

## FINE ARTS - STAGE AND COSTUME DESIGN

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and additional contract teachers

Stage and Costume Design at the Berlin Weissensee School of Art is a Fine Arts course. Students spend their first year of study learning the foundations of art and design in an interdisciplinary course together with students from all faculties of the School. Building upon that foundation, this course examines, teaches and experiments with the possibilities of stage and costume design, both in the historical context and in contemporary theatre. Students learn to develop strategies and perspectives for visualisation in the performing arts which go beyond the purely theatrical.

The course focuses on developing artistic concepts. The School is particularly able to follow this approach because it provides:

- an unbiased debate between concept development and theory, between stage and costume;
- an interdisciplinary spectrum from fine art to design.

Students on this course will find themselves working in the space where theatre, costume, dramaturgy and direction converge; new media and costume are important focuses. This course aims to produce stage and costume designers who work as independent artists and equal partners in the process of staging a theatrical work. Graduates will possess the ability to represent ideas and concepts appropriately, to communicate them, to use technology to realise their ideas and bring them to bear.

Applicants for the course Fine Arts / Stage and Costume Design must demonstrate a particular artistic aptitude and a distinct interest in working in the theatre. Experience gained in previous professional training or internships at

theatres is advantageous. A general qualification for university entrance is preferred. Artistic aptitude will be tested in an examination.

### Student advisory service

Susan Lipp  
general course guidance

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Bühningstr. 20 - 13086 Berlin  
mail: studienberatung@kh-berlin.de

open hours: tuesday 11-13, thursday 14-17  
telephone advisory service: +49 30 47705 342  
tuesday 14-16, wednesday 10-12

### Consultation of applicants

Contact e-mail: termin.bb@kh-berlin.de

### Admission prerequisites:

A special artistic talent is required  
Minimum age 18 years, School leaving certificate (general matriculation standard / general certificate of secondary education)  
For international applicants: Sufficient knowledge of written and spoken German has to be proved (DSH-1 or Test-DaF-3)

### Artistic admission test / aptitude test

The artistic talent will be ascertained by a test procedure in the middle of February.

**The application period for all undergraduate courses of study is from 1 November to 10 December of each year. The Registration is made through the website: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de).**

For summer term a registration is not possible. In January applicants will receive an invitation and practical hints for the aptitude test.

### **This admission test or exam will consist of:**

- The test starts with the submission of your portfolio and if required your special homework. Minimum of 15 to maximally 20 personally produced artistic works (mainly drawings and other specimens). Admission to the test will be decided upon after examination of these works (preselection).

- A 2 to 3-day exam for proving the required aptitude.
- An interview concerning, as a rule, the evaluation of the artistic achievements shown as well as the technical skills and motivation of the participants.

Handicapped or chronically ill applicants may apply for compensation of their drawback in the test. The test participants will be informed in writing about the results. A successfully passed test is valid for two years.

### **Portfolio**

An admission to the aptitude test will be decided after the review of the portfolio. All applicants will be invited and required to submit the portfolio personally. The content of the portfolio naturally varies depending on the desired department, but here are some general tips.

There are not too many specifications from the faculties regarding the portfolio, other than the fact that it should be include ca. 15 to 20 preferably original works (drawings, paintings, photographs, collages, videos, three-dimensional works or works on canvas must be documented as photographs). All media are permitted. The portfolio should be easy to manage and not exceed DIN A0.

The concept of the portfolio is entirely up to the applicant and should demonstrate not only basic artistic skills and creativity but also works that are relevant to the desired program. It should be very selective about the works. As the portfolio is the first part of the entrance exam, applicants should think carefully about

their artistic identity, talents, and goals. They try to avoid works that appear as if they were instructed to create it – it is very important that the creative, artistic personality can be seen in the portfolio. It is also important that the portfolio illustrates that applicants have continuously and intensively worked on their creative development. The professors place great value on high quality drawings. For inspiration, applicants can view a range of different student projects on the website or alternatively visit the open days in July.

### **Preliminary practical training**

A preliminary practical training is not considered as basic requirement for matriculation but is highly recommended. The KHB is not in a position to mediate training placements. The preliminary training is necessary for acquiring knowledge and experience concerning basic working techniques, materials and working processes. Especially suitable to this effect are handicraft or service workshops for clothing, small ready-made clothing or knitwear factories or theatre workshops.

### **Application/admission**

An application can be filed only after having passed the artistic admission test, whereupon the suitable applicants will receive the corresponding application form from the weißensee academy of art berlin. This form has to be sent within the established period, together with the appertaining documents, to the matriculation office of the the weißensee academy of art berlin. The application deadline is preclusive. Allotment of the study places by central assignment (ZVS), numerus clausus, waiting semesters or drawing of lots is not done.

After conclusion of the admission procedure in May of the same year, the applicants receive a written admission award and the registration forms.

### **Registration/fees**

For registration it is necessary to present the health insurance vouchers and to pay the contributions of 300 € (registration fee, social contribution, Students' Association (ASTA), public transport). Tuition fees are not charged.

### **Information on admission and matriculation for international applicants**

In application proceedings, there are no differences between Germans, EU-Citizens or other international applicants, provided international applicants can submit a proof of German language proficiency with the application form: minimum of the qualification level A2/B1 for the Fine Arts programs.

