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# BA/ FASHION DESIGN

weißensee

kunsthochschule berlin

## Study Program Fashion Design

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### THE STUDY

Fashion encompasses all areas of life. Clothing represents an emblematic area of fashion development. With the replacement of classic fashion mechanisms, fashion today appears in an almost unmanageable complexity and diversity. Both nationally and internationally, a multitude of partly contradictory fashion trends and concepts with the most diverse organisational structures and market strategies exist in parallel. In addition to the classic proximity to industry, media and marketing, there are interfaces to other design disciplines, as well as to science and the fine arts.

With numerous theoretical art and cultural studies seminars and department-specific workshops, students are prepared for a wide variety of working areas in fashion. With a view to internationality and the exciting dynamics of fashion, the development of a creative identity is a focal point of the artistically orientated course. Berlin has now established itself as a fashion city, partly because young designers in particular like to settle here. Quite a few of them are graduates of the weißensee academy of art berlin. In recent years, students from the department have participated in international competitions with great success.

The Bachelor's degree programme aims to enable students to develop their own creative position and design identity in the field of fashion design. The degree programme is characterised by an intensive interaction between practical design work and theoretical analysis. In addition to practical training, the programme trains the ability to

approach complex design tasks methodically and solve them independently. Project-orientated teaching takes centre stage.

In the first year of the four-year Bachelor's degree programme, artistic and design fundamentals are taught in an interdisciplinary manner together with students from other degree programmes at the art academy. The following three years are organised on a project-oriented basis. The project topics on offer form the framework for students to develop their own questions. T

he interdisciplinary exchange with the other departments is promoted by the close proximity and a corresponding range of projects.

### Foundation Course (first year of studies)

The foundation year are completed by students from all degree courses together in mixed groups and are one of the special features that define the profile of the weißensee academy of art berlin and, in addition to elementary artistic knowledge, are intended to enable communicative action that goes beyond the individual degree course. Students can test sensual-immediate and analytical-systematic working methods in a practical comparison and reflect on them theoretically. The central subject is the teaching of the fundamentals of art and design. In addition to the necessary technical skills, creative and artistic processes are experienced from as many different perspectives as possible in lively practice. Basic courses: Drawing, Visual Artistic Design, Spatial and Plastic Design, Digital Media, Anatomy/Morphology and Photography.

## Program structure / course of study

The Fashion Design course is divided into a four- year Bachelor's and a two-year Master's course. After the two-semester joint foundation course, the 3rd semester introduces students to design and project work in fashion design. This is a project course with extensive specialist content. The semester is divided into three weekly teaching and learning units: Practical projects are carried out two days a week. Theoretical lectures and seminars are held on two other days. One day a week is set aside for nature study, illustration and accompanying subjects. Throughout the course, students also receive extensive tuition in classical and computer- guided editing. The projects in the second year of study serve to teach students how to find forms and how to consistently develop them into concrete designs. The focus is on the examination of form and silhouette as well as the sensitive handling of proportion and color and the learning of a technical language. In addition, basic skills and knowledge of fashion design are learned and trained.

In the 2nd study phase, students generally work on a practical design project that aims to develop their sense of form, a sensitive approach to proportions and materials as well as a serial collection design. In addition, there are short-term projects, which should enable students to work independently on tasks in a short period of time. The Bachelor's examination concludes with the presentation of the Bachelor's examination concludes with the presentation of the final design project/Bachelor's thesis. The final project includes the design of an extensive, independent collection, in which the individual style conception is in the foreground. Students also have the opportunity to carry out extensive research; they can deal with current developments or technologies and focus on material finishing or surface design.

## Studio Workshops

In addition to the individual departments, the 19 excellently equipped workshops and studios offer training in the craft of printing, casting, weaving and knitting techniques as well as in solid digital technologies. The academy's research laboratories focus on experimental research and networks on sustainable design strategies and media and information technologies. In the workshops, artists and designers can try out artistic and creative designs on models or objects. In the workshops, artists and designers can try out artistic and creative designs on models or objects. The workshops provide an introduction to basic craft skills and have the material equipment for the most important techniques. There is a bookbinding, a screen printing, gravure printing and lithography workshop, an Elab for interactive technologies, a wood, ceramics and metal workshop, a model making workshop, a metal welding workshop and a photography workshop. The art college also has its own library and a computer studio with a wide range of printing facilities.

## Theory and history

„Theory and History“ is compulsory for all students from the first semester onwards. The aim is to be able to recognize the difference between academy-based learning and independent study right from the start. For this reason, almost all courses in the BA programs are compulsory elective courses for the entire duration of the study. Basic historical and theoretical knowledge is taught in the first study phase. During this study phase, the course „Introduction to Academic Work“ is compulsory once. In the second study phase, courses are offered for advanced students that deal with more specific topics and thus impart more detailed and in-depth knowledge. When choosing courses, students should not only consider their future career choice, but also the possibility of acquiring comprehensive knowledge.

