.g. languages).

Students should check their study transcripts at the end of each term to make sure that all completed credits have been duly entered into the register.

Credits

The extent of studies is given in credits, with one credit corresponding to approximately 27 hours of work by a student. Study on a full-time basis will produce roughly 60 credits per academic year from compulsory and optional studies.

The University of the Arts Helsinki follows the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), which is in use within the European Union. The purpose of the ECTS is to facilitate the comparison of domestic and foreign studies and related information to simplify the transfer of completed studies between universities.

Grading

Studies for a degree are graded as accepted or failed. The same applies to BFA and MFA thesis projects.

Recognition of competence

Previous studies or competence acquired in other ways can be recognised and incorporated in a student’s degree, study module or course of study. The starting point here is that students do not need to study what they already know. The student must always verify his or her competence.

Substitution can mean either replacing compulsory or optional studies of the degree requirements with previously competence or by incorporating substituted competence in the degree in the form of elective studies. At least half of the studies for degrees at the University of the Arts Helsinki must be completed at the University.

Earlier attainments to be offered as substitutions need to have been completed no earlier than 10 years previously. Students can apply for substitution of previously competence and the related decisions are made by comparing it with the competence goals, requirement level and extent of the study module for which substitution is sought. More information at: Artsi>Studying>Study planning...>Credit transfer

Flexible study rights (JOO)

The Flexible Study Rights (JOO) agreement permits students of the University of the Arts Helsinki to apply for the right to complete degree-related or otherwise suitable study modules or individual courses at other Finnish universities. These studies can be included in the student’s BFA or MFA and the student needs to be enrolled at his or her own or home university in order to apply for flexible study rights and to complete studies falling under the JOO agreement.

The student’s home university will pay for the studies completed at the other university and the student must require approval for the studies in advance from both the home university and the host university.

Applications for JOO studies are submitted electronically in the Joopas web service (www.joopas.fi). More information from: Artsi>Studying>Studies and course selection>JOO studies (flexible)

Validity of credits

The thesis project and other completed studies lose their validity as credits ten years after completion. Students are required to ensure that the studies included in the degree requirements are completed. The thesis project plan for the degree of MFA is valid for three years after approval.

STUDIES ABROAD

Exchange studies

Students at the Academy of Fine Arts can complete part of their studies abroad on an exchange basis. Periods of study in foreign universities are usually limited to 3–12 months. In the BFA degree programme, the recommended stage for exchange studies is the autumn/and or spring term of the second year of studies, or the autumn of the third year. For students proceeding from BFA studies to the MFA level, the exchange period would be in the spring of the fourth year or the autumn of the fifth year. In the two-
The Academy of Fine Arts has a large network of exchange school and institutions listed in Artsi. New exchange destinations are also announced in Artsi. Information on exchange studies, application periods, grants for exchange studies etc. is available from the international relations coordinator or from Artsi.

Students can also apply independently for exchange studies, but should in that case be prepared to pay tuition or other fees. Students may also apply for intensive or summer courses at different institutes of higher learning. In addition, many exchange programmes also support internships abroad.

In order to have studies abroad accepted as part of the degree from the Academy of Fine Arts, the studies have to be planned in advance. After completed studies abroad, the student must submit the appropriate certificate or transcript of records (in English or Swedish) to the international relations coordinator.

For more information on studying abroad, see: Artsi>Studying>International activities

General information on international studies is also given on the maailmalle.net/english webpages.

International workshops
During their studies, the students have opportunities to participate in workshops, biennials, festivals, exhibitions and international events of many other kinds around the world. The Academy of Fine Arts cooperates with a number of international partners every year. The intensive arts workshops that are organised by the European Exchange Academy EEA and take place in Beelitz, Germany give students the opportunity to experience international cooperation. International workshops are also organised in connection with major international shows, such as the Venice Biennale, the Manifesta and the Kassel Documenta, and students from the Academy of Fine Arts are offered opportunities to participate in them. More information of the international workshops is available from the producers.

The Academy’s residencies abroad
The Academy of Fine Arts has two residency studios abroad: one in Berlin and one in New York City.

Applications for stays at the Berlin residency are accepted twice a year. The Academy of Fine Arts grants one to eight-week periods at the residency, with second, third, fourth and fifth-year basic degree students, first and second-year MFA programme students and postgraduate students eligible to apply. The Academy of Fine Arts students share the residency with students from the Academy of Arts in Stockholm.

The New York residency is available to Kuvan Kevät scholarship students.

For more information on residencies, see: Artsi>Studying>International activities>Residences

THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

The right to study
The right to pursue a degree at the Academy of Fine Arts can be obtained through the student admission and selection process. As a rule, students at the University of the Arts Helsinki can simultaneously have the right to study for only one degree at a time at the University of the Arts Helsinki. Students admitted for the 5.5-year basic degree programme are given the right to study for both the BFA and the MFA degree. A student admitted for the higher degree is given the right to study for the MFA degree. Doctoral students are given the right to study for the Doctorate in Fine Arts.

The normative period for a student to complete a basic degree is decreed in the Universities Act (sections 40–42). The act specifies that a student admitted to complete both the bachelor’s and the master’s degree is entitled to complete the degree in a period no longer than the normative completion period plus two years (5.5 + 2 years). Students admitted to complete the higher university degree are entitled to complete the degree in a period no longer than the normative completion period plus two years (2 + 2 years). Absence due to voluntary or mandatory national service or maternity, paternity or parental leave is not included in the normative completion period. Nor is other absence no longer than two terms, during which the student is enrolled as absent, included in the normative period of completing the degree.

Upon application, the Academy of Fine Arts can grant a student an extension to the period of completing the degree if the student can present a goal-oriented and feasible plan for completing the studies. The student must specify the studies to be completed and the schedule for completing the degree.

Students of the Open University or exchange student can complete separate studies at the Academy of Fine Arts. Students with separate rights of study may not complete a degree at the Academy of Fine Arts.
SOCIAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Student financial assistance can be granted to full-time students at the Academy of Fine Arts who are in need of financial aid. Financial assistance for students consists of a study grant and a state guarantee for the student loan. The payment of the housing supplement previously included in financial assistance ceased on 1 August 2017. From then students can apply for general housing assistance. The housing supplements of the financial assistance for students will be terminated automatically and general housing supplements can be sought from the relevant services of Kela, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland. More information from the Kela webpages: www.kela.fi/web/en/financial-aid-for-students-housing-supplement

After completing their studies, students can receive a student loan compensation or student loan deduction in taxation, if they have completed their degrees within the set period. The study grant is a state-financed form of support paid into the student’s bank account every month. The grant is taxable income.

Factors influencing the quantity of the grant include the student’s income subject to tax and scholarships received during the calendar year (excluding student financial aid). The limit for maximum income is personal and depends on the number of months during which the student receives financial aid. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the annual maximum income limit is not exceeded. You can influence your annual maximum income limit by cancelling or returning financial aid no later than by the end of May following the year that the financial aid was paid. If you are applying for student financial aid for the first time, you can fill in the application online at: www.kela.fi/web/en/financial-aid-for-students-housing-supplement

Copyright

The work and activities of artists and students of the fine arts involve various copyright regulations that are worth studying carefully. The copyright service of the art universities of Finland has compiled related guidelines and will provide assistance when necessary. For more information, see copyright.aalto.fi/fi/

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

In accordance with the Universities Act, Finnish universities are under obligation to assess the training that they provide. The universities gather information with a nationwide survey investigating the satisfaction of students who have completed the bachelor’s degree with their own university and their experiences of how their studies proceeded. Part of the basic government funding for universities is allocated according to this feedback.

In addition to nationwide surveys, each university gathers student feedback separately in order to develop teaching and for purposes of self-evaluation. This is also a way to encourage students to have a say and to participate in a wide range of ways in improving the quality of teaching, studies and learning.

Interaction between students and teachers is an integral aspect of teaching and instruction at the Academy of Fine Arts. It is also a direct channel of feedback from students to faculty and vice-versa. Alongside this verbal and direct feedback, course-specific written feedback is collected from students in various stages of their studies and from MFA graduates.

