
FINE ARTS/ STAGE AND COSTUME DESIGN

weißensee

kunsthochschule berlin

Study Program Stage and Costume Design

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THE STUDY

The Stage and Costume Design program at the weißensee academy of art berlin is a Fine Arts course. Building on the artistic and creative foundation studies in the first year, the department explores, teaches, and tests the possibilities of stage and costume design historically and in contemporary theater. It develops strategies and perspectives for visualization within the performing arts that can no longer be captured by the term "theater" alone. The focus is on the development of artistic concepts. The conditions for this are particularly favorable in Weißensee: in the equal consideration of conception and theory, stage and costume; through the interdisciplinary spectrum between fine art and design.

In the field of tension between stage, dramaturgy, direction, and the focus on new media and costume design, the goal of the training is to produce stage and costume designers as independent artists and equal partners in the staging process. They should have the ability to adequately present, communicate, technically implement, and bring ideas and concepts to fruition. The stage and costume design program examines, teaches, and explores the possibilities of stage and costume design in historical and contemporary theater. It develops strategies and perspectives for visualization within the performing arts that can no longer be captured by the term "theater" alone. Among other things, the program also qualifies students to work as set and costume designers in film and television productions. Teaching and study take place here in the field of tension between stage, costume, dramaturgy, and direction.

In addition, there are specializations in new media and costume.

Interdisciplinary exchange with other departments is promoted by their physical 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.

Structure of the diploma programme

The duration of the program is ten semesters, including the diploma thesis. This can be followed by a two-semester master class.

After the foundation year, the second year of study takes a flexible, cross-semester approach to deepening students' knowledge of free artistic work, subject-specific fundamentals, and theoretical foundations. Through foundation projects, students learn about the different artistic positions of the teaching staff and expand their artistic, craft, and technical skills. From the fifth to the eighth semester, the specialized studies continue. Each semester, students must provide proof of course completion in free artistic project work and in department-specific fundamentals.

In the ninth semester, students complete an internship, followed by their final artistic thesis in the tenth semester.

The study plans and module handbooks are available at www.kh-berlin.de under
>Studies >Study organization
>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 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 fine art 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.

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.

Meisterschüler_in / Master students

Students who have passed the diploma or master's examination at the weißensee academy of art berlin with particular artistic success within the standard period of study can be admitted to a master student program upon request. This enables them to further develop their creative and artistic positions in their chosen field.

In the context of art, a Meisterschüler_in is someone who has completed a master's degree or received advanced training under the guidance of a master artist. This term is commonly used in Germany and other European countries to describe a student who has achieved a high level of artistic skill and expertise.

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: 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 (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:

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- Curriculum vitae with details of your previous school or degree course, internships, exhibitions 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 at least A2 level, at the start of the course the B2 exam 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 clauses 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 secondary school leaving certificate in the diploma departments

- artistic aptitude
(passed entrance examination)

- for international applicants:
proof of language proficiency,
e.g. TesDaF 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:



Info days and
counseling services:



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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