

Programme syllabus

Master's Programme in Design Ecologies

Decision

The programme syllabus is established by the Education and Research Board 21-09-15.

Applicable to students admitted from the autumn semester 2022.

1 BASIC PROGRAMME INFORMATION

1.1 Name of programme in English and Swedish

Master's Programme in Design Ecologies

Masterprogrammet Design Ecologies

1.2 Credit load

120 credits (högskolepoäng)

1.3 Programme code

MDE22

1.4 Language of instruction

All teaching, supervision and examination is conducted in English.

1.5 Specific entry requirements

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

1.6 Selection

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

1.7 Degree

Degree of Master of Fine Arts in Design

1.8 Degree project

For a degree of Master of Fine Arts in Design, the student must have completed a degree project of at least 30 credits in the main field of study

1.9 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 of Fine Arts in Design, Konstfack has established the following objectives for the Master's Programme in Design Ecologies.

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts, students shall:

- demonstrate an ability to evaluate and explore design's potential as a participatory force in societal and ecological processes.
- demonstrate ability to propose possibilities for sustainable development through design-driven explorations,
- show ability to formulate and shape design proposals from a holistic perspective, in relation to different contexts, situations and stakeholders.
- demonstrate skill in designing proposals where products, services and systems are interrelated
- demonstrate the ability to communicate, by making and formgiving, complex issues through the expression of two-dimensional and physical three-dimensional artefacts.
- carry out design work in a structured and methodical way in collaboration with other competencies.
- understand and apply methods for design-driven research.
- analyse and critically reflect on design's role and consequences in a socially, ecologically and economically aware manner.

4 PROGRAMME OUTLINE

4.1 Programme description

At our education, we see design ecologies as the sum of the relationships enabled by design. We educate design practitioners to interact with and understand living systems and affirm social and biological diversity. At our programme, we build community and a learning culture through a rich network of faculty. We encourage experimentation, self-leadership, networking, active participation and exploration. On artistic grounds and through the advancement of embodied and material knowledge we collectively explore the possibilities of existing and alternative socio-ecological realities that may lead to new sustainable ways of living.

Throughout the education, students are given opportunities to shape a design-driven, critical ecoliteracy on artistic grounds. To be ecoliterate means understanding the principles of organization of ecological communities and using those principles for creating sustainable human communities. Students develop this understanding through design-driven explorations. Knowledge so acquired shall be a basis for design proposals that can contribute to sustainable societal development. This knowledge is the foundation of design proposals aiming to contribute to sustainable societal development.

At the Master Design Ecologies, we understand designed products as dynamic entities that affect and support or interrupt myriad forms of life, and we regard something as sustainable if it enables further life. Students are encouraged to critically ask themselves: Design in relation to what? When? For whom?

We seek shaping things that relate to the contexts in which they will exist – during manufacturing, use and post-use – in other words, throughout a product's entire life cycle. Through a holistic approach, students have the opportunity to increase their awareness of economic and power relationships between humans and other-than-human entities, for example plants, animals, organisms, machines and processes.

Our education prepares design students to collaborate with others by communicating through design. This prepares them for collaborations in various contexts. At the Master Design Ecologies students have the opportunity to challenge and deepen their own professional practice in relation to the main field of study, and a wider social and ecological context.

4.2 Programme overview

Compulsory courses with elective elements:

Semester 1: Introduction to Design Ecologies, 30 credits

Students are introduced to design ecologies.

Semester 2: Design FOR, 30 credits

Students communicate and collaborate with different actors and stakeholders.

Semester 3: Design WITH, 30 credits

Students design in relation to living conditions and locations.

Semester 4: Design WHAT, 30 credits (degree project)

Students shape proposals for a specific context.

5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO COURSES WITHIN THE PROGRAMME

To commence in year 2 studies, a passing grade in courses equivalent to at least 45 credits from the first year of study (or equivalent) is required.

Entry requirements (prior knowledge) to a specific course within the programme, are stated in the respective course syllabus. Entry requirements may also exist within a semester, if a course requires certain prior knowledge.

6. OTHER REGULATIONS

6.1 Credit transfer

Students have the right to be given credit for previous studies at higher education level. The department makes decisions on credit transfer.

6.2 Transitional regulations

Students previously admitted under an old curriculum for the to the Master's Programme in Design (with specialisation Individual study plan in Design), reserve the right to complete their studies according to the syllabus valid at the time of their admission, until 1 July 2025. An individual study plan should be established for any students admitted to the programme with the older version of the syllabus, who have not completed their studies by 1 July 2025. In addition, limitations specified in relevant course syllabus apply.