Suggestions for developing the student feedback system can be sent to the senior coordinator responsible for tuition matters. More information at: Artsi>quality-management>evaluation-and-feedback-systems
Two-stage financial aid for new university students

Student financial aid is granted to new students (having begun their studies on or after 1 August 2011) first for completing the Bachelor's degree, even when a student has been admitted to complete both the Bachelor's and the Master's degree at an institute of higher education. After completing the Bachelor's degree, the student is grant financial aid for the completion of the Master's degree. Nonetheless, the student must state the financial aid application that he or she has been admitted to study for both the Bachelor's and the Master's degree, as stated in his or her letter of admission.

More information of student financial aid and changes to it is available from the Kela webpages: www.kela.fi/web/en/students. The Kela telephone number for service is: 020 634 2550

Satisfactory academic progress for Bachelor's and Master's degree students

A total of 5 credits per month of financial aid constitute satisfactory academic progress. As of the academic year 2014-2015, from 1 August 2014, the study attainments must total 20 credits from each academic year during which the student has received financial aid. The minimum study attainment requirement of 20 credits applies to all recipients of student financial aid, regardless of how many months of financial aid they have received. Even when a student chooses to receive only one month of financial aid, he/she is still obliged to obtain at least 20 credits.

If a student completes studies in the summer, he/she must earn an average of 5 credits for each summer month, too. For example, if a student applies for student financial aid for the summer in addition to the standard 9 months (September-May), he/she must earn a minimum of 60 credits during the academic year (1 August -31 July).

Student financial aid for studies abroad

A student can receive student financial aid for degree studies abroad. More information at: www.kela.fi/web/en/financial-aid-for-students-if-you-study-abroad

Illness during studies

If a student becomes unwell during studies, he/she can take a sick leave. For the period of the illness, you are eligible to receive a sickness allowance and general housing allowance. More information at: http://www.kela.fi/web/en/eligibility-sickness.

Housing

The Academy of Fine Arts does not provide housing services.

Students can submit an electronic housing application with the Foundation for Student Housing in the Helsinki Region (HOAS) at www.hoas.fi/en/

Suomen Opiskelija-asunnot, SOA, is a national student housing community and cooperation association. While SOA does not provide student apartments, the SOA website at www.soa.fi/en/home.html has links to the websites of member organisations offering housing.

Opiskelijoiden Vuokravälitys is an agency offering student housing in the private market, see www.ovv.com (service only in Finnish).

Health care services – YTHS

After paying the Student Union membership fee, a student is entitled to the services of the Finnish Student Health Service (FShS, Fi. YTHS). More information at: www.yths.fi/en

Sports and exercise

Students who have paid the sports fee as a part of the Student Union fee are allowed to use the diverse and economical sports services provided by Unisport. More information at: www.unisport.fi

Student insurance

Students registered for attendance in Bachelor’s, Master’s and doctoral programmes at the University of the Arts Helsinki have legally mandated accident insurance coverage. Students have continuous valid travel insurance for study-related travel in Finland and abroad. The insurance is valid 24 hours a day during the trips in question. More information at: Artsi>Studying>Students’ social and financial matters and well-being>Student accidents and insurance
**GRANTS**

*Grants from the Academy of Fine Arts*

Students of the Academy of Fine Arts can apply for the general purpose study-related grants offered by the Academy. Their purpose is to promote students’ networking in Finland and abroad and their artistic work. Electronic application forms are available on the Artsi intranet and there are three application periods a year. The International relations coordinator handles matters related to grants.

More information at: Artsi>Studying>Students’ social and financial matters and well-being>Grants and Academy of Fine Arts material bursaries

**INTERNSHIPS**

The Academy of Fine Arts awards internship grants to third and fourth-year BFA students and first and second-year MFA students.

The purpose of the internships is to introduce students to the professional practices of the field of arts and to provide competencies for working as an artist after the completion of studies. Through internships, students can create networks helping them to evaluate and develop their own activities also after moving on to working life. Internship positions can be, for example, work as an artist’s assistant, curating exhibitions or other work in a gallery, art museum, art community or organisation.

Grants for internships and practical training are awarded twice a with application periods ending on 20 January and 20 April. The grant decisions are announced at the beginning of February and May. The grants can be sought for periods of 1-2 months. The students are paid a monthly wage for internship work. The internship must be carried out in the year in which the grant was awarded, and the student must be enrolled as present at the Academy of Fine Arts during the internship. The awarded grant is of the same amount regardless of whether the student’s internship is in Finland or abroad. The grant is sought with a freely worded application.

The internship is given 2.5 credits for 1 month of full time trainee work. The maximum internship credits in both the BFA and MFA degrees is 5 credits (total 10 credits during all studies). The grant, however, can be received only once during studies. The Praxis MFA programme contains a compulsory internship period of 8 credits. More information at: Artsi>Studying>Studies and course selection>Work placement

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**THE ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES OF THE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS**

**EXHIBITIONS**

At the Academy of Fine Arts, exhibiting art is not only an opportunity to introduce interesting and recent works of art, but also a medium of teaching and instruction. Public exhibitions of art offer students contacts with society, the field of arts and arts audiences. The goal is for the students to be able to approach the exhibition institution as a critical spatial practice that is regenerated and creates new phenomena. The spaces and exhibition activities cross the borders of the various fields of art and they offer a starting point for inter-artistic and research content. These are among the reasons why the Academy’s exhibition facilities always feature extremely interesting works of art.
EXHIBITION FACILITIES

The Exhibition Laboratory

The Exhibition Laboratory is the heart of the Academy of Fine Arts’ exhibition activities, providing an opportunity for professional exhibitions of fresh, experimental contemporary art. The exhibitions are usually group exhibitions with a theme and/or a research orientation, but the facilities can also be used as a workshop or group work space that is open to the public. In addition to the exhibitions, social interaction and communications in connection with contemporary art are of focal interest. Events including discussion sessions, workshops, performances and lectures are organised at the Exhibition Laboratory.

At the Exhibition Laboratory, contemporary art is engaged in discussion with other fields of the arts and sciences and seeks to find new audiences. The Exhibition Laboratory’s activities are open to students, researchers, artists and other arts professionals as well as the general public.

Ex Club in connection with the exhibition space is a space managed by students and freely used by them for film evenings, discussions and other situations of social encounter.

Project Room

In the Project Room, students get to try their hand at staging solo or paired exhibitions. As a rule, the exhibitions are part of the MFA degree. Students of the Praxis programme participate in the exhibition processes, production and spatial planning of exhibition in the Project Room. Use of the Project Room can be sought in application periods held twice a year in September and in March.

The Tasku Gallery

The Tasku gallery is located in the Academy of Fine Arts’ facilities in the Vallila district, at Elimäenkatu, on third floor. The gallery is open to the public although it is primarily meant for reference groups within the school. Tasku is a venue with a low threshold where students can test the installations of their works in an exhibition space. There are no separate applications for the use of the gallery; it is booked from the producers and use is awarded in booking order. The gallery can also be used as a short-term project space and courses can display their works there.

The Tasku Gallery is open on weekdays during the opening hours of the Academy of Fine Arts, and it does not need to be supervised separately, unless the student using it wishes to keep it open on weekends. In the exhibition facilities of the Academy of Fine Arts, students are responsible for guarding their own exhibitions: no fee is collected for the use of the facilities nor is there any commission for works of art that are sold.

THE BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION

The thesis project for the BFA degree includes an artistic component that can be completed in various ways. A good opportunity to complete it is to participate in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition held in the autumn at the Exhibition Laboratory to conclude the BFA seminar. The seminar and the inspection of works held during the exhibition are in any case compulsory for students. The lecturer in drawing and perception guides BFA students through the exhibition process in collaboration with the lecture in Exhibition Studies and Spatiality.

KUVAN KEVÄT

Kuvan Kevät is the Degree Show of the MFA students graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts. This exhibition is held every May at the Exhibition Laboratory, in the Project Room and in changing exhibition facilities rented for the purpose. Students in their fifth year of study, or the second year of the two-year Master’s programme, take part in the Kuvan Kevät show. Fifth-year students must hold a completed Bachelor’s degree before participation in Kuvan Kevät. The lecturer in Exhibition Studies and Spatiality guides students in the exhibition process of Kuvan Kevät along with the students’ own instructors.

