

GENERAL INFORMATION

weißensee

kunsthochschule berlin

The weißensee academy of art berlin is one of a kind.

The foundation for its combination of theory and practice in the curriculum was laid more than 50 years ago and is just as relevant today. Students will eventually decide on a specialization, but all of them will start with a one-year interdisciplinary program covering the basic principles of art and design. To engage with themes and develop ideas, students are offered a broad range of courses in theory as well as opportunities to do practical as well as project-oriented work. This unparalleled interdisciplinary approach is supported by the school's thirteen workshops and studios.

The exchange of ideas between the different disciplines is encouraged and supported all the way to the point when students finish their degrees. It enables them to develop the ability to think across boundaries, to take responsibility for contemporary problems, and to cooperate with a diversity of social groups. These overarching goals and the exposure to working with concrete problems provide students with unique challenges and promote imagination, creativity, and social responsibility.

Because of its network of international partners and collaborators, the Berlin Weissensee School of Art can offer a multitude of opportunities for students to be mobile and participate in intercultural exchanges. The global approach is evident in the high number of international students on the campus.

Studying at the weißensee academy of art berlin offers a unique opportunity and ideal conditions for all those who believe that art and society are mutually dependent.

Leonie Baumann, Rector

Study Programs

All design departments (Visual Communication, Product, Fashion and Textile/Surface Design) are offered as a 4-year Bachelor and a 1-year Master modularised program. The regular duration of study is 8 semesters, 240 ECTS-credits (Bachelor), followed by 2 semesters, 60 ECTS-credits (Master of Arts). However the Fine Arts study program in Painting, Sculpture and Stage/Costume Design has a duration of 10 semesters, which thus concludes with 300 credits and the title „Absolvent/in der Kunsthochschule Berlin Weißensee“ / „Graduate of Berlin Weissensee Art Academy“ and is therefore equivalent to Bachelor + Master's Degree.

Student advisory service

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

Information material

Further information about the weißensee academy of art berlin can be found in the Internet **www.kh-berlin.de** under >study > applying for studies

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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Periods

The application period for **undergraduate programs** (fill out the online registration form for aptitude test) is always from 01 November to 10 December, all undergraduate study programs commence winter semester only, start in October.

The application periods for **College Transfer Admission** are from 01 December to 02 January 02 for the summer term and May 01–31 for winter term.

For **MA programs** in Design are from March 01 to April 30 for winter term only.

Please see information and guidelines for online application on the website: www.kh-berlin.de

Admission prerequisites for BA and Fine Arts Programs

- A special artistic talent is required
- Minimum age 18 years
- General matriculation standard / general certificate of secondary education
- Preliminary practical or vocational training

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.** 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 be 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.

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 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 Mai of the same year, the applicants receive a written admission award and the registration forms.

Information on admission and matriculation for international applicants

All applicants regardless the nationality are equate with in the application process, provided international applicants can submit a proof of German language proficiency with the online application in December:

minimum of the qualification level A2 all programs. Please upload the recent proof you have.

The language of instruction is German in all our courses. As German is even the main language during the aptitude test 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, you may be able to explain your ideas, aims and motivation also in English.

After a positive decision, it must be presented a language certificate for the admission, by the beginning of the studies at the latest.: for example TestDaF 4, telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule, DSH 2 or the language proof of the Goethe Institute (qualification level C1) for all Design departments as well as Stage- and Costume

Design; and Testdaf 3, DSH 1 or the certificate of the Goethe Institute (qualification level B2) for the Fine Arts study programs Painting and Sculpture.

In exceptional cases, a proof of the exam registration or a certificate of the B2 / C1 - course is also sufficient for the time being. Please note: The relevant language certificate must be submitted before your studies begin. If you think you can't prove the required certificate, you may apply for delay.

Please note: all necessary certificates and documents must be submitted in form of an officially authenticated translation in German or English. Applicants from the People's Republic of China and Vietnam must include the original certificate confirming that the papers have been pre-checked by the Academic Evaluation Centre (APS).

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. Foreign higher education entrance qualifications (allgemeine Hochschulreife) must be recognised as equivalent to the German general or subject-specific higher education entrance qualification. An exemption from this is possible if you have a „special artistic aptitude“ and its is declared in the notification for the result of the aptitude test. 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).

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

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 application periods for College Transfer Admission are from 01 December to 02 January 02 for the summer term and May 01–31 for winter term. Please see information and guidelines for online application on the website: www.kh-berlin.de under >Studies>Applying For Studies>Transfer Students

STRUCTURE OF THE ACADEMY

The weißensee academy of art berlin is one of the youngest state art colleges in Germany. It was founded immediately after World War II by private initiative as „Kunstschule des Nordens“ A particular feature of the weißensee academy of art berlin consists in the structural and contextual integration of the different specialisms according to their scope. The structure enforces and enables ample flexibility, foments experimental work and facilitates immediate reaction to the needs of society.

