

Programme syllabus

Master's Programme in Design

Decision

The programme syllabus is established by the Board for Artistic Development on 11-12-2013, revised by the Board for Artistic Development on 10-12-2014.
Applicable to students admitted from the autumn semester 2014.

1 BASIC PROGRAMME INFORMATION

1.1 Title of the programme in English and Swedish

Master's Programme in Design
Masterprogrammet i design

The programme has two specialisations

- Spatial Design / Rumslig gestaltning
- Individual Study Plan in Design / Individuell studieplan i design

Prospective students apply directly for the specialisation they wish to study.

1.2 Credit load

120 credits (ECTS/högskolepoäng)

1.3 Programme code

MDE14

1.4 Language of instruction

All teaching, supervision and examination is conducted in English.

1.5 Specific entry requirements

Entry requirements for the specialisations are as follows:

Individual study plan in Design

Bachelor's degree of Fine Arts in Design (equivalent to a Swedish Bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits), or the equivalent. Proficiency in English equivalent to Swedish upper secondary school course English 6/English B with a passing grade.

Spatial Design

Bachelor's degree of Fine Arts in Design: Interior Architecture and Furniture Design (equivalent to a Swedish Bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits), or the equivalent. Proficiency in English equivalent to Swedish upper secondary school course English 6/English B with a passing grade.

1.6 Selection

Selection criteria for the specialisations are as follows:

Individual study plan in Design

Selection is made on artistic grounds and is based on portfolios, declaration of intent and interview.

Spatial Design

Selection is made on artistic grounds and is based on portfolios, declaration of intent, interview, and prior academic knowledge where spatial design is especially meriting.

1.7 Degree

Degree of Master of Fine Arts in Design.

Or

Degree of Master of Fine Arts in Design, specialisation Spatial Design*

* Provided that the student has followed the syllabus for the Master's programme in Design, specialisation Spatial Design, and has completed the degree project in Spatial Design.

Degree project

For the Master's degree of Fine Arts in Design, the student must have completed a degree project of at least 30 credits in Design*.

Following completion of studies in elective courses and degree projects that are in line with the requirements in Konstfack's Degree Ordinance, the student can apply for the Master's degree of Fine Arts in Design.

1.8 Grading scale

U = Fail

G = Pass

2 NATIONAL QUALITATIVE TARGETS UNDER THE HIGHER EDUCATION ORDINANCE

Knowledge and understanding

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

- 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 of Fine Arts (120 credits) the student must

- 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 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 of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) the student must

- 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.

3 PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

In addition to the national targets for Master's degrees, Konstfack has established the following objectives for the Master's Programme in Design.

Specialisation: Individual study plan in Design

Knowledge and understanding

For a Master's degree of Fine Arts in Design, the student must

- demonstrate familiarity with theories, methods, techniques and processes for dealing with complex phenomena, issues and contexts in the field of design.

Competence and skills

For a Master's degree of Fine Arts in Design, the student must

- demonstrate the ability to create proposals relevant to the assignment and thereby independently identify, formulate and solve design and interpretation problems, and to plan and, using appropriate methods, perform advanced design tasks within specified time limits.

Judgement and approach

For a Master's degree of Fine Arts in Design, the student must

- demonstrate in-depth insight into the possibilities of design and its relevance for societal processes.

Specialisation: Spatial Design

Knowledge and understanding

For a Master's degree of Fine Arts in Design, the student must

- demonstrate familiarity with theories, methods, techniques and processes for dealing with complex phenomena, issues and contexts in the field of spatial design.

Competence and skills

For a Master's degree of Fine Arts in Design, the student must

- demonstrate the ability articulate proposals relevant to the assignment and thereby independently identify, formulate and solve spatial and design problems, and to plan and, using appropriate methods, perform advanced tasks in the field of spatial design and within specified time limits,
- demonstrate an in-depth ability to represent a work in the field of spatial design with the help of the interior architect's tools and methods.

Judgement and approach

For a Master's degree of Fine Arts in Design, the student must

- demonstrate in-depth insight into the possibilities of spatial design (the subject) and interior architecture (the profession) and their relevance for societal processes.

4 PROGRAMME OUTLINE

4.1 Programme description

Design work involves being interested in relationships between humans, objects, actions and contexts. This requires a capacity for critical reflection on consequences, in both the long and short term and both for those directly affected and those indirectly affected. The work is related to experience and understanding for how meaning, norms and values are constructed and result in designed proposals for changes. The designer's work is multi-faceted and can lead to gradual changes as well as radical, revolutionary ones. This requires strong cooperative skills, so as to handle complex issues.

Design work constitutes a significant driving force in society and the objective of the study programme is that the students will work from a foundation of participation, knowledge and understanding in their design processes, which in combination with critical assessment of possibilities and limitations help them to produce proposals which support an equal and sustainable society. For this, the student must train their ability to critically reflect on both the direct and indirect consequences of design work.