OTHER ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to the Academy’s own facilities, exhibitions are held in other venues in Finland and abroad. The Academy of Fine Arts also encourages students to engage in their own pop-up events and exhibition activities.

More information at: Artsi>Performances-concerts-and-exhibitions>Academy-of-fine-arts
The library of the University of the Arts Helsinki is an art library open to all users, which means that the right to borrow books and other material is retained after graduation. The basic task of the Academy of Fine Arts library unity is to offer library and information services needed for studies, instruction and research at the Academy of Fine Arts. The main focus of the library’s material acquisitions lies in contemporary arts.

The library collection of printed materials of the library unity of the Academy of Fine Arts includes artist monographs, international exhibition publications, literature on the history and theory of art, and other literature related to teaching and instruction at the Academy of Fine Arts.

The library subscribes to Finnish and foreign periodicals on art and culture. The printed library materials are listed in the joint ARSCA collections database of Finnish Art University Libraries.

Materials can be borrowed using the art university libraries’ ARSCA library card, which is available from the library.

The library of the University of the Arts Helsinki also offers fine arts materials in electronic format. Access to the materials via the University of the Arts Library webpages at https://lib.uniarts.fi/en/information-sources. Students and faculty of the University of the Arts can use the databases, for example, via long-distance connection with their personal UniArts IDs. The Finna search and retrieval facility of the University of the Arts Library lists both printed and electronic materials at https://uniarts.finna.fi/?lng=en-gb. Members of the library staff provide guidance in the use of databases and other information search matters and arrange related teaching and instruction. Instructions for seeking information in the field of the fine arts is also available in the University's information search guides: http://libguides.uniarts.fi/etusivu/en
**WRITTEN COMPONENTS AND DOCUMENTATION OF THESIS PROJECTS**

The library keeps MFA thesis project documentation and written components. This material is available to readers in the library premises upon request. The Master’s theses are catalogued in the ARSCA database. The documentation and written component or study included in the Master’s thesis projects are recorded as full texts in the Helda Digital Repository of the University of the Arts Helsinki (https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/24602), should the student consent to this and given that the publications do not contain material that cannot be published due to copyright reasons. Only publications in PDF format are entered into the Helda Digital Repository.

**THE DIA IMAGE DATABASE OF THE ACADEMY FINE ARTS**

The DIA photo database contains photographs of the work of the Academy of Fine Arts for teaching and research purposes at the Academy. There are continuous additions to visual materials with photographs of the Academy’s exhibitions and other events. The material mostly covers the Academy’s artist activities of the 2000s, such as the Kuvan kevät exhibitions of thesis project exhibitions. Students and faculty of the University of the Arts Helsinki can access the image database with their UniArts IDs. Instructions for accessing information are provided by the library staff.

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Ninni Wager: Indicator, 2017, Project Room

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THE STUDY PATH

This section presents the study modules of the BFA, MFA and Praxis MFA degrees and their codes.

Students are generally expected to complete the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree requirements in 3.5 years; this contains basic studies in fine arts (27 cr), intermediate studies in fine arts (173 cr) and language and communication studies (10 cr). Students are generally expected to complete the Master’s degree requirements in 2 years, comprising advanced studies in fine arts (120 cr). Apart from the basic study period, students at the Academy of Fine Arts are allowed to plan their studies relatively freely. The compulsory theory courses are held yearly in both Finnish and English. Students should ensure, however, that the studies required for the Bachelor’s degree are completed in time, as financial aid for students cannot be granted for Master’s degree studies until the Bachelor’s degree is completed.

Each compulsory course has a code, which is necessary for registering completed studies. Although the codes are primarily used for academic administration purposes, they are also important for students who may use them to check the degree requirements for which a particular course is suited.

BASIC STUDIES IN FINE ARTS (27 CR)

Students pursuing a 5.5-year degree begin their studies at the beginning of the autumn term with the first orientation period, after which they begin the Introduction to independent artistic activities and the subject areas module that spans the whole first autumn term. In early autumn, students will also begin the Introduction to the history of art course, which continues throughout the first year of study. A further orientation period is organised at the end of the autumn term, presenting the subject areas and more detailed information on various matters related to studies. First-year students choose their subject areas in early December and prepare their Personal Study Plans (PSP) at the beginning of the spring term.
The intermediate studies in fine arts comprise Artistic work seminars of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (12 cr), artistic studies (118 cr), theoretical studies (31 cr) and the thesis project seminar (2 cr).

Students can complete the artistic and theory studies of the intermediate stage mostly in the order that they choose, but all students are personally responsible for ensuring the completion of all their studies. Some of the studies such as the thesis project seminar have a clearly defined place in the overall course of studies. Given below as an aid for scheduling is an example of how studies could be planned.

During the spring term of the first year, the student will begin the BFA seminar and finish the Introduction to the history of art course. The student will also complete elective artistic studies and independent artistic work, to be continued in the following years, and, if so desired, complete for example language and/or theoretical studies. In artistic studies, the student must complete during her/his studies at least 20 credits within a single subject area (sculpture, painting, printmaking or time and space arts).

Recommended studies for the second year, in addition to artistic studies and seminars, are thematic theoretical studies, studies in the history and theory of contemporary art, and foreign language studies. Thematic theoretical studies, in which several alternative courses are held each term, can, however, be completed just as well during the other years of study.

It is to be noted that students wishing to engage in international exchange studies should seek this alternative for the autumn or spring term of the second year or for the autumn term of the third year, which means that the compulsory studies that would otherwise be in this term have to be rescheduled. Exchange studies are part of the student’s degree and it is worthwhile to check in advance the degree requirements to which the foreign studies can be applied.

In the third year, the student will complete the introduction to the philosophy of art and studies for competencies in working life, as well as studies in Finnish or Swedish, i.e. either one of Finland’s two official languages that is not the student’s own mother tongue. Students may not be engaged in exchange studies during the thesis project seminar and the Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition. They are recommended to be held in the spring term of the third year and the autumn term of the fourth year. Studies in written and oral communication are included in this seminar.

The BFA thesis project seminar continuing in the autumn term of the fourth year includes the BFA Exhibition and inspection of work held at the turn of September and October. The basics of exhibition practices are also studied in connection with the BFA Exhibition. In addition to the artistic component, the BFA thesis project includes a written component that is prepared during the exhibition. Some of the communication studies in support of writing skills are in this module. If studies proceed according to plan, the students will graduate with the degree of BFA at the end of the autumn term of the fourth year. In addition to the seminar, exhibition and written submission, the students still have the opportunity to continue their artistic studies in the autumn and to complete any remaining compulsory theoretical studies.
Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree 210 cr

K-P100 Basic studies in Fine Arts 27 cr

K-P110 Orientation studies 2 cr

The student learns about the study practices, degree requirements, facilities and faculty of the Academy of Fine Arts of the University of the Arts Helsinki; receives information about students’ social matters and other topical matters related to the studies. The student also learns the basics of the electronic systems and programmes of the University of the Arts Helsinki and information retrieval. In addition to these, the course takes a look at the joint activities and study options available at the University of the Arts Helsinki.

K-P120 Introduction to independent artistic activities and the subject areas 25 cr

During the first autumn term, the student concentrates on the study module Introduction to independent artistic activities and the subject areas. This means that the student learns about what it is like to study at the Academy of Fine Arts, the different fields of studies and the faculty, facilities and practices. Most of the teaching takes place in small groups. During the study module, the student learns about interpersonal skills and working in a group and practices both giving and receiving feedback.

K-P121 Introduction to drawing and perception (3 cr)

The student becomes familiar with the basics of drawing and perception.

K-P122 Introduction to Sculpture (3 cr)

The student becomes familiar with the work in this subject area, its staff and facilities.

K-P123 Introduction to Painting (3 cr)

The student becomes familiar with the work in this subject area, its staff and facilities.

K-P124 Introduction to Printmaking (3 cr)

The student becomes familiar with the work in this subject area, its staff and facilities.

K-P125 Introduction to Time and Space Arts (3 cr)

The student becomes familiar with the work in this subject area, its staff and facilities.

