
BA/ PRODUCT DESIGN

weißensee

kunsthochschule berlin

Study Program Product Design

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THE STUDY

Even though the boundaries between disciplines are becoming increasingly fuzzy, specific conditions are still constitutive for design. Social and functional parameters provide the framework within which the functions and utility of products are conceived. The designer's task is to interpret these parameters, to reformulate, bend, or even partially suspend them. In so doing, designers define what convention is, remains, or becomes. Design, with its specific methodology, has become increasingly relevant as a catalyst for generating and visualizing new approaches to theoretical and applied solutions in many scientific, economic and social areas. The fields of activity open to emerging designers today are correspondingly multifaceted and challenging.

The bachelor's program prepares students for work in this dynamically evolving profession. The aim is to train competent design-personalities who are in a position to act responsibly and independently in social, economic, cultural, technological and ecological contexts.

During the first year of the four-year bachelor's program, an interdisciplinary course imparts art and design fundamentals to students in all departments of the School of Art. The following three years are organized around projects. Designated project themes form the framework for the development of each student's inquiries. Analog and digital design methods are used to generate user-oriented solutions within

defined contexts. Studio workshops offer outstanding options for simulation and realization in the design process. The ability to deal with criticism, as well as a analytical approach to thinking and working, are important aspects of the project work. In addition to the central components of "conception and design", the coursework conveys extensive theoretical, methodological and creative knowledge and skills.

Interdisciplinary exchange with other departments is encouraged through spatial proximity and an array of coordinated projects. Numerous collaborations are cultivated with partners involved in research and practical applications.

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 Product Design programme is divided into a four-year Bachelor's degree course and a two-year Master's degree course. After the two-semester joint foundation course, the third semester introduces students to design work in product design. In a series of design exercises, methods for

dealing with design issues are trained and the interdisciplinary challenges of design work are taught through workshops, excursions and collaborations. Students also acquire basic knowledge in the use of classic and digital design tools.

From the 4th semester onwards, students choose a project to work on each semester. This design work forms the central component of the programme. The projects offered reflect different forms of work, product categories and professional fields in design. The project is supplemented by a corresponding subject-specific module, which is taught in a project-integrated manner. This module teaches socio-cultural, technical, ergonomic or ecological principles in a project-integrated manner. Students develop an individual competence profile by choosing projects. The module areas „Design tools and media“ and „Presentation and documentation“ form flanking teaching units, as does the module area „Practice“, which introduces the basic principles of economics and the conditions of design practice in particular.

An internship or practical project is completed in the 7th semester. In this internship, students carry out professionally relevant activities in design-oriented companies or in design agencies or offices. The internship is intended to give students an overview of possible activities and prepare them for their future professional field of work.

The programme concludes in the 8th semester with the presentation of the BA design thesis.

The study plans and module handbooks are available at www.kh-berlin.de under

>Studies >Study organisation

>Study organisation >Study regulations

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 bookbindery, 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 tasks are worked on. During the course of study, an internship must also be completed in the 7th semester. In this internship, students perform job-related activities 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 Product Design program aims to enable students to develop their own creative position responsibly and confidently in order to be able to address complex design issues comprehensively and sustainably. The goal is to individually perfect one's own design competence in the interaction of various disciplines in research and development processes. Graduates should be able to lead complex development work in the future and provide impetus to the discipline itself. T

he study model offers three perspectives within the master's program: Design and Mobility, Design and Interaction, and Design and Experiment.

Application period for the master's degree programs in design: March 1 to April 30. Admission only for the winter semester. Information at: 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

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
For further scholarship programs and funding opportunities, please contact us: studi-beratung@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 (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

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: (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)
- 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)

- 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

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
Instagram: [@kunsthochschuleberlin](https://www.instagram.com/kunsthochschuleberlin)