The language of instruction is German in all our courses. As the aptitude test will be also carried out in German it is absolutely necessary to be provided with a sufficient knowledge of German language. Needless to say that most professors speak English very well, so in case of need, applicants may be able to explain the ideas, aims and motivation also in English.

After a positive decision, it must be presented a language certificate for the admission: for example Testdaf 3, DSH 1 or the certificate of the UDK (qualification level B2) for the Fine Arts study programs.

In exceptional cases, a proof of the exam registration or a certificate of the B2 - course is also sufficient for the time being. The relevant language certificate must be submitted before the studies begin.

### **Recognition of certificates**

First if applicants pass the aptitude test successfully, they have to apply for admission with the necessary certificates and documents, and these must be submitted in form of an officially authenticated translation in German or English. Applicants for the Fine Art programs can be accepted without a higher education

entrance qualification, if they provide a certificate from a college preparatory secondary school.

Applicants from the People's Republic of China, Vietnam and Mongolia must include the original certificate confirming that the papers have been pre-checked by the Academic Evaluation Centre (APS).

### **Commencement of study**

Admission of beginners is for the winter semester only, i. e. from October of the current year.

### **Duration of study**

The regular duration of study is of 10 semesters, including 1 practical and 1 thesis semester.

### **Syllabus**

Work of a stage or costume designer is characterised by the necessity of disputation and co-operation with all theatre areas, i. e. with the artistic, performing and theoretical aspects (text/music – direction – drama – dramaturgy) as well as the technical, handicraft and organising aspects (workshops – stage equipment, light, sound, etc. – planning)

The first two semesters are dedicated to fundamental artistic and scientific studies. Teaching in the shape of exercises, seminars and lectures is largely done in common courses for all specialisms.

Fundamental studies:

- Study of nature and rendering in colour
  - Study of nature and rendering in drawing
  - Study of nature and rendering in plastic
  - Designing and rendering on a surface
  - Designing and rendering with new media
  - Anatomy and morphology
  - Projection/perspective
- Scientific subjects of study:

- History of art
- Cultural history
- Theatre history

Further training sessions, compulsory subjects:

- Stage and costume design
- Study of nature
- Costume lore
- History and aesthetics of the performing and pictorial arts
- Dramaturgy and direction
- Room exercises
- Theatre equipment, lighting
- Model-making, construction
- Video

### Stay abroad

The weißensee academy of art berlin cultivates direct contacts with a great number of colleges in other countries and promotes student exchange. Interested students in the main course may contact the international office of weißensee for information about exchange emplacements available within the SOKRATES/ERASMUS Programme or other possibilities for a stay abroad, and hand in their corresponding applications.

### Specific practical work

During the main course it is necessary to do one semester of specific practical work in the specialism (practical semester), before beginning the final semester. This semester serves for establishing a link with vocational practice and for acquainting the student with the complex interaction between director, actor and technical equipment. The practical semester may also be served abroad.

### Conclusion of study

The study is concluded with a practical and a theoretical graduation examination. Admission to the diploma procedure is only for students who have completed at least two semesters of main study at the weißensee academy of art berlin and have concluded this study successfully. After having passed the graduation examination, the graduate will receive the „Diploma for Graduates in Stage and Costume Design of weißensee academy of art berlin“ and the diploma supplement“.

### Master class: Meisterschülerstudium

Students who pass their graduation examination with a grade of „Sehr gut“ (excellent) are eligible to apply for a one-year master class/ Meisterklasse. Graduates of other colleges are unfortunately not eligible.

### Change of college

Changing to the weißensee academy of art berlin is possible only after completion of the fundamental study or of the 2nd semester in the same course of study. It is recommendable first to get into touch with the professors of the desired specialism and to arrange a personal interview. Acceptance and acknowledgement of accomplished studies are assessed and approved by the examination and admission committees. The form covering an application for change of college can be obtained from the Referat für Studienangelegenheiten.

### Financial assistance

Basing on the Federal Law for Educational Advancement (Bafög), Students may apply for a financial assistance with the Student Welfare Organisation (studierendenWERK BERLIN).

studierendenWERK BERLIN,  
Amt für Ausbildungsförderung  
Behrenstrasse 40/41, 10117 Berlin  
Phone:+49 (0)30-93939 - 70  
www.stw.berlin  
www.bildungskredit.de

### Accommodation

The weißensee academy of art berlin does not have any student hostels or flats. The studierendenWERK BERLIN, however, disposes of a great number of rooms in Berlin at a cost of between EURO 250,00 and 450,00. International Students as well as handicapped or chronically ill students enjoy a preferential attendance in this respect. The address of the central accommodation agency is

studierendenWERK BERLIN,  
Abteilung Wohnen InfoPoint  
Hardenbergstr. 34  
10623 Berlin  
Phone:+49 (0)30-93939 - 70  
www.stw.berlin

Moreover there exists in Berlin an ample offer of private flat-sharing and subtenancy opportunities which can be found in newspaper ads, on notice boards, by personal contacts or in internet, for example: wg-gesucht.de, easywg.de, wg-welt.de

### Information material

Further information about the weißensee academy of art berlin can be found in the Internet ([www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de)).

### Information days

Once a year – in July – the weißensee academy of art berlin hosts its traditional „RUNDGANG-Open Days“ providing prospective students and applicants best opportunities for information and offer you an ideal introduction to this school. And all interested people are also invited to an informative event in November, here will take place a presentation of all departments.

## see

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