K-P126 Introduction to independent artistic activities (8 cr)

The student gains the skills and abilities needed for independent artistic work. The student also learns to discuss the contents of artistic work, to give feedback and receive it on his/her own work. During this study module, the student is able to further process the works and ideas that were first created in the workshops of the subject areas and to work on his/her own projects.

K-P127 Introduction to documentation of artistic work (2 cr)

The student learns how to use a camera to document and showcase artistic activities. Compiling an electronic portfolio begins during this course.

K-A200 Intermediate studies in Fine Arts 173 cr

K-AS10 Artistic work seminars of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree 12 cr

In the artistic work seminars, the student attains the skills needed to present his/her completed works or those he/she is working on and the ideas behind them, to other students. Furthermore, the student learns how to discuss questions related to the contents and forms of works by other students and, in a wider context, the phenomena connected to contemporary art. At the same time, the student gains expertise on the subject area of his/her choice and establishes contacts with the teachers and other students in the subject area. Students start work in the seminars in the spring term of their first year of study. The student participates in
the seminar of his/her own subject area or another seminar, as agreed on with the
Professor in charge, during six academic terms (2cr/term). A personal study plan
(PSP; HOPS in Finnish) will be made and updated during the seminars.

K-A220  Artistic studies in the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree 118 cr

The student gains versatile basic skills and abilities needed for artistic work and
expression. The student learns how to express his/her thoughts both with the
means of fine arts and verbally. The student will also acquire command of any
important tools that are relevant to his/her work. It is possible to integrate many
kinds of work in this artistic work. The study module of Artistic studies is put together independently in accordance with
the student's Personal Study Plan and it can include independent artistic activities,
modules and courses offered by the Academy of Fine Arts as well as other acad-
emies of the University of the Arts Helsinki or other study modules and courses
taken at university level. The student must complete at least 20 cr worth of studies
in one subject area (Sculpture, Painting, Printmaking or Time and Space Arts). At
least half of the artistic studies must be completed at the Academy of Fine Arts
or an international exchange partner approved by the Academy of Fine Arts. It is
possible to include 10 cr of other studies that are not directly connected to artistic
development in the Artistic studies study module. The recommended volume of
artistic studies to complete each term is approximately 20.

K-A221  Artistic studies, Sculpture (0-118 cr)

The student learns the basics of artistic work and contemporary art discourses.
The student acquires command of the tools and methods that are essential in his/
her own artistic work in sculpture.

K-A222  Artistic studies, Painting (0-118 cr)

The student learns the basics of artistic work and contemporary art discourses.
The student acquires command of tools and methods that are essential in his/
her own artistic work in painting.

K-A223  Artistic studies, Printmaking (0-118 cr)

The student learns the basics of artistic work and contemporary art discourses.
The student acquires command of tools and methods that are essential in his/
her own artistic work in printmaking.

K-A224  Artistic studies, Time and Space Arts (0-118 cr)

The student learns the basics of artistic work and contemporary art discourses.
The student acquires command of tools and methods that are essential in his/
her own artistic work in time and space arts.

K-A225  Artistic studies, drawing and perception (0-98 cr)

The student explores the relationship of drawing and perception, thought and
expression. The student will acquire the basics of the structures of an image,
reading images and expression in contemporary arts.

K-A226  Artistic studies, independent artistic work (0-98 cr)

Independent artistic work is the foundation of work as an artist and the student
will acquire the most important skills needed in his/her work through it. Some
of these skills are: discovering the right rhythm and methods of work, the
ability to plan and complete works of art independently and regular reflection
of artistic work. Artistic work often entails preparatory work, such as sketches,
planning, finding materials and other research, depending on the student's areas
of interest. In the instruction at the Academy of Fine Arts, the artistic process is
supported and followed under teachers' supervision. Artistic work for the next
academic year is planned together with the student's tutor teacher and its prog-
ress is followed during studio visits and artistic work seminars. Artistic work
often includes verbal and visual sketching and documentation of the artistic
processes and works of art.

K-A227  Optional theoretical studies (0-98 cr)

The student selects studies that will contribute to his/her own artistic ideas
and work. Theoretical studies provide the abilities needed to analyse contem-
porary art and today's world in a broad and independent manner and with a
critical approach.

K-A228  Optional artistic studies (0-98 cr)

The student selects studies that will contribute to his/her own artistic work.
Optional artistic studies will provide many skills and abilities, in respect to
both techniques and contents, needed in artistic work. These studies can also
be completed in the other academies of the University of the Arts Helsinki.

K-A229  Other optional studies (0-18 cr)

The student can, if he/she so chooses, take language studies and other
optional studies that are not directly connected to the student's development
as an artist.

K-A229H  Professional training (0-5 cr)

A professional training period will provide skills for working life
after graduation.

K-A230  Theoretical studies in the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree 31 cr

Introduction to the history of art (10 cr)

The student gains a broad understanding of the traditions of western fine art
and the visual ways of thought in different cultures. History of art provides
the student with the ability to make connections and build bridges between
different manifestations of art. The student will become inspired to perceive
and understand the history of art from today's perspective and will attain an
understanding of how his/her own work is linked with the tradition of art.

K-A231  The basics of the history and theory of contemporary art (5 cr)

The student gains a broad understanding of the traditions of western fine art
and work. Theoretical studies provide the abilities needed to analyse contem-
porary art and today's world in a broad and independent manner and with a
critical perspective. The student can, if he/she so chooses, take language studies and other
optional studies that are not directly connected to the student's development
as an artist.

K-A232  Working life skills (2 cr)

In order to work as a professional artist, knowledge and skills about rights
and responsibilities in connection to legislation relevant to the professional
activities are needed. This course offers the basic information the student will
need regarding taxation, copy rights, rights for sick leave, pension accrual and
organisations that support the rights of fine arts professionals. Additionally,
the student learns about the practical alternatives of starting a professional
career and getting ready to work as a professional artist.

K-A233  Exhibition studies, the basics (2 cr)

During the course, the student gains an overview picture of the historical
contents of exhibiting art and learns the basics of exhibition practices. The
studies include critical analysis on how the students' own works are exhibited
and learning the technical skills and principles of hanging an exhibition.

K-A234  Introduction to the philosophy of art (2 cr)

The student gains an understanding of the basics of modern philosophy of
art. This course includes exploring the most important developments in the
history of philosophy, aesthetics and theories of art and, most importantly,
learning about the trends and philosophers who have influenced the contem-
porary ideas of art.
STUDY PATH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Thematic theoretical studies in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (10 cr)

The student explores the themes connected to art theory and/or contemporary art in this study module that may incorporate lectures, work in reading groups, discussions and written assignments. The goal of the thematic studies in theory is to provide the student a thorough understanding of the themes that will contribute to his/her artistic work. The student will concentrate on at least two themes that he/she selects during the Bachelor's Degree studies, and at least one theme during the Master's Degree studies.

Bachelor of Fine Arts thesis project seminar 2 cr

The Bachelor degree thesis project seminar supports the completion of the student's thesis project. The student will gain the skills and abilities needed to complete the artistic and written components of the thesis project and to complete his/her portfolio. In the critique sessions, the student gains the abilities needed to discuss the works of others and present his/her own work to an audience. The Bachelor degree thesis project seminar includes a final show for all participants. The student will also learn how to retrieve and apply information in the contents within his/her topic.

Language and communication studies (10 cr)

Language and communication studies

Official language of Finland (Finnish or Swedish) 10 cr

- oral skills (2 cr)
- written skills (1 cr)

After completing the course, the student
- is able to communicate orally and in writing about questions in connection to his/her own field;
- is able to evaluate his/her own language skills and is ready to further improve them.
- possesses such Finnish and Swedish language skills that are required of a state official in accordance with the Act on the Knowledge of Languages Required of Personnel in Public Bodies (424/2003), Paragraph 1 of Section 6, and that are necessary for the student's own profession.

Completion of this course corresponds to level B1 in the European Framework of Reference. The course must be taken by the students who have received their formal education in Finland, with Finnish or Swedish as their native language or language of education.

Oral skills (3 cr)

- has a good command of the pronunciation and vocabulary of the language in question;
- is able to evaluate his/her own language skills and is ready to further improve them.

