



THE ARTISTIC FACULTY

Master of Fine Arts programme in Fine Arts, 120 credits

Konstnärligt masterprogram i fri konst, 120 högskolepoäng

Programme code: K2FRI

Second cycle / Avancerad nivå

1. Confirmation

This programme syllabus was confirmed by the Dean of the Faculty on 30-11-2017 (G 2017/676) and was last revised on 26-09-2023 (GU 2023/1689) to be valid from 15-10-2023, Autumn semester 2024.

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

2. Purpose

The programme aims to deepen students' knowledge of fine art of how art, artists and art works can contribute to and critique the contemporary world. A key focus of the education is on introducing students to concepts and methods of research practices of relevance to fine art practitioners. Addressing questions of publicness and the role of art and the artist in society is fundamental to the teaching and learning goals. Forms and concepts of exhibitions, and individual and co-operative forms of practice are also key concerns of the programme.

The programme places emphasis on students' ability to account for the decisions made in research and art-making processes, completed artworks and the contexts in which they position their practices. Students are expected to question existing modes of practice, and to develop their understanding of the viability and sustainability of different types of practice. The programme aims to strengthen students' theoretical understandings and abilities to critically reason through written and spoken means. The teaching and learning present students with opportunities and career choices that can develop from the completion of an MFA. The students are well-prepared to self-organise; to work professionally as artists and in related roles in the arts and cultural sector; to form alliances with other sectors.

The programme is also preparatory for third-cycle education.

3. Entry requirements

Bachelor's degree in fine arts of at least 180 credits or equivalent. Applicants must prove their

knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS. In addition, approved work samples are required. Other requirements are documented in each course syllabus.

4. Higher education qualification and main field of study

This programme leads to a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) in Fine Art (Konstnärlig masterexamen i fri konst).

5. Outcomes

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

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

Knowledge and understanding

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

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

Competence and skills

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

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

Judgement and approach

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

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant

artistic, social and ethical issues

- demonstrate insight into the role of art in society, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

6. Content and structure

The MFA in Fine Arts is structured via theory and practical work to support students' abilities to establish, describe and critically reflect on complex relations between art and research practices, and society. The programme is designed as a series of educational steps to support students in producing, analysing, critiquing, and contextualising art at an advanced level. As they progress, students formulate and demonstrate knowledge of ethics, aesthetics, and research practices.

The first semester aims to develop students' abilities by introducing them to research concepts and research methods of relevance to artistic practices. Students are also introduced to differing concepts of publicness. Students learn how to identify a subject to research and develop skills in how to identify and test methods to begin to support and contextualise their research including through practical experiments. Teaching and learning occur via tutorials, seminars, lectures and workshops, with practical, oral and written assignments.

During the second semester students further develop skills in artistic research and production, co-operative processes, and accounting for decisions; and their knowledge of the role of art and the artist in contemporary society. Students advance their skills by identifying and analysing exhibition concepts and contexts. Students will also practice how to define and advance a research question. Via tutorials, lectures, seminars and workshops, with practical, oral and written assignments students begin to actively locate their work in a context of artistic research and practice-oriented knowledge.

The third semester aims at further developing the students' artistic and research practices and their capability to identify and apply their own contextual, ethical and aesthetic choices within a methodology. The teaching also focuses on methods of project planning, artistic production, exhibition concepts and forms of distribution. Students gain further skills in clarifying and presenting the theoretical basis for their practice through a substantial written text. The Master's degree project comprises of a total of 45 credits. The written part of the degree project constitutes 15 credits and is completed during semester 3.

The fourth and final semester aims to consolidate students' abilities to manage and disseminate their own artistic project and research practices conceptually, contextually, practically and professionally. Students produce a substantial artistic project that is shared publicly. This part of the degree project constitutes 30 credits and is completed during semester 4.

Elective Programme Courses

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

Within the elective courses, students meet across department subjects. Students apply for the

elective courses based on an annual course offering.

Year 1

Semester 1

Artistic Practices I, 22,5 credits

Contextualisation I, 7,5 credits

Term 2

Artistic Practices II, 15 credits

Contextualisation II, 7,5 credits

Elective course, 7,5 credits

Year 2

Term 3

Artistic Practices III, 15 credits

Contextualisation III (Contains the Master's Degree project), 15 credits

Term 4

Master's Thesis in Fine Art (Contains the Master's Degree project), 30 hp

7. Guaranteed admission

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

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

8. Transitional regulations

This programme syllabus (GU 2023/1689) applies to students admitted to the programme from the autumn semester 2024.

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

Students who thereafter still have unfinished older courses may complete the programme according to the current programme syllabus and course structure. An individual study plan for the remaining parts of the programme may be required.

9. Other information

Courses are evaluated in the context of each course. The study programme will be followed up and evaluated in accordance with the applicable *Policy för kvalitetssäkring och kvalitetsutveckling av utbildning vid Göteborgs universitet* (Policy for the Quality assurance and

Quality Development of Education at the University of Gothenburg).