## Practical orientation

Practical relevance is an essential element of many project offerings in the main study period. To this end, cooperation projects are offered in which real-life tasks are worked on. During the program, students can also complete an internship in the 6th or 7th semester as an elective. In this internship, students perform job-related tasks in design-oriented companies, agencies, or offices. The internship is intended to give students an overview of possible activities and prepare them for their future field of work.

## Study abroad

The weißensee academy of art and design berlin has an intensive student exchange program with more than 120 partner universities and academies in Europe, Asia, the USA and Canada. We recommend that students spend a semester abroad. This allows them to expand their professional skills in a different teaching and learning culture. They also prepare themselves for an increasingly international job market. Students in the second stage of their studies can find out about exchange places on the ERASMUS program or other opportunities to study abroad at the International Office of weißensee academy of art,.

## Master's program

Graduates who have successfully completed their bachelor's degree have the opportunity to continue with a four-semester master's program. The MA program aims to further develop students' design identity and creative visions at the highest level. Based on sound knowledge of fashion design, students gain a comprehensive understanding of the global fashion market. The focus is on project-oriented teaching. In addition to classic fashion concepts, the master's program also develops projects from related fields and interdisciplinary work.

The application period for the master's design programs is from March 1 to April 30. Admission is only for the winter semester. Further information can be found at: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de) under >Application >Study application >MA Design

## Applicants/students with disabilities, chronic illnesses or special needs (e.g. also care leavers or carers of relatives)

Applicants and students with special needs can arrange individual compensation for disadvantages in consultation with the relevant department and the Student Advisory Service in cases where the application procedure, examinations or courses cannot be completed in the intended form due to the illness or disability.

Applicants are welcome to contact Susan Lipp, student advisor and representative for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses at the weißensee academy of art berlin.

## Social Affairs

In addition to advice from the Student Affairs Department, StudierendenWERK Berlin offers a wide range of services. Information: [www.stw.berlin](http://www.stw.berlin)

## Support and advice:

- for all students in coping with personal problems in times of crisis
- for international students and students with a refugee background
- for students with disabilities, chronic illnesses and special needs
- for student parents / maternity leave
- for students with financial difficulties / on support options

## Enrolment/fees

There is a semester fee of currently around €360, which is made up of an enrolment or administration fee, social contribution, ASTA and the German semester ticket for public transport in Germany. No other student fees are charged.

## Financial study support

Students can apply for financial aid from studierendenWERK BERLIN on the basis of the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG). Advice, application and other funding opportunities can be found on the StudierendenWERK website: [www.stw.berlin](http://www.stw.berlin)  
For further scholarship programs and funding opportunities, please contact us: [studienberatung@kh-berlin.de](mailto:studienberatung@kh-berlin.de)

## Info days and portfolio counselling

Current dates for our information days and advisory services can be found on the website: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de) (link/ QR code on the back). The annual RUNDGANG in July and the public graduation and annual exhibitions of the departments offer a wonderful opportunity to find out more about studying at the university and to gain an ideal insight into the premises as well as study and degree work.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

November 1 to January 5 (12:00 noon)  
Start of studies: winter semester 2026/27

You can always apply from November 1st in the online application portal of the weißensee academy of art berlin.  
Link: [www.cms.kh-berlin.de](http://www.cms.kh-berlin.de)

Please note: applications for the undergraduate degree programs are only made once a year and admission is only granted for the winter semester, starting in October.

1

After creating your user account in the campus management system (CMS), you can create your application in the desired department and fill out the forms.

2

Together with your application, you also upload your digital portfolio, which includes your artistic or design work. You can find the current design guidelines on our website. (Link/ QR code on the back)

In the next section you will find further information on the application documents and portfolio submission.

The application deadline as well as the digital portfolio submission ends on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 12:00 noon (CET).

3

After the application deadline, the respective admissions committee will review your portfolio. Based on your work, the next step is to decide whether you will take part in the entrance exam.

If you pass the portfolio examination, you will receive an invitation to the artistic entrance exam at the end of January, which is expected to take place between 16 and 20 February 2026. We will inform you of the exact date in the invitation letter.

4

The artistic entrance exam will include both practical tasks and an interview with the admissions committee. This will be based on your portfolio and your motivation.

5

Once you have passed the exam, you will receive a letter of admission and enrolment instructions via the online portal; all original documents - such as your degree certificate - will be submitted in March.

## Application documents / digital portfolio submission

Together with your application, you must upload a digital portfolio and, if applicable, a homework assignment (in the design departments) by January 5.