Completion of this course corresponds to level B2 in the European Framework of Reference. The course must be taken by those students who have received formal education in Finland, with Finnish or Swedish as their native language or language of education and the students whose native language/language of education is other than Finnish or Swedish.

Written skills (2 cr)

After completing the course, the student
- has a good command of the pronunciation and vocabulary of the language in question;
- can communicate naturally in situations relevant to his/her field;
- is able to evaluate his/her own language skills and is ready to further improve them.

Completion of this course corresponds to level B2 in the European Framework of Reference. The course must be taken by those students who have received formal education in Finland, with Finnish or Swedish as their native language or language of education and the students whose native language/language of education is other than Finnish or Swedish.

Oral and written communication skills 2 cr

After completing the course, the student
- possesses the abilities to present his/her work and its background to an audience both orally and in a written form;
- possesses the basic academic writing skills;
- is able to evaluate his/her own language skills and is ready to further improve them.

The course must be taken by the students who have received their formal education in Finland, with Finnish or Swedish as their native language or language of education.
Maturity test of the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree  9 cr

Before the thesis project is approved, the student must take the written maturity test in which he/she will demonstrate her familiarity in the topic of the thesis project and skills in Finnish or Swedish. A student who has received his/her education in Finnish or Swedish will, as a part of the maturity test, demonstrate his/her excellence in the language of his/her education. A student whose language of education was other than Finnish or Swedish will, in most cases, take the maturity test in English; an exception to this can be granted by the Vice-Dean in charge of instruction.

K-K-20 Language and communication studies (formal education completed in language other than Finnish/Swedish) 10 cr

K-Ksv Finnish as a foreign language  4 cr

After completing the course, the student

- has a good command of the basics of Finnish;
- understands the structures and typical features of pronunciation of the Finnish language;
- knows how to use the language in easy everyday contexts;
- understands Finnish culture, customs and interaction;
- is able to evaluate his/her own language skills and is ready to further improve them.

Completion of this course corresponds to level A1.2 in the European Framework of Reference. The course must be taken by those students whose native language/language of education is other than Finnish or Swedish.

K-Ku-11 Foreign language 5 cr

Language alternatives for taking the oral and written courses in a foreign language include: English, Spanish, Italian, French, German or Russian. At the Academy of Fine Arts, it is possible to complete the written and spoken courses in English or German.

Any attainments to be completed in the other languages must be agreed upon with the language teachers.

Written skills (2 cr)

After completing the course, the student

- has a good command of the most important vocabulary in his/her field;
- is able to communicate in writing about his/her own field;
- is able to evaluate his/her own language skills and is ready to further improve them.

Completion of this course corresponds to level B2 in the European Framework of Reference.

The course must be taken by those students who have received formal education in Finland, with Finnish or Swedish as their native language or language of education, and the students whose native language/language of education is other than Finnish or Swedish.

Oral skills (3 cr)

After completing the course, the student

- has a good command of the pronunciation and vocabulary of the language in question;
- can communicate naturally in situations relevant to his/her field;
- is able to evaluate his/her own language skills and is ready to further improve them.

Completion of this course corresponds to level B2 in the European Framework of Reference.

The course must be taken by those students who have received formal education in Finland, with Finnish or Swedish as their native language or language of education and the students whose native language/language of education is other than Finnish or Swedish.
Basics of academic writing in English 1 cr
- knows the basics of academic writing in English;
- is able to evaluate his/her own language skills and is ready
to further improve them.
The course must be taken by those students whose native language/
language of education is other than Finnish or Swedish.
Maturity test of the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree 0 cr
Before the thesis project is approved, the student must take the written
maturity test in which he/she will demonstrate her familiarity in the
topic of the thesis project and skills in Finnish or Swedish. A student
who has received his/her education in Finnish or Swedish will, as a part
of the maturity test, demonstrate his/her excellence in the language of
his/her education. A student whose language of education was other
than Finnish or Swedish will, in most cases, take the maturity test in
English; an exception to this can be granted by the Vice-Dean in charge
of instruction.

ADVANCED STUDIES IN FINE ARTS (120 CR)

The degree of Master of Fine Arts comprises the Artistic work seminar for the
Master of Fine Arts degree (2 cr), Artistic studies (50 cr), Theoretical studies (19
cr), Thesis project seminars (9 cr), the Thesis project (40 cr) and the Maturity
Test. A significant part of the artistic studies consists of independent artistic
work by the student; the work is discussed and arrangements are made with
the supervising teacher and recorded on the PSP.

In the spring of fourth year of study, the basic degree students become
Master's degree students. In addition to theme, new students are accepted
into the Academy of Fine Arts every year to complete a two-year Master's
degree. The latter begin their studies in one of the four subject areas at the
beginning of January 2018, i.e. at the same as those who have gained the
BFA degree in the autumn of 2017. The students who have been accepted
to the two-year Master's degree will prepare their first Personal Study Plan
(PSP) with their supervising teacher and Senior Coordinator at the begin-
ning of their studies, as a part of the orientation course. Academy of Fine
Arts students who are transferring to the Master's studies from the Bachelor
stage will prepare the new PSPs in the spring term.

The degree requirements for the Master of Fine Arts degree are identical
regardless of whether the student is in the 5.5-year or two-year programme.
An exception to the rule is the Praxis – Master's Programme in Exhibition
Studies, with its separate application for admission and separate degree
requirements.

Artistic and theoretical studies for the MFA degree
Artistic studies consist mainly of the student's own artistic work, but students
may include in this connection courses that are useful for their own artistic
skills and that can be selected beyond subject areas and Academies within
the University of the Arts Helsinki. At least half of the artistic studies must be
completed at the Academy of Fine Arts or at an exchange partner approved
by the Academy. In the theoretical studies for the MFA degree students gain
a more thorough understanding of the history and theory of contemporary
art, art philosophy, specific phenomena of art and their cultural and theo-
retical backgrounds, along with expanding their knowledge of exhibition
practices in art and approaching from different perspectives the role of an
artist in society.

Seminars for the MFA degree and the Maturity Test
In the MFA degree stage, students participate in four seminars. During the
first term of studies for the MFA (the spring of the fourth year) students
participate in the personal subject area seminar, working together with BFA
students (2 cr). This is followed in the autumn of the second year of the MFA
programme (i.e. fifth overall year of studies) by the Artistic work seminar for
the thesis project, which continues for two terms (4 cr). Students also take
part in the MFA seminar for all subject areas (2 cr), which is completed by
attending a total of 15 public inspections of thesis projects and defences of
doctoral theses. The fourth seminar is the Writing seminar for the MFA degree
(3 credits), in which students are advised to participate while working on the
written component of their thesis projects. The Maturity Test is an abstract
of the written component of the MFA thesis project.

PLEASE NOTE: Master's degree students are required to complete the
decreed language studies (written and oral proficiency in Finnish or Swedish
and written and oral proficiency in a foreign language, total 8 cr) in addi-
tion to the advanced studies for the MFA degree, if they have not completed
these requirements in their previous degree. This requirement applies to
students have completed high school in Finland in either Finnish or Swedish
or schooling abroad in the Finnish language.
Master of Fine Arts Degree 120 cr

K-S3000 Advanced studies in Fine Arts 120 cr

K-S318 Artistic work seminars of the Master of Fine Arts degree 2 cr

The artistic work seminar of the student’s subject area will provide the student with advanced skills and abilities needed to present his/her completed works or those he/she is working on, and the ideas behind them, to other students. Furthermore, the student learns how to discuss questions related to the contents and forms of works by others and, in a wider context, the phenomena connected to contemporary art. The working method of the seminar is open discussion. The student will be given the opportunity to present his/her work as a process or completed works of art, depending on his/her working method and to receive feedback in dialogue. The student participates in the seminar of his/her own subject area or another seminar that he/she has made arrangements on, during one academic term (2cr/term). A personal study plan (PSP; HOPS in Finnish) will be made during the seminar.

