

# BA/TEXTILE AND MATERIAL DESIGN

weißensee

kunsthochschule berlin



## Study Program Textile and Surface Design

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### THE STUDY

In the summer semester 2024, the degree programme changed its name to Textile and Material Design (formerly Textile and Surface Design). This illustrates the focus of the subject area in the field of material design, which represents a forward-looking combination in connection with textiles, as fibre-based, textile techniques are the basis of numerous material innovations. By developing new material concepts, we respond to current and future ecological, economic and social challenges and open up an innovative professional field for students.

The Textile and Material Design degree programme is divided into a four-year Bachelor's and a two-year Master's degree programme. Textile and Material Design deals with both the constructive-technical and the aesthetic-sensual aspects of materials. In the process, an expanded understanding of materials and their range of applications is increasingly coming into focus. . By including current technological, cultural and socio-economic issues, a field of reference is created that goes beyond classic textile design and combines traditional competences with contemporary issues and other disciplines in an application-oriented way. Textiles and new materials are regarded as future technologies against the background of ecological and social issues. Their development and design are becoming increasingly important and will open up new fields of activity for designers in the future. Aspects of sustainability, function and aesthetics play a central role in our teaching. Our alumni work in different contexts of practice, tea-

ching or research - from large companies to their own start-ups. Interdisciplinary learning and teaching at the intersection of design, technology and society is a central component of the programme.

There are interdisciplinary facilities at the university such as the greenlab  
- laboratory for sustainable design strategies and the eLab  
- laboratory for interactive technologies, in which current issues are worked on jointly with students, lecturers and specialists from other disciplines.

Working in the university's workshops is a central component of the design projects. The department also maintains an active international network of practitioners and academics and runs the DXM - Design and Experimental Materials Research research area. Employees from the ongoing research projects are actively involved in the teaching of the BA and MA programmes of the department and enrich the exchange of content. Current positions from the field are also regularly integrated into teaching through lectures, workshops and excursions.

### Start of studies

First-year students are only admitted for the winter semester, starting in October. For students changing universities (from the 3rd semester), admission is possible for the summer and winter semesters.

### Foundation Course (first year of studies)

The foundation course is completed by students from all degree programmes together in mixed groups. It is one of the special features that define the profile of the weißensee school of art berlin and, in addition to elementary artistic knowledge, is intended to enable communicative action that goes beyond the individual degree programme. Students are able to 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. Courses in the basics: drawing, visual artistic design, spatial and sculptural design, digital media, anatomy/morphology and photography.

### Study structure

The Textile and Material Design degree programme is divided into a four-year Bachelor's degree programme and a two-year Master's degree programme.

After the two-semester joint foundation course, the third semester introduces students to design and project work in Textile and Material Design. In the following three years of study, the design of textiles and materials in their various contexts takes centre stage. This can involve bodies, interior and exterior spaces, as well as surfaces and the nature of products. In addition to dealing with traditional and new technical possibilities in the design of textile and non-textile materials, the examination of disciplines such as fashion, product design, architecture, media, fine arts, etc. plays a major role.

Social and technological aspects are also taken into consideration. Which contexts determine the design work, what is the relationship between colours, materials and fabrics and contemporary and cultural living environments, and how can economic, ecological, technical and sociological aspects be taken into account in the design work?

The central components of the programme are conception and design. Extensive creative, theoretical and practical knowledge and skills are taught. The programme promotes a design approach that combines professionalism, critical thinking, transdisciplinary exchange, aesthetic autonomy and socio-cultural research.

The study plans and module handbooks are available at [www.kh-berlin.de](http://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, media and information technologies. 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 workshop, a screen printing, gravure printing and lithography workshop, the elab for interactive technologies, a wood, ceramics and metal workshop, model making, metal welding, the photo workshop and more. The in-house library and computer studio round off the programme.

### Study abroad

The weißensee school of art and design berlin has an intensive student exchange programme with more than 120 partner universities, academies and colleges in Europe, Asia, the USA and Canada. Students in the second stage of their studies can find out about exchange places on the ERASMUS programme or other opportunities for a stay abroad and submit their applications to the International Office.

## Master Program

The Master's programme in Textile and Material Design includes experimental material design and material research, as well as an aesthetically and technically contemporary application context. Topics include social textile design, bio-inspired design, soft technologies, future crafts, e-textiles, new materials, sustainable and circular design, adaptive surfaces and climatic concepts.

There are professional links to the fields of interior, architecture, scenography, product and fashion. Material experiments and a strong focus on well-founded socio-cultural research and conceptualisation become the basis for the development of innovative, sustainable and future-oriented designs and perspectives on textile and non-textile materials. Within this field of tension, students reflect on the context and relevance of their work on a scientific and aesthetic-artistic level and sensitise their awareness of current social issues and socio-cultural trends.

In the 2-year Master's programme, the first year of study offers the opportunity to strengthen individual skills in the fields of practice, design and theory. Students can choose modules to deepen their competences according to their own needs. An internship provides experience for later career entry. The actual Master's thesis is completed in the 2nd year of study. The first semester is dedicated to the development of the thesis proposal, including initial material studies and prototypes; in the second semester, the topic is explored in greater depth, with design practice and theoretical reflection going hand in hand. The Master's programme concludes with an exhibition-style presentation of the work and the production of comprehensive documentation in image and text.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### Application Periods

#### Step 1: Online Registration

The first step in the application process is the online registration for the entrance examination.

Please note that the application periods at art colleges always start very early. An application for a place at the weißensee kunsthochschule berlin is only possible for the winter semester.