Further information on designing your digital portfolio, helpful tips on the portfolio and details on the homework can be found at the start of the application process on the website: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de): (Link/ QR code on the back).

### The following documents must be uploaded with the online application:

- Curriculum vitae with details of your previous school or study history, internships, jobs and work experience in the field relevant to your studies
- School leaving certificate (if already available, can be submitted later)
- Previous professional training or pre-study internship of at least 6 - 8 weeks (if available, can be submitted later).
- for international applicants: a language certificate or a confirmation of the current language course at a minimum level of 2, at the start of studies the B2 examination certificate

## General notes on portfolio creation

Apart from the number of approx. 20 artistic or creative works, no topics or forms are specified by the departments. The individual design of the portfolio is important.

In addition to your artistic aptitude and creativity, it should also reflect your interest in the desired department. A good selection of works is crucial, as the first task when applying for a place at art academy is to take a close look at your own artistic identity, talents and objectives. It is not the quantity that is important, but a consciously curated selection. Choose your strongest works that combine technical skill, creative concepts and diversity in medium and expression and show your creative depth. Artistic and creative work samples that demonstrate a certain continuity and intensity are very welcome.

More over, you can also include short texts, such as sketches or explanatory descriptions. In these, you explain the idea behind a work, a creative piece or a project, the steps you have taken, the questions you have pursued and the techniques you have used. In this way, you provide an insight into your creative process and show that you are critical of your working methods. In addition, drawings and sketchbooks are highly valued in all degree courses, as they are an important medium for visualizing and developing ideas and concepts.

Our student projects and works on the website and the tour in July can serve as inspiration. We also recommend that you actively seek feedback. Visit our portfolio consultations and information days! Creative people in your area can also support you.

## ARTISTIC ENTRANCE EXAM

Date: February 16 - 20, 2026

Location: weißensee academy of art berlin  
The invitation to the artistic entrance examination with the exact information and notes on the examination days will be sent to all accepted applicants (after the portfolio review) by e-mail at the end of January.

The one to three-day examination serves to determine the required aptitude. In addition to practical artistic tasks, it also includes an interview with the admissions committee, which usually relates to the portfolio, professional development and motivation of the participants.

International applicants who require a visa are requested to request confirmation of their application for the examination in good time.

Applicants with physical or mental disabilities, special needs or chronic illness can apply for compensation for disadvantages before the exam. We will be happy to advise you on this. Susan Lipp can be reached at the e-mail: studienberatung@kh-berlin.de or by telephone on +493047705372 from Tue-Thu from 10 am to 4 pm.

### Admission

Admission to the course can only be granted after passing the entrance exam. Suitable applicants will receive an application for admission, which must be sent with the relevant documents by March 31. There is no allocation of study places via the Foundation for University Admission, according to numerous *clausus* values, waiting semesters or lottery procedures. Once the admission procedure has been completed, applicants are informed in writing of their admission and receive the enrolment forms. Proof of artistic aptitude, which is acquired through the examination, remains valid for three years.

## Admission requirements

• Proof of general higher education entrance qualification, applicants without a high school diploma can also be admitted to the course if they provide evidence of particular artistic talent in the entrance examination

• artistic aptitude  
(passed entrance examination)

• Previous vocational training or pre-study internship of at least 6 - 8 weeks

• for international applicants:  
proof of German language proficiency,  
z. e.g. TestDaF 3, DSH 1, telc B2 or the B2 certificate of the Goethe-Institut

>Proof of language proficiency at level A2 is sufficient for registration for the entrance examination. The corresponding examination certificate should be provided by the start of the course in October at the latest. Native German speakers and applicants who have a German Abitur or a German university degree are exempt.

### Transfer Students

A transfer to weißensee kunsthochschule berlin is possible after completion of the second semester in a comparable degree program. The application for a transfer must be submitted online via the Campuscore application portal. This is possible in December for the summer semester and in May for the winter semester. The admissions committee of the department decides on admission and semester classification.

Whether the procedure will be opened for the respective semester is always announced shortly before the start of applications. It is advisable to contact the student advisory service beforehand.

Application process:



Information on the  
entrance exam/portfolio:



see

Info days and  
counseling services:



Susan Lipp  
General Student Advisory Service  
[studienberatung@kh-berlin.de](mailto:studienberatung@kh-berlin.de)

weißensee academy of art berlin  
Bühningstr. 20 - 13086 Berlin  
old building, 1st floor, room A1.03

Telephone availability:  
Tel +49 30 4 77 05 -342  
Tue - Thu 9 am - 4 pm and Tue until 5 pm

Personal consultation hours:  
Tue 2-5pm and Thu 10am-12pm  
and by appointment

Web: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de)  
Instagram: [@kunsthochschuleberlin](https://www.instagram.com/kunsthochschuleberlin)