K-S320 Artistic studies of the Master of Fine Arts degree 58 cr

The student will gain advanced, versatile skills and abilities for artistic work and expression. The student will learn how to express his/her thoughts with fine arts and verbally. The student will also acquire command of any important tools that are relevant to his/her work. It is possible to integrate many kinds of courses that contribute to artistic work in this study module. The study module of Artistic studies is put together independently in accordance with the student’s Personal Study Plan and it can include independent artistic activities, modules and courses offered by the Academy of Fine Arts as well as other academies of the University of the Arts Helsinki or other study modules and courses taken at university level. At least half of the artistic studies must be completed at the Academy of Fine Arts as an international exchange partner approved by the Academy of Fine Arts. It is possible to include 10 cr of other studies that are not directly connected to artistic development in the Artistic studies study module. The recommended volume of artistic studies to complete each term is approximately 20.

K-AS21 Artistic studies, Sculpture (0-50 cr)

The student will gain expertise in working in the field of contemporary arts and topical discourses. The student will further develop the skills and methods that are essential in his/her own artistic work in sculpture.

K-AS22 Artistic studies, Painting (0-50 cr)

The student will gain expertise in working in the field of contemporary arts and topical discourses. The student will further develop the skills and methods that are essential in his/her own artistic work in painting.

K-AS23 Artistic studies, Printmaking (0-50 cr)

The student will gain expertise in working in the field of contemporary arts and topical discourses. The student will further develop the skills and methods that are essential in his/her own artistic work in printmaking.

K-AS24 Artistic studies, Time and Space Arts (0-50 cr)

The student will gain expertise in working in the field of contemporary arts and topical discourses. The student will further develop the time skills and methods that are essential in his/her own artistic work in time and space arts.

K-AS25 Artistic studies, drawing and perception (0-50 cr)

The student explores the relationship of drawing and perception, thought and expression. The student will gain more advanced expertise in image structures, reading images and contemporary art expression.

K-AS26 Artistic studies, independent artistic work (0-50 cr)

Independent artistic work is the foundation of work as an artist and the student will further develop the most important skills needed in his/her work through it. Some of these skills are: discovering the right rhythm and methods of work, the ability to plan and complete works of art independently and regular reflection of artistic work. Artistic work often entails preparatory work, such as sketches, planning, finding materials and other research, depending on the student’s areas of interest. In the instruction at the Academy of Fine Arts, the artistic process is supported and followed under teachers’ supervision. Artistic work for the next academic year is planned together with the student’s tutor teacher and it’s progress is followed during studio visits and artistic work seminars. Artistic work often includes verbal and visual sketching and documentation of the artistic processes and works of art.

Optional theoretical studies (0-50 cr)

The student selects studies that will contribute to his/her own artistic ideas and work. The optional studies in theory further develop the student’s abilities to observe contemporary art and world in a wide and independent manner and with a critical approach.

Optional artistic studies (0-50 cr)

Optional artistic studies will further develop the student’s abilities for artistic work in respect to both technique and contents. These studies can also be completed in the other academies of the University of the Arts Helsinki.

Other optional studies (0-10 cr)

The student can, if he/she so chooses, take language studies and other optional studies that are not directly connected to the student’s development as an artist.

Professional training (0-5 cr)

A professional training period will provide skills for working life after graduation.

Theoretical studies of the Master of Fine Arts degree 19 cr

K-S330 Advanced course on the history and theory of contemporary art (5 cr)

The student will gain a more thorough understanding of the phenomena of contemporary art and their cultural backgrounds. The student gains a more thorough understanding of the relationships between art, theory and history of art and his/her independent, critical thinking will evolve. The course also offers the tools for putting one’s own artistic work in context in the constantly changing contents of art theoretical discussion and social reality in a more structured manner.

As an artist in society (2 cr)

Studies in the As an artist in society course explore artistic activities in context with the society and the art world. The student will become acquainted with the various worlds of the arts that exist today, the structures and division of tasks in the field of fine art, roles of art mediators, support systems for fine art production and international activities and the rudiments of cultural and art politics. The student will gain a more thorough understanding of the ways in which the environment, powers and changing social contexts effecting artistic activities work.

Exhibition studies, advanced course (4 cr)

The purpose of the course is to provide the student with the abilities to analyse an exhibition and exhibiting art as a critical practice and to understand exhibiting arts in a broader social context than the art world. During this course, the student will explore the various ways and places in which art is exhibited and the different conceptions of exhibition and the theories that define them. The student will also discover alternative exhibition practices and strategies.

Philosophy of art, advanced course (3 cr)

The student will gain more in-depth knowledge of the trends, ideas and concepts of aesthetics and philosophy of art, the continental approach in particular. The course encompasses philosophers and ways of thinking that will contribute to the student’s artistic work and its theoretical foundations.

Thematic theoretical studies in the Master of Fine Arts degree (5 cr)

The student explores the themes connected to art theory and/or contemporary art. The student will gain a more thorough understanding of the phenomena of contemporary art and their cultural backgrounds. The student will further develop the student’s abilities to observe contemporary art and world in a wide and independent manner and with a critical approach.
The Praxis Programme has its own study modules (120 cr)

Master of Fine Arts Degree 120 cr

- K-SX308 Advanced studies 120 cr
- K-SX318 Art mediating studies (46 cr)
- K-SX311 Praxis-praktikum (15 cr)
- K-SX312 Subject area seminars (2 cr)
- K-SX313 Praxis exhibition work (6 cr)
- K-SX314 Professional training (6 cr)
- K-SX315 Communication planning (4 cr)
- K-SX316 Independent projects (5 cr)
- K-SX317 Optional studies (6 cr)

STUDIES FOR THE DOCTORATE IN FINE ARTS (240 CR)

The goal of the Doctoral Studies Programme at the Academy of Fine Arts is the Doctor of Fine Arts degree (DFA) of 240 study credits, equivalent to four years of full-time study. The degree consists of the doctoral thesis project (170 cr) and postgraduate studies in the field of Fine Arts (70 cr), comprising 60 credits of compulsory studies and 10 credits of optional studies. For more information, see: [www.uniarts.fi/en/doctoral-education/academy-of-fine-arts](http://www.uniarts.fi/en/doctoral-education/academy-of-fine-arts)
**THE MASTER OF FINE ARTS THESIS PROJECT (40 CR)**

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) thesis project demonstrates the student's artistic vision, knowledge of his or her chosen subject area, and ability to work independently. The thesis project consists of an artistic and a written component. The respective emphasis of the parts can vary, but together they form an entity of 40 study credits. An abstract written by the student to present the thesis project is also the Maturity Test for the MFA degree. The thesis project as a whole is publicly inspected.

The artistic component of the thesis project is connected to the context of visual arts. The student is free to choose its form and manner of execution. The artistic component can be an extensive individual work, a series or set of works or an artistic process. It is displayed to the public at the spring exhibition of the Academy of Fine Arts and/or at some other venue or in some other way suited to the nature of the work.

The written component of the MFA thesis project is a text (15–60 pages) with content and style related meaningfully to the artistic component. It must contain the verbal and visual documentation of the artistic component and demonstrate knowledge of the subject-matter of the thesis project and competency in discussing issues of fine art.

Separate instructions for the MFA thesis project are given at: Artsi>Studying>Thesis and graduation>Thesis: Guidelines of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Project

**THE DOCTORAL THESIS PROJECT (170 CR)**

The doctoral thesis project can consist of art exhibitions, the curating of exhibitions, individual works of art, artistic process or experiment arrangements and their articulation, conceptualisation and theorisation. The doctoral thesis project must demonstrate in-depth understanding and ability to analyse, articulate and conceptualise artistic research in a critical manner. As the thesis project consists of fine arts components and a written component that undergo separate preliminary inspection, the recommended length of the written component is 50–250 pages. If the doctoral thesis is in written form only, its recommended length is 150–250 pages. The written component can be completed in a number of ways: as a monograph, a web publication or in some other multi-media format. It can also consist of publications, the minimum requirement being three peer-reviewed research publications together with a summary (15–30 pages).
Teaching at the Academy of Fine Arts and the Open Campus of the University of the Arts Helsinki

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Academy of Fine Arts
THE SUBJECT AREA: JOINT STUDIES IN FINE ART

Contact information: www.uniarts.fi/en/contact
Teaching: WebOodi and Asio.