Society needs different competencies and ways of thinking. The programme is intended to strengthen students' ability to see the broader context and approach issues in an experimental, creative and critically reflective manner, thus enabling them to conduct their own activities or become a sought-after employee via their knowledge and practical experience.

The Master's Programme in Design offers opportunities for specialisation, personal development and positioning in the field of design.

The programme trains the student in understanding, interpreting and making decisions via design which take aesthetic, subjective, social, environmental and other societal perspectives into consideration.

The student is afforded the opportunity of experience in a number of different approaches, methods and areas of design. Via artistic research and experimentation, the individual's ability to see and understand and their way of thinking are improved, developed and challenged. Experimental processes may be a matter of physical and constructive doing, creation in artistic practice, risk-taking and generating insights, which can lay the foundations for new and unexpected opportunities.

With this experience, the ability to cross the boundaries, thought structures and structures for physical doing is developed. The student can thereby demonstrate challenges in our changeable world and engage others and themselves in proposals which provide experience and possibilities for change.

To be able to conduct design work, it is necessary to keep up-to-date on and have knowledge of both national and international areas of design and related issues. This must be an ongoing process in relation to the students' work.

The student trains their ability to conduct their own work, collaborate in projects and lead design work which includes other participants within and outside of the field.

The programme prepares students for professional life and third-cycle education.

Specialisation: Individual study plan in Design

The specialisation sees design as an experimental approach in which focus is on specifics rather than general matters, in order to understand complex relationships between humans, objects, actions and contexts.

The students lay the foundations for knowledge production processes by designing proposals and visual and material prototypes. Here, potential solutions are explored and an in-depth understanding of the complexity of the original issue is created.

This approach is continuously developed over the course of the programme via exploration and inclusive and critically reflective efforts and working practices in exercises and projects.

The student is afforded the opportunity of specialising in the field of design. During the programme, the student will make the choice to focus on industrial, service or furniture design. Otherwise, the student may choose a specialisation that spans the aforementioned fields and expands them. The student's specialisation starts with the project proposal submitted with the application, which is developed together with the supervisor and eventually becomes an individual study plan.

Specialisation: Spatial Design

This specialisation focuses on space, the relationship between the body and space, as well as objects in the room. The work is based on the body's size and human needs, both in private and public scenarios. The student develops their ability to identify and improve existing space and work with new space.

The work with spatial design is conducted using the provided methods and processes, which results in new questions and articulated proposals. This may mean that the relationships between body, object and space are renegotiated and that questions are posed as to how these new relationships change conditions for individual, group and context.

The student is afforded the opportunity of specialising in the field of spatial design. During the programme, the student will either choose a specialisation geared towards the interior architect profession or one which is based on the project proposal submitted with the application. This project proposal is further developed together with a supervisor during the first semester.

4.2 Programme overview

The education takes place in studios, workshops, ateliers, labs and in the field. The work is carried out in projects and individual courses. Some parts of the programme are compulsory and others are elective, depending on the specialisation chosen by the student, among other things. Supervision takes place within projects, as well as in the form of "skill-shops" in which the student can improve their grasp of methods, tools, processes and representation.

The programme is organised as follows:

Students will throughout the whole programme actively position their work in relation to their specialisation.

The first semester includes an introduction to the programme, the subject and all its constituent parts, as well as a broadening of the perspectives on the subject and the profession. The goal is to further develop critical, analytical and artistic approaches. Among the modules are a research week with follow-up and a short elective course, where for example the student must give physical form to an issue which arises in discussion on research. The semester course includes studies of terminology, methods, processes, standpoints, approaches and contexts.

During the second semester, the student is afforded the opportunity to develop their abilities via design assignments organised in project form. This may be elective or compulsory depending on the specialisation the student has chosen. The semester course consists of one module which offers in-depth studies in the subject and another which offers in-depth studies in the environment with which the student cooperates. In the latter studies, the project can take place in vocational activities, industry or other activities depending on the student's specialisation.

In the third semester, the student is afforded the opportunity for in-depth reflection via parallel and integrated design and text work. The degree project deepens the student's knowledge within a specific area of the field of design, and the subject is chosen based on the student's specialisation.

Once the degree project is concluded in the fourth semester, this is followed by a final course with summary and future projections.

Compulsory courses with elective elements

Semester 1: *Introduction and broadening of perspective, 30 credits*

Semester 2: *In-depth studies in the subject and environment, 30 credits*

Semester 3: *In-depth reflection, 15 credits*

Semesters 3 and 4: Students choose one of the following courses:

Specialisation *Individual Study Plan in Design: Degree Project in Design, 33 credits.*

Specialisation *Spatial Design: Degree project in Design, specialisation Spatial Design, 33 credits.*

The student must be admitted to the specialisation Spatial Design in order to be allowed to choose the degree project course specialising in Spatial Design.

Semester 4: *Summary and projection, 12 credits*