Borrowing from the teaching concept of the Bauhaus, a basic one-year artistic study is compulsory for the students of all specialisms at the weißensee academy of art berlin. This applies also to the general soft-science seminars and lectures accompanying the studies until BA/MA examination or graduation. The BA/MA or graduation thesis consists of two separately evaluated parts: a theoretical and a practical one. The interdisciplinary elements of the syllabus structure are additionally strengthened by all workshops being collegewide open for use. The following specialisms are offered: Fashion Design, Visual Communication, Stage and Costume Design, Textile and Surface Design, Product Design, Fine Arts/ Painting and Fine Arts/ Sculpture/Plastic Art.

The success of the syllabus structure of the weißensee academy of art berlin can be appraised, among other things, by the steadily growing

international renown of the College. The number of inquiries within the European Exchange Programme have, for instance, constantly increased. The number of regular foreign students amounts to about 60 per year, which is approximately 10% of all students. Participating in international exchange programmes, the College additionally facilitates every year a stay of several months for about 60 students. A distinguishing feature of study and teaching at the weißensee academy of art berlin is practice orientation in all specialisms: The practical part of the study is by projects so as to enable students to train their creativity by grappling with the real conditions in our society. Group work and presentation of results also outside of the College are of special significance in this respect.

Foundation Course (first year of studies)

Students in all departments take the foundation courses in the foundation of art and design. General aesthetic, visual and practical foundational knowledge and practice are thought, including foundations in the fields of digital media and anatomy/morphology. Students are introduced to sensual-direct as well as analytical-systematic ways of working. The broad curriculum enables them to discover, develop, and deepen their individual abilities and talents. Teaching takes place in interdisciplinary small working groups. Interdisciplinary interactions, teamwork, and communicative activity going beyond the limits of one own discipline and genre. With the special structure and its range of what is on offer, the foundational program is a specialty of weißensee academy of art. The program emphasizes in particular the following: teaching the foundation art and design, expanding individual creative abilities, open up new work modes, acquisition of expertise and skills in various crafts and more.

Studio Workshops

The instructional program of weißensee academy of art berlin is outstanding supported by its studios workshops. The artisans convey skills

and basic knowledge about the most disparate materials. All students can use the workshops, whatever course they are enrolled. Besides acquiring traditional manual skills, they can learn the newest computer-aided techniques. For example weißensee has a Ceramic- and Model Making Workshop, also a Wood-, Welding- and Bookbinding Workshop, a Printing Studio, a Silkscreen- and Gravure Workshop, Weaving/ Dying/ Knitting rooms, Photography- and a Computer Studio, an Interactive Technology Lab and more.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The weißensee academy of art berlin has taken on a gratifyingly international character in recent years. In addition to academic projects directed by Weissensee faculty members abroad, the college's numerous international students, who make up about 40% of its total enrollment, lend an international flavor. All students are advised to spend a semester abroad during the second phase of their studies, to gain further professional and intercultural experience and to acquire additional skills. To this end, the college maintains partnerships and exchange programs with around 90 art academies and colleges in Europe, Asia, Australia and America, with active student participation.

Exchange programs

The coordination of exchange programs, including the acquisition of funds for the financial support of internationally mobile students and faculty, is the responsibility of the director of the Office of Student Affairs, in close cooperation with the faculties of all departments. The Office of Student Affairs advises all students involved in academic exchanges (both incoming and outgoing) regarding their choice of:

- an appropriate college abroad
- an appropriate time to study abroad
- a faculty mentor
- how to finance their exchange
- the application process

A list of partner institutions can be found here
Faculty members who wish to arrange a short-term residency at one of the weissensee's

partner institutions can find information here as well and are eligible for financial support through the Staff Training mobility or the Teachers Mobility program. International Office Coordinator: Leonie Adams, Phone: + 49 30 477 05 232, e-mail: international@kh-berlin.de

Outgoings: Internships

Students who do not wish to study abroad may be interested in an internship subsidized by ERASMUS program funds. You will have to arrange the position yourself and apply for the grant at least six weeks before your internship begins via Career Service at the Technische Universität Berlin Funding is available to/for: - students in any program of study (BA/MA/Diplom/doctorate) - 3- to 12-month internships - internships at European companies

Incoming guests (exchange)

The weißensee academy of art berlin maintains exchange programmes with about 90 Colleges and Academies all over the world. Most of these enjoy financial support as SOCRATES/ERASMUS-Programmes. Students from these partner colleges enjoy preference when applying for an exchange placement, so that anyone interested in going to Berlin-Weissensee for a guest study of several months should first contact the coordinator for student exchange at his college. The weißensee academy of art berlin is always pleased to receive scholarship holders of the DAAD or of other scholarship donors or foundations. Foreign students wishing to spend a semester abroad at the weißensee academy of art berlin can apply twice a year. Applicants for the summer semester must submit an International Student Application by November 15. Applicants for the winter semester must submit an application by April 15. The links to the application forms will be found on our website: www.kh-berlin.de If your application is approved, you can attend as an exchange student for the specified period. Contact:

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weißensee kunsthochschule berlin

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