The subject area of Joint Studies in Fine Art is responsible for joint art studies, writing studies, instruction in the history, theory and philosophy of art, thematic studies in theory, exhibition studies, instruction in drawing and perception and the modules Working Life Skills and As an artist in society. The subject area of joint studies is also responsible for the Introduction to independent artistic work and subject areas study module.

GOALS OF JOINT STUDIES IN FINE ART

The goal of teaching and instruction is to give students conceptual tools for understanding the many fields of contemporary art and the different working methods. Teaching in the subject area of Joint Studies in Fine Art opens up new connections and bridges different concepts and perspectives. It addresses many kinds of questions concerning art, the theory of art and philosophy. An understanding of the history and theory of contemporary art is needed to permit artists to analyse contemporary art and the present world in broad perspective, independently and with a critical approach. Teaching also focuses on the written expression, an essential tool of the artist's profession, and an understanding of how the art world functions. Exhibition studies give artists competencies to approach the public display of art as a critical, renewed and creative spatial practice in relation to society.

TEACHING AND INSTRUCTION FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Orientation studies (2 cr)

A two-stage orientation course is held for new students during the autumn term. The first part, in August, gives an overview of how studies are arranged at the Academy of Fine Arts, the responsibilities and rights of students and available services. Information is also given about studies in the autumn term, social matters related to studies, well-being and the activities of the Students’ Union. Students are also introduced to teachers and other staff. Part of the orientation is organised by student tutors, who are students in higher year classes at the academy.

Orientation also contains a course in the basics of information retrieval held by library staff. This course is meant to give students competency to acquire and utilise the information that they need in studies. New students are introduced to the library, its collections, services and facilities and taught how to use the electronic library systems (see the presentation of the library above).

Introduction to independent artistic activity and subject areas (25 cr)

After orientation, students concentrate throughout the autumn term on the study module Introduction to independent artistic activity and subject areas. The module begins with instruction in drawing and perception, followed by introductions to the subject areas of time and space arts, painting, sculpture and printmaking. In between the introductory courses, the students will have time for independent artistic activities. In the autumn term, there will be an induction course on the documentation of artistic activities, during which the students will learn how to use the camera for documenting and demonstrating their work and how to produce an electronic portfolio.

The goal is for the students to learn about instruction at the Academy of Fine Arts, so that in December they will be able to select a subject area for completing most of their intermediate studies. The themes of the courses are in dialogue with contemporary art and its tradition, with various perspectives in a complementary relation to each other.

The introductory studies in the first year and independent artistic activities will take place in interaction with a group in a shared work space. A field trip abroad will also be organised during the autumn term.
Introduction to the history of art (10 cr)

Studies in art history provide the student with a wide range of basic knowledge of the traditions of western art and its philosophies of visuality.

This module begins in the autumn term alongside the Introduction to independent artistic activity and subject areas module and will continue through the academic year including the spring term. The aim of the study module is to help students to discover links between their own work and the history of art and to view the values of the art world in critical terms and to introduce them to different techniques, societal themes and historical courses of development. The field trip abroad in the autumn term introduces students to the history of fine art, with visits to art museums among other means.

INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL JOINT STUDIES IN FINE ART

Theoretical studies of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree

The theoretical studies for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree consist of compulsory theoretical studies on the theory and history of contemporary art, its philosophy and the exhibition practices of art. See WebOodi for the courses offered and Asio for the schedules.

In addition to the basics of the history of art, the student will take the following theoretical study modules:

- Introduction to the history and theory of contemporary art (5 cr)
- Working life skills (2 cr)
- Exhibition studies, basics (2 cr)
- Introduction to the philosophy of art (2 cr)
- Thematic theoretical studies for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (10 cr)
- Bachelor of Fine Arts thesis project seminar (2 cr), including the joint inspection of the Bachelor of Fine Arts artistic project.

ADVANCED STUDIES LEVEL JOINT STUDIES IN FINE ART

Theoretical studies for the Master of Fine Arts degree

- Advanced course in the history and theory of contemporary art (5 cr)
- As an artist in society (2 cr)
- Exhibition studies, advanced course (4 cr)
- Philosophy of art, advanced course (3 cr)
- Thematic theoretical studies for the Master of Fine Arts degree (5 cr)

Thesis project seminars in the master of fine arts degree organised by the subject area of joint studies

Master’s seminar for all subject areas (2 cr), completed by attending inspection of MFA thesis projects and defences of doctoral theses. The student is required to attend 15 inspections/defences of doctoral theses to gain the required study credits (See WebOodi)

Writing seminar for the Master of Fine Arts degree (3 cr)

PLEASE NOTE: The artistic work seminar of the Master of Fine Arts degree (2 cr) and the Artistic work seminar of the thesis project (4 cr) are completed in the subject area of the student.
Within the past 50 years, sculpture as a medium has gone through tremendous changes. The changes have concerned materials, technologies and techniques of working as well as the entire understanding of matter and processes taking place in space, defined as sculpture. In this field, constantly renewing approaches and ideas on different levels can be found when following the current trends and directions of the art world; it could be said that the processes of transformation have just begun, continuously pushing further the borders of sculpture.

The making of and defining contemporary sculpture is based on an individual perspective, there are no generally approved rules or canons. Since the area itself is so broad, some focal points have to be set within its teaching practice. One of the aims of the Sculpture studies at the Academy of Fine Arts is to guarantee the transmission and continuation of the sculpture tradition (e.g. manual/technical skills, awareness of different materials etc.), whilst at the same time supporting students’ individual development and enabling them to find their own approach and a ‘language’ of their own.

At the Sculpture Department, teaching is based upon the four main areas:

1) Traditional materials and techniques – figurative modelling, casting, working with stone, wood etc.
2) New materials and techniques – 3D technologies, electronics, Internet, sound, light, video etc.
3) Public space – social/environmental art
4) The body – performance, living sculpture, performative sculpture, music etc.

These areas are a three-dimensional construction, where each spheres can collide and transform into each another. Depending on your viewpoint, some areas are more important than the others ones or the borders can become uncertain or irrelevant.

During their studies, the students should have the possibility to view sculpture/art from different directions, so that they can move freely between the spheres, to choose their directions or decide not to choose at all.

The main emphasis of the studies is in the independent artistic work of the student, advised by the resourceful international faculty through discussions, critique sessions and seminar work. The wide range of workshops are organized in Finland and abroad, ensuring the solid theoretical and practical background for the students’ individual practice.

The Sculpture Department is an open department not only within the school’s conditions, but also on a broader context. This kind of openness is created by the atmosphere that indulges conversations on several levels, and that enables the students to create and move in the areas of contemporary sculpture.
PAINTING


What is painting today? What is a painting for? What kind of perception, activity and manner of being is represented by painting? What is the significance of painting and being an artist in society?

Contemporary painting is present in equal manner as traditional works painted on rectangular surfaces as in expression unpredictable in terms of medium, content and form.

Studies in painting consider the diverse meanings, forms of expression and connections of painting that take shape in different connections. Past, present and future expression in painting is studied as a distinctive way of thinking, a way of perceiving and being in the world. The history of art from cave paintings to digital, Internet-influenced work offers a rich archive for considering and reinterpreting aims and points of departure. As part of the broad network of art challenging its own boundaries, the teaching of painting interacts with the various subject areas of the Academy of Fine Arts, the academic programmes of the University of the Arts and other actors in society.

Material studies in painting provides a basis for understanding materials, a command of techniques and responsible work taking ecology and the environment into account. Like painting in general, this area of theory deals with, touches upon and feels out various kinds of materials, substances and structures. It is as if a new language based on corporeal memory is being studied. Instead of words, it consists of hues, sheen, smells, friction, flow, evaporation, temperatures...

The practice of painting is closely linked to discussion in art theory, with focus on one’s own artistic work and on reinforcing the starting points of personal expression. The verbalisation of artistic work is practised especially in the seminars. Theoretical studies support the conceptualisation of artistic work and giving it connections within both art and society as well as contemporary cultural discourse.

Independent, long-term work is underscored in the studies. The courses change each academic year and are taught in small groups. Forms of teaching include seminars, workshops, lectures, reading circles, the supervision of independent artistic work and study trips. During their studies, students of painting gain a personal understanding of artistic work and the relationship of their work with society and being in the world.
The subject area printmaking investigates problems of current printed and paper-based art. Like other contemporary art, printmaking is in the midst of a mycelium joining a variety of themes to each other at different levels and with different meanings. This subject area underlines having the connection of discussion, recognition of the fact that the medium alone does not define a whole genre of art.

So-called original prints, which have become the norm in this field, have their place within living contemporary printmaking and the teaching of printmaking. The field is also intensively investigated in ways separating from tradition, for art is always being redefined via works of art and artists. The teaching of printmaking also operates in depth: the research of one’s genre and the related research practices are given support and conventional notions of printmaking are challenged. There is particular commitment to assure that students have access to wide range of facilities and equipment of good standard for making prints in various ways.

Along with teaching different techniques, there is an emphasis on critical concepts and theoretical thinking. Working by hand or highly technological printmaking can both produce either traditional or contemporary graphic art to be included in an expanded concept of the field. In addition to the technical teaching of various methods, issues that are emphasised in this subject area are graphic language, i.e. the line and drawing, the meaning of the printing, replication and editions of works, photographs or digital files as starting points for artworks, the significance of paper and paper-based art, publications as an independent art form, book art, collage, the moving image and animation, and spatial or performative expression.

Forms of teaching include changing courses, workshops, project and lectures. The most important part of the studies, however, consists of the student’s own artistic work, which is supported in one on one discussions with the student’s own teachers and visiting artists, and through seminar work in groups.
The subject area of time and space arts explores contemporary issues of three areas: the moving image, site and situation-specific art and photography. Teaching concentrates on the various conceptual levels of artistic work, such as the visual, medium-related, spatial and corporeal dimensions.

Students can either concentrate on a single area of time and space arts or create their own specialisation by choosing studies from several different areas, including other subject areas.

The aim of teaching and instruction in this subject area is to attune perception and develop critical thinking. The starting point here is the processual and even nature of art, with its emphasis on a continuous approach of research and experimentation and the student/artist relating his or her own work to tradition and a continuously redefined field of contemporary art. The work can have a strong relationship with visual and media culture, the environment and/or society, in which the artist has a variety of roles.

The subject area is committed to ensuring in particular that students have sufficient facilities and up-to-date equipment for working in photography and the moving image and a good setting for physical and communal work and experimentation.

Students are encouraged to consider issues of time, place and installation and to seek out their personal strengths and approaches by experimenting with different forms of expression and by familiarising themselves with theories. The medium can just as much be one’s own body as, for example, video, film, photography, sound or electronic and interactive methods. Work can also be performative, participatory or communal.

Teaching in time and space arts aims at a discursive attitude and consist of various courses, studies, workshops and clinics along with independent artistic work, which is supported and followed in personal contact teaching and various seminars and small groups in artistic work. In addition to faculty members, teaching is provided by several visiting artists.
Praxis trains professionals in the arts whose work combines the roles of mediating art, curators and artists via the public display of art. The purpose of the studies is to train professionals for various capacities in the field of the arts who will be able to apply their skills and knowledge critically and with insight.

Studies in the two-year Praxis MFA programme aim at understanding the functioning and background forces of the art world and to develop students’ thinking regarding the display and mediation of art and society. In the Praxis programme students are trained together with art students.

Praxis studies provide basic information on the theory and philosophy of art and the practices of publicly exhibiting art. They are also an opportunity to work with artists in various contexts for displaying and presenting art, such as exhibition facilities, public space, catalogues and digital environments. At the Academy of Fine Arts, teaching and instruction in the Praxis programme is closely linked to teaching in exhibition practices and spatiality, addressing in broad perspective the contexts of displaying and experiencing art, from the perspectives cognitive and social activity.

Students who have completed the Praxis programme graduate as Masters of Fine Arts.
The Doctoral Studies Programme is responsible for doctoral training and related research at the Academy of Fine Arts. It marks out and implements the Academy’s basic research mission of training artists and artist-researchers in the fine arts and conducting research in the field of fine arts.

Artistic and contemporary art research are carried out at the Academy of Fine Arts. At the core of art-based research are – as problems, means, materials or objectives – the meaning of art, its practices, techniques and methods, as well as the principles and institutional arrangements defining the making, reception, teaching and applications of art.

Doctoral training aims at a critical reflection and approaches to the above themes and to research taking up new issues. Research will produce a new kind of art, new ways of making and applying art, and create a new understanding of the meaning of art and of artistic action. With the means of art, it affects our way of acting in the world as perceptive and social beings.

The Doctoral Studies Programme seeks to create and ensure a sufficient framework for conducting and developing research in the fine arts. It provides a support network for the activities and careers of doctoral students and researchers and creates the conditions for discussion, comparisons and interaction between different approaches to research. It forms an international artistic and academic community of experts facilitating the critical evaluation and open-minded development of artistic research. It is a community of discussion in which different starting points concerning knowledge, society and art can be developed in relation to the challenges and problems that emerge in contemporary art.
THE OPEN CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

Contact information: www.uniarts.fi/en/contact
Offered courses and instruction: WebOodi and Asio,
and avoinkampus.uniarts.fi/

The Open Campus of the University of the Arts Helsinki organises joint studies for all degree students, such as language studies. Also more extensive study modules are available, for example in sound art, writing and arts management. The Open Campus also offers individual courses; such as courses in working life skills.

In addition to modules in languages and joint studies, the Open Campus is also responsible for coordinating studies across the boundaries of the individual academies of the university, Open University teaching at University of the Arts and continued education.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree includes 10 study credits of language and communication studies. There are different requirements for students who have received their formal education in Finland in Finnish or Swedish and other students.

The University seeks to arrange the language studies specifically designed for Academy of Fine Arts on the premises of the Academy. The compulsory language courses are usually held once a year. It is also possible to take the proficiency test. If a student passes the test, the course will be marked as passed. The proficiency test can be taken only once. If the student fails the test, he/she must attend the course.

Study modules in language and communication studies are described in the degree requirements of the Academy of Fine Arts. The University of the Arts also provides elective language studies and preparatory language courses. Information on teaching in languages is given on the WebOodi service and in compiled format on the webpages of the Academy of Fine Arts:

Writing studies consist of long courses lasting throughout the academic year and short workshops. Instruction and teaching are given in the traditional genres of writing, such as prose, writing about art and digital writing.

SAMA (Sound Art & Sonic Arts) is a module in sound art for studying sound as a varied form of contemporary art. Teaching in SAMA is aimed at MFA students but is applicable to BFA and exchange students. The module consists of theoretical studies, various project courses and workshops. Teaching and instruction in SAMA is in English.

Basics of Arts Management and Entrepreneurship (20 cr) is course on arts management and related research and presenting in a practically oriented manner based on research and best practice in the field management in the arts and cultural entrepreneurship. Teaching focuses on practical workshop activities and interactive learning. The module can be completed in one academic year.

The Open Campus’s Career studies (tuition only in Finnish) vary yearly. In the academic year of 2017–2018 there will be a course on Cooperatives (2 cr) among other teaching. Information on working-life studies is given in study guides of the WebOodi service.

MOBILITY STUDIES

In mobility studies students at one academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki are entitled to take courses in the university’s other academies. Courses selected from other academies or their common tuition will be accepted in the PSPs, and the studies can be incorporated in the degrees of the so-called home academy. Mobility studies at the University of the Arts are compiled into the WebOodi service as term-specific study guides. Information mobility studies is also given on the Artsi intranet and by email.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Open Campus coordinates the Open University of the University of the Arts Helsinki. The Open University also offers evening, weekend and summer courses that follow the degree requirements of the University of the Arts Helsinki. The degree students of the University of the Arts Helsinki make use of the teaching offered by the Open University as part of their studies. Studies at the Open University of the University of the Arts Helsinki is free cost for degree students.
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Merimiehenkatu 36
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Project Room
Lönnrotinkatu 35
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Workshop facilities in Levytie Street
Levytie 6 B
00830 Helsinki

Guest room
Mikonkatu 18 C 15
00100 Helsinki

Webpages
www.uniarts.fi
www.exhibitionlaboratory.fi