The exact dates for the application period are set each year and are usually in the months of October and November for the following winter semester. The current application deadlines can be found on our website: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de)

Artistic aptitude is determined in an artistic examination procedure. Registration for the aptitude test takes place exclusively online via our application portal Campuscore. You can find the link to the Campuscore online application portal on our website: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de) under >study >application >bachelor-design-and-fine-arts

#### Step 2: portfolio submission

The format of the portfolio submission (digital or analogue) is always decided at the beginning of the application phase. Portfolio submission usually takes place at the beginning of January.

All information will be announced in the invitation letter after successful online registration. Applicants are asked to submit about 20 of their own creative works, which will enable us to assess their individual artistic expression. The current guidelines for the analogue or digital portfolio can be found on our website [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de) under Application >Study application >BA Design and Fine Arts > Notes on portfolio & aptitude test

### Step 3: Entrance examination

ONLY if you pass the portfolio examination will you receive an invitation to the artistic entrance examination. Here you will be given artistic tasks.

The 2-3 day examination to determine the aptitude to be proven consists of artistic-practical tasks as well as an interview between the applicant and the admissions committee, which usually relates to the artistic results shown and the professional development and motivation of the participants. Applicants with physical or mental disabilities or chronic illness can apply for compensation for disadvantages before the examination.

The proof of artistic aptitude acquired through the examination remains valid for 3 years.

### Place / date of the entrance examination

The entrance examinations are held on site at the end of the winter semester, in mid-February. All information and instructions regarding the artistic entrance examination will be sent to all registered applicants in the invitation letter two weeks after the application deadline.

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

### General notes on portfolio creation

No topic or form is specified by the departments, apart from the number of approx. 20 own artistic/design works. It is important that the portfolio is individually designed and, in addition to a basic artistic aptitude and creativity, also expresses that the applicants are applying for their desired specialisation. A good selection of works is important because the first task when applying for a place at an academic institution is to think

intensively about your own artistic identity, talents and objectives.

The creative artistic personality of the applicant should be recognisable in the portfolio. Works that look like they were created under supervision should be avoided.

Artistic and creative work samples that demonstrate a certain continuity and intensity are highly desirable. Drawing is also highly valued in all degree programmes. Student projects and works on our website can serve as inspiration.

### Step 4: Admission & Admission requirements

The following documents will only be requested for admission in March once you have passed the entrance examination: -

- Proof of general higher education entrance qualification, applicants without a high school diploma can also be admitted to the degree programme if they can prove a special artistic aptitude in the entrance examination

- artistic aptitude: you have this if you have passed our examination

- for international applicants, proof of language proficiency is required:  
>for the BA Design programmes: e.g. Testdaf 4, DSH2, telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule or the C1 certificate from the Goethe Institute.

For registration for the entrance examination, proof of language proficiency at level A2 is sufficient! The corresponding examination certificate must be provided by the start of the programme in October at the latest. (Native German speakers and those who have a German Abitur are exempt).

Admission to the programme can only be granted after passing the artistic entrance examination! Suitable applicants will receive an application for admission, which must be

sent together with the relevant documents by the application deadline (31 March). There is no awarding of study places via the Foundation for University Admission, according to numerous clauses, waiting semesters or lottery procedures. After the admission procedure in April, applicants will receive written notification of admission and enrolment forms.

### Transfer Students/ Change of academic institution

It is possible to transfer to the weißensee academy of art and design berlin after completing the 2nd semester of a similar degree programme. It is advisable to contact the professors of the department beforehand. The admission committee of the department decides on admission and the examination board decides on the recognition of academic achievements. The application for a change of university is made online and must be submitted in December for the summer semester and in May for the winter semester. Further information on the online application procedure can be found at: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de) >Study application

### Social Affairs

In addition to counselling in the Department of Student Affairs, the studierendenWERK BERLIN offers a wide range of support and counselling services:

- Counselling and support for international students and refugees
  - Counselling and concrete help for all students in overcoming personal problems in times of crisis and examinations
  - Special counselling, support and specific help for students with disabilities and chronic illnesses
  - Counselling for student parents
- Info website: [www.stw.berlin](http://www.stw.berlin)

### Enrolment/fees

For enrolment, proof of health insurance and payment of the semester fee of around €300 (enrolment or administration fee, social contribution, AStA and Germany semester ticket). Tuition fees are not charged.

### Financial study support

On the basis of the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG), students can apply for financial assistance from the studierendenWERK BERLIN: [www.stw.berlin](http://www.stw.berlin)

For information on scholarship programmes and other funding opportunities can be found at: [studienberatung@kh-berlin.de](mailto:studienberatung@kh-berlin.de)

### Applying/studying with a disability or chronic illness

Applicants and students with a disability or chronic illness can in the event that, due to the illness/disability the application procedure, the examinations or courses cannot be completed in the intended form, an individual compensation for disadvantages can be arranged in consultation with the relevant department.

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

### Info days and portfolio counselling

Current dates for all information days and counselling services can be found at [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de)

- >Studies >Study application
- >Study orientation counselling

Calendar:

- May/June: Study information days in Berlin
- July: Tour/ Open Days
- Oct/ Nov: Digital Info Evenings
- Nov /Dec: Portfolio consultations

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Student advisory service  
Susan Lipp  
room A1.03

office hours by phone:  
Tel 030-477 05 342

Tue - Wed 10 -15 h + Tue 10 -17 h  
personal office hours in room A 1.03:  
Tue 14-17 + Thu 10-12 